

Christ Proclaims Victory **1 Peter 3:18–20 (NKJV)**

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

This passage is one of the most obscure and difficult passages in the Bible.

It speaks of things that do not have a lot of parallel passages. In other words this passage is variously interpreted.

Since these words were written there are about 5 different interpretations.

I am not going to bore you with all that. Instead I will let you know how I and most of the Bible teachers understand this passage.

We saw last week that Jesus also suffered. But He gained the victory.

That is what this passage is about.

1 Peter 3:21–22 (NKJV)

21 . . . through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

So let's get started.

- I. Jesus preached to the spirits in prison from Noah's day.
 - A. This word spirits is almost always used of angels and never of people.
 1. If it is talking about people the Bible usually uses the word soul.
 - B. Genesis 6:1-2, 4 (NKJV)
 1. 1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.
 2. 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.
 - C. The same Hebrew phrase that is used here is found in the oldest book of the Bible.
 1. The actual phrase *bene elohim* is used three other times, all in the very ancient book of Job (1:6; 2:1; 38:7) *Henry M. Morris, The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of*

Beginnings (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976), 165.

- D. Job 1:6 (NKJV)
 - 1. 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.
 - E. Job 2:1 (NKJV)
 - 1. 1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.
 - F. Job 38:7 (NKJV)
 - 1. 7 When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?
 - G. It is significant that the Septuagint renders the phrase “sons of God” as “angels of God.” This was the Old Testament version in dominant use in the Apostolic period, and thus this would be the way the phrase would have been read by Christ and His apostles. *Henry M. Morris, The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976), 168.*
 - H. 2 Peter 2:4 (NKJV)
 - 1. 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
 - I. Jude 1:6-7 (KJV)
 - 1. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
- II. So what was going on in those days of Noah?
- A. After being created Satan had rebelled against God and had taken a third of the angels with him.
 - B. Satan then enticed Eve to sin and rebel against God.
 - 1. But God had promised a Savior would come from the seed of the woman.
 - 2. The next part of Satan’s plan was to corrupt the seed of the woman to the point that the Messiah could never come.

3. So these, now fallen, angels polluted the human gene pool so to speak with the intent of making the promise of God impossible.
- C. God's solution to this Satanic push for control.
1. God finds one man, Noah, to whom God extends grace to save the world by destroying the wicked in a great world-wide flood.
 2. God takes these fallen angels and binds them in hell.
 3. 2 Peter 2:4 (NKJV)
 - a. 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
- III. But Jesus won, through His own death on the cross.
- A. He defeated all of Satan's plans.
- B. 1 Peter 3:21–22 (NKJV)
1. 21 . . . through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.
- C. Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)
1. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.
- D. Luke 11:21-22 (NKJV)
1. 21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. 22 But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.
- E. 1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV)
1. 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- F. Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)
1. 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
- IV. So He went to where those spirit were imprisoned and proclaimed to them that He had won the victory and all of Satan's plans have come to nothing.

A. Revelation 20:10 (NKJV)

1. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
2. The final battle is not done yet.
3. We are a part of this battle.
4. Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV)
 - a. 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Yes, Jesus has won the victory.

That does not mean that there is nothing for us to do.

We are to loyal to Him, dedicated to the task He has given us.

Because one day He will return and wrap this all up.

Jesus said we should watch for we do not know when He will return.