

1 Peter 3:18-22

Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote two of the New Testament "epistles" [letters].
2. Peter wrote his first letter to Christians who were facing severe trials (1:6-7).
3. In this letter Peter addressed a number of responsibilities that the Lord has given to Christians.
4. Christians must fulfill these responsibilities, even when doing so results in persecution from unbelievers (3:13-14, 17).
5. In addressing these matters Peter showed how Christ suffered for doing the Father's will (2:20-24).
6. This lesson is a study of the information presented in 1 Peter 3:18-22.
7. In these verses Peter discussed several important matters in connection with the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.18) CHRIST SUFFERED ONCE FOR SINS
 - A. His suffering involved *"being put to death in the flesh"* (John 19:30-34).
 - B. In His death,:
 1. He was *"the just"* suffering *"for the unjust"* (Isaiah 53:5)
 2. He suffered so *"he might bring us to God"* (Colossians 1:21-22).
 - C. Although Christ died *"in the flesh"* for us, He was *"quickened [made alive] by the Spirit."*
 1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 2. Romans 1:4; 8:11
- II. (vs.19-20) BY THE SPIRIT, CHRIST *"PREACHED UNTO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON"*
 - A. To properly understand:
 1. how Christ did this, keep in mind that He has preached through God's servants
 - a. His Spirit was in the prophets when they prophesied about His sufferings (1:10-11).
 - b. He preached to Gentiles, although He did not personally do so (Ephesians 2:13-17).
 2. when Christ did this, keep in mind that He preached to these spirits while the ark was being prepared (vs.20).
 - a. These spirits had been disobedient while Noah built the ark (Genesis 6:1-13).
 - b. These spirits were in prison when Peter wrote his letter.
 - B. Christ's preaching was through Noah.
 1. Noah was *"a preacher of righteousness"* (2 Peter 2:5).
 2. Noah *"condemned the world"* (Hebrews 11:7).
 - C. Thankfully, *"eight souls were saved by water"* (Genesis 7:16-23).
- III. (vs.21-22) IN A SIMILAR WAY, WE ARE SAVED TODAY WHEN WE ARE BAPTIZED
 - A. Baptism:
 1. is *"not the putting away of the filth of the flesh"*
 2. is *"the answer of a good conscience toward God."*
 - B. The salvation that accompanies baptism was made possible *"by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God."*
 - C. Additional passages:
 1. Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16
 2. Acts 2:37-38, 41
 3. Romans 6:3-4
 4. 1 Corinthians 12:13
 5. Galatians 3:27
 6. Ephesians 4:5
 7. Colossians 2:12