

“PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL!”

1 PETER Chapter 3:18-22

> CHRISTIANS SHARE THREE PROCLAMATIONS:

#1 - PROCLAIM THE PAST! (v18-20)

(v18) *Christ suffered and died for our sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in flesh but made alive in the Spirit. We read in 2 Cor 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

(v19-20) **Who are the spirits in prison?** - Let's go back to Genesis chapter 6 - “*sons of God saw the daughters of men*” - The sons of God, identified elsewhere almost exclusively as angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7), saw and took wives of the human race. This produced an unnatural union which violated the God-ordained order of human marriage and procreation (Genesis 2:24). Some have argued that the sons of God were the sons of Seth who cohabited with the daughters of Cain; others suggest they were perhaps human kings wanting to build harems. **But the passage puts strong emphasis on the angelic vs. human contrast.** The NT places this account in sequence with other Genesis events and identifies it as involving fallen angels who indwelt men, as presented in:

- **2 Peter 2:4-10** - **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; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed.**

(The Greek word for “hell” here is “Tartarus”, this is different from the Lake of fire; this is a prison for a select group of fallen angels until the Great White Throne Judgment, from where they will be sent to their eternal destiny, the Lake of Fire, which we also refer to as hell (Rev. 20:14).)

- **Jude 5-7** - *But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. **And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;** as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

Insight: “*angels who did not keep their proper domain (dignity)*” – In *Word Studies* from Kenneth Wuest he writes, “*keep*”- Gk. - *tereo*, which means “*to guard*.” The verb expresses the act of watchful care. That is, these angels did not fulfill their obligation of carefully guarding and maintaining their original position in which they were created, but transgressed those limits to invade territory which was foreign to them, namely, the human race. “*but left their own abode (heaven)*”; he also writes that “*left*”- Gk. – *apoleipo* - means “*to leave*.” The prefixed preposition *apo* makes the compound verb mean “*to leave behind*.” **These angels left heaven behind. That is, they had abandoned heaven. They were done with it forever, a once and for all act. This was apostasy with a vengeance.** They had, so to speak, burnt their bridges behind them, and had descended to a new sphere, the earth, and into a foreign relationship, that with the human race, foreign, because the latter belongs to a different category of created intelligences than they.

(Some object to this view and use Matthew 22:30 - *For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven*. This does not necessarily negate the possibility that angels are capable of procreation, but just that they do not marry; our Lord is also talking about “*angels of God in heaven*”; He is not talking about the fallen angels. To procreate physically, they had to possess human, male bodies. We do see in the Scriptures that angels did appear in male bodies, they conversed and ate with Abraham, also the men of the city of Sodom wanted to physically rape these angels in male bodies, whereas, these angels in their human bodies brought forth judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis chapters 18 & 19); we are also told that we may be entertaining angels unaware (Heb. 13:2)

- **Dr. Henry Morris summarizes 15 characteristics regarding Noah’s day and these last days before God’s judgment:** (1) Preoccupation with physical appetites (Lk. 17:27); (2) rapid advances in technology (Gen. 4:22); (3) Grossly materialistic attitudes and interests (Lk. 17:28); (4) Uniformitarian philosophies (Heb. 11:7); (5) Inordinate devotion to pleasure and comfort (Gen 4:21); (6) No concern for God in either belief or conduct (2 Peter 2:5; Jude 15); (7) Disregard for the sacredness of the marriage relation (Mt. 24:38); (8) Rejection of the inspired Word of God (1 Peter 3:19); (9) Population explosion (Gen. 6:1, 11); (10) Widespread violence (Gen. 6:11,13); (11) Corruption throughout society (Gen. 6:12); (12) Preoccupation with illicit sex activity (Gen. 4:19; 6:2); (13) Widespread words and thoughts of blasphemy (Jude 15); (14) Organized Satanic activity (Gen. 6:1-4); (15) Promulgation of systems and movements of abnormal depravity (Gen. 6:5,12).

#2 - PROCLAIM THE PRESENT! (v21-22)

(v21) “*baptism*”- Peter is careful to inform his readers that he is not teaching baptismal regeneration, namely, that a person who submits to baptism is thereby regenerated, for he says, “*not the putting away of the filth of the flesh.*” Baptism, Peter explains, does not wash away the filth of the flesh, either in a literal sense as a bath for the body, nor in a metaphorical sense as a cleansing for the soul. No ceremonies really affect the conscience. But he defines what he means by salvation, in the words “the answer of a good conscience toward God,” and he explains how this is accomplished, namely “by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” in that the believing sinner is identified with Him in that resurrection. - *Word Studies from Kenneth Wuest*

- **Insight on the “resurrection of Jesus Christ”** - Warren Wiersbe writes, “Forty days after His resurrection, our Lord ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, the place of exaltation (Ps 110:1; Acts 2:34-36; Phil 2:5-11; Heb 12:1-3). Believers are seated with Him in the heavenlies (Eph 2:4-6), and through Him we are able to “reign in life” (Rom 5:17). He is ministering to the church as High Priest (Heb 4:14-16; 7:25) and Advocate (1 John 1:9-2:2). He is preparing a place for His people (John 14:1-6) and will one day come to receive them to Himself. **But the main point Peter wanted to emphasize was Christ's complete victory over all "angels and authorities and powers" (1 Peter 3:22), referring to the evil hosts of Satan (Eph 6:10-12; Col 2:15). The unfallen angels were always subject to Him. As Christians, we do not fight for victory, but from victory the mighty victory that our Lord Jesus Christ won for us in His death, resurrection, and ascension.**”

#3 - PROCLAIM THE FUTURE!

- **Lessons from Noah - Hebrews 11:5** - *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*
- **Jesus prophetically speaks of the future last days through the days of Noah - Matthew 24:36-51.**

- **Proclaim Jesus Personally! Proclaim Jesus Publicly! Proclaim Jesus Prophetically!**
(Lifestyle!) (Witness!) (Tell the World!)