

The Epistles of Peter
1 Peter 3:18-22
From Sermon 1.11.26

Read 1 Peter 3:18-22

Overview from Sunday's sermon: After again giving us the tools and blueprint for surviving in a world of unbelievers, God the Holy Spirit has Peter remind us of the ongoing spiritual warfare that can often impede our joy and ministry. We know that ultimate victory is assured. We also know Christ changed the rules and boundaries with His life, death, and resurrection. But we still have a war to fight. We are left here to preach the offer of freedom in Christ Jesus to the captives still held in darkness by the enemy.

1. From this and previous sermons, what are the causes of our trials and tribulations? We live in a fallen, decaying creation. My own sinful choices. Attacks by the enemy. God's discipline. The wrath of God. For the glory of God.
2. What, then, is the connection between our physical tribulations and the ongoing spiritual warfare? From above...some are direct attacks by the enemy and the people he uses. We must remember that although Christ's victory was assured, He still had to endure the trials. It was God's will for Him to suffer on our behalf. It is now His will that we would suffer on His behalf. But we are not without power and resources.
Ephesians 6:10-17
3. What is the meaning and significance of Christ having suffered "once for all"? 1) We no longer need to sacrifice goats, sheep, bulls, and birds to atone for sin. Jesus was the perfect, unblemished final sacrifice. 2) Jesus Himself doesn't need to be crucified and die over and over (opposite Roman Catholic doctrine). When He stated, "It is finished", His "once only" death satisfied the righteous requirement for justification.
See also *Hebrews 7:26-27 & 9:26-28*
4. Where did Jesus go in the time between His death on the cross and His bodily resurrection on Sunday morning? To heaven and to the abyss. While we don't know the exact timeline or duration for either.
- 4a. How do we even know this much? From Scripture. Jesus tells the thief on the cross, "Today, you will be with Me in paradise. And prays, "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit." Then, this passage in Peter states He also preached to the fallen angels in the abyss.
5. Who are the "spirits now in prison". Demons who did not keep the rules in the days of Noah and those sent to chains and confinement by God ever since. See also *Jude 6 & Luke 8:30-31*.

[Note & Discuss: They will be briefly released according to Revelation 9.]

6. Peter brings up the waters of Noah's tribulation and connects them to us. What's the parallel? The very same water that raised the ark and saved Noah also at the same time judged and drowned the entire world. The very same Jesus that suffered to save us will return one day soon to judge and punish the entire unbelieving world. For one, it brings life. For the others, it brings death.