

Series "Living God Gives A Living Hope"
"Victory Of Christ's Suffering"
1 Peter 3:18-22
Study-15

This passage declares Christ's victory over evil through His sufferings. As Jesus was victorious over the forces of evil, through union with Christ, we share this victory!

Thought Of The Passage: "The Greatest Victory Ever Accomplished Was When Jesus Christ, Who Was Just, Died For The Unjust."

- 1. Verse 18 – The Death Of Jesus**
- 2. Verses 19-20 – The Proclamation Of Jesus**
- 3. Verse 21 – The Resurrection Of Jesus**
- 4. Verse 22 – The Ascension Of Jesus**

1. Verse 18 – The Death Of Jesus:

1 Peter 3:18 – "For" – The Context – 1 Peter 3:13-5:14 – God's Grace and Suffering: 1 Peter 3:17.

Peter Presents 5 Victorious Facts About The Sufferings Of Jesus:

- 1. Jesus Came To Die For Our Sins:** "Christ also died for sins" – Romans 4:25; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 3:5.
- 2. Jesus' Sacrificial Death Was Sufficient:** "once for all," – The 6th Saying From The Cross. The Word of Victory: John 19:30 – "It is finished!" Greek literally, "it stands finished, it always will be finished, or paid in full," Mark 10:45; Romans 6:9-10; Hebrews 9:11-12.
- 3. Jesus' Death Was A Substitutionary Death:** "the just for the unjust," – Jesus died in our place; Vicarious Death – 1 Peter 2:24.
- 4. Jesus' Death Was To Reconcile Us To God:** "so that He might bring us to God," – "the right of access, the introducer, the giver of access." Veil Of The Temple Torn: Matthew 27:51; John 14:6.
- 5. Jesus' Death Was A Genuine Death:** "having been put to death in the flesh," – Greek speaks of "the violence of Christ's death."

“but made alive” – “resurrected” in the spirit; Note small “s” which means it is not referring to the Holy Spirit. Though Jesus died, Jesus’ spirit lived on. Jesus’ spirit did not experience spiritual death as we do, Matthew 27:46; Galatians 3:13.

2. Verses 19-20 – The Proclamation Of Jesus:

1 Peter 3:19-20

I want to share with you the 4 different views regarding our passage:

View #1 – The spirits of the souls are the people who perished in the flood. The preaching was through Noah by the Spirit of Christ in Him.

View #2 – The spirits of the souls are the people who perished in the flood. The preaching was not through Noah but through Jesus Christ.

View #3 – The spirits are of fallen angels who are kept in in darkness, Colossians 2:15; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6.

View #4 – The imprisoned spirits were people of the apostolic age living in the prison of sin. The preaching was by Christ to the people through the apostles.

My Position is View #3 – The spirits are of fallen angels who are kept in darkness. The Context of our passage – This passage speaks of suffering of believers, then Peter uses Jesus as the example for suffering. Peter expounds on Christ’s suffering and declares His victory over evil. We are joined to Jesus. That means we share the victory.

The term “spirits” is never used of human beings without qualifying it as so, Hebrews 1:7; 12:23. Jewish and early tradition referred to the “sons of God” in Genesis 6:2 that they were fallen angels. This proclamation was by Jesus Christ between His death and resurrection, Colossians 2:15, 22.

1 Peter 3:19 – “in which also He went” – The Context: 1 Peter 3:18 – “put to death in the flesh,” – Jesus was crucified and He died! In between Jesus’ death and resurrection, Jesus came and proclaimed judgment to the fallen angels of God.

1 Peter 3:19 – “made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,” – Jesus proclaimed that the price of salvation had been paid. The spirits in prison were fallen angels, 2 Peter 2:4-6; Revelation 9:1-2.

1 Peter 3:20 – “who once were disobedient,” – “disobedience of unbelief;”

when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah; Peter mentions the time of Noah in both of his epistles; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5.

“during the construction of the ark,” – period of 120 years, Genesis 6:3.

Genesis 6:1-2 – “sons of God” were supernatural beings. If they were humans, it would have said, “sons of men.” They were demons, fallen angels. “Sons of god” always refers to angels – Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; Psalm 29:1; 89:6.

Genesis 6:3 – Noah preached faithfully 120 years!

2 Peter 2:5

Genesis 6:4 – Nephilim – “the falling ones,” Fallen angels; some think they possessed men; they married women and gave birth to a demonized human race.

Genesis 6:5-8; Genesis 6:11-14; Genesis 6:17-18.

The perversion that brought the flood is linked to the perversion that brought the fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah, Genesis 18-19; Jude 1:6-7.

1 Peter 3:20 – “in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.” – The result being that only his family was saved.

“The Sermon of The Ark” had no affect on the wicked world, Genesis 6:5.

The ark was a picture of Jesus Christ. It illustrates how God saves us.

The Ark Was God’s Plan For Salvation: 1 Peter 1:20.

The Ark Was The Exclusive Means Of Salvation.

3. Verse 21 – The Resurrection Of Jesus:

1 Peter 3:21

“Corresponding to that,” – Peter, still referring to Noah, now speaks of Baptism and relates it to Noah’s ark. 1 Peter 3:20 – The flood symbolizes baptism. Baptism symbolizes salvation.

Baptism and the experience of salvation are presented in the NT as bound together, Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4.

“baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh,” – Baptism will not remove the filth of the flesh; Can be literal filth or spiritual or ritual defilement.

The Pledge Of A Good Conscience: “but an appeal to God for a good conscience—” – or “but a pledge of a good conscience towards God” – “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” – Hebrews 10:22.

The word “appeal” or “pledge” – “that which happened during a business transaction.”

“through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” – The term “Baptism” – symbolize the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Baptism Symbolizes Our Union With Jesus Christ: When we are baptized we are saying to the world, “I accept the terms of the contract that God has made. – “an appeal to God for a good conscience—”

4. Verse 22 – The Ascension Of Jesus:

1 Peter 3:22 – “who is at the right hand of God,” – the place of honor, the place of authority. It is the closeness with God, Psalm 110:1.

“having gone into heaven,” – Jesus has returned to heaven; the ascension of Jesus, John 3:13; Acts 1:9-11.

“after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.” – Jesus is over every creature, Colossians 2:15.

Application:

1. When We Are Suffering Unjustly, And It Seems Unbearable, Remember The Crucifixion Of Jesus. Jesus Was Victorious Over His Sufferings, And Because We Are United With Him, We Share His Victory.
2. When The Fear Of Death Is Attempting To Steal Our Peace, Remember The Resurrection. Through Jesus, We Have Victory Over Death.