

1st Peter


Christian Life Assembly

Spring 2015

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1st Peter 3:18-22

- **1⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. 1⁹ So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— 2⁰ those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. 2¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 2² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.**
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1st Peter 3:18-22

- **Four short subjects:**
 - **One offering, one time, for all time.**
 - **Preaching to the spirits in prison.**
 - **The baptism that saves.**
 - **The place of Jesus today.**
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1st Peter 3:18-22

- **Peter goes back to the best example we have of unjust, unwarranted suffering – Jesus.**
 - **Isaiah 53 tells us plainly that “it pleased the Lord to bruise Him” meaning all of the suffering Jesus went through was willed by God.**
 - **Another shining example of God's thoughts being so much higher than ours – only God could have come up with the cross.**
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1st Peter 3:18-22

- 18 Christ suffered for our sins once for all time.
- Hebrews 10:1b The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship.
- Hebrews 10:11 Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. 12 But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. 13 There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. 14 For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.






1st Peter 3:18-22

- **“He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit”.**
 - **Romans 1:3 The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line, ⁴ and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.**
 - **Raised “in” the Spirit, and “by” the Spirit.**
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1st Peter 3:18-22

- **19 So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— 20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat.**
 - **Who are the “spirits in prison”?**
 - **When did this happen?**
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Who are the “spirits in prison”?

- The only other place in scripture where beings are said to be in prison (other than jail) is in Jude 1:6.
- Jude 1:6 And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.
- Matt 25:41 41 “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’”





Who are the “spirits in prison”?

- So from these scriptures we can ascertain that a spiritual prison does exist for certain beings.
 - It was specifically prepared for the devil and his angel followers, but will also be used for human beings who reject Christ.
 - There is no possible redemption for fallen angels, so the logical conclusion is that the ‘spirits in prison’ are the dead who have rejected Jesus.
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When Did This Happen?

- **1st Peter 3:19** So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— **20** those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat.
- This is one of those verses that has caused great debate in the church and have caused some to believe that Jesus, as the Apostles Creed says, “descended into hell”.
- And the way the NIV renders verse #19 adds to the debate - **1st Peter 3:19** After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits. (NIV)






When Did This Happen?

- **No other common scriptural translation reads as the NIV does.**
 - **So what? This has led to what I believe is an error – that Jesus, after his death on the cross, went to corridors of hell to proclaim the gospel.**
 - **You are not a bad person, and you may even be right if you disagree with me, but let me have a few minutes to explain why I do not believe that is the case.**
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When Did This Happen?

- Eph 4:7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. 8 That is why the Scriptures say, “When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.” 9 Notice that it says “he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. 10 And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.
 - So Christ clearly ascended leading a crowd of some ones, and if he had to ascend to Heaven, then he must have started from some lower point.
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When Did This Happen?

- **Luke 23:40 But the other criminal protested, “Don’t you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn’t done anything wrong.” 42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” 43 And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**
 - **So now, we can establish that on the day that Jesus died, he went somewhere that He identified as ‘Paradise’.**
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When Did This Happen?

- **Hebrews 9:26** But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice. **27** And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment.
- If, as the writer of Hebrews tells us, that once one dies their eternal destiny is set, what purpose would there be for Jesus to preach to those in hell?
- If it is to show Jesus as Lord, that is accomplished with **Phil 2: 10** “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth”.





When Did This Happen?

- **John 20:16 “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”). 17 “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”**
- **From this we learn that Paradise is not Heaven – three days after His death Jesus tells Mary that He had not ascended to His Father.**





When Did This Happen?

- 19 Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. 20 At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. 21 As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. 22 “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. 24 “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’ 25 “But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’



When Did This Happen?




Hades

Paradise

The Rich Man Lazarus of Luke Chapter 16




When Did This Happen?

- **One more point on the timing of when Jesus preaches to the “spirits in prison”.**
 - **During every person’s lifetime, the Spirit of God strives with every soul over the issues of eternity.**
 - **So when Peter says that Jesus preached to the spirits in prison he means he preached to them during their lives on the earth.**
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1st Peter 3:18-22

- **Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. 21 And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
 - **Does baptism really save us? (that is what Peter wrote.)**
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1st Peter 3:18-22

- Peter says that ‘And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you’. A picture, a metaphor.
 - He goes on to say, “not the removal of dirt from the flesh” – in other words he was not talking about the outward cleansing that can happen when water touches our skin.
 - And then he says, “but as a response to God from a clean conscience.” This would be post salvation.
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1st Peter 3:18-22

- Water baptism does not save, but it is really important.
 - In the New Testament it was pretty much a given that if you received Christ you would be baptized.
 - It is the public profession of our identification with Jesus.
 - We are saved by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone.
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1st Peter 3:18-22

- Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- Suffice it to say that not being baptized won't keep you out of heaven, but the reasons one may have for avoiding baptism could. (shame)





1st Peter 3:18-22

- **22 Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.**
- **Three times in the New Testament we see Jesus seated at the right hand of His Father - talk about access to the throne as our advocate!!**
- **1st John 2:1 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.**





Questions

