

# **CHRIST'S TRIUMPH**

## **AMID INJUSTICE**

### **I Peter 3:18-22**

**When suffering, believers should remember and reflect upon Christ's triumph amid injustice**

NOTE: This is a very difficult passage

- Martin Luther says, "A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage than perhaps any other in the New Testament so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means." [from Peter & Jude, p. 166; cited by Scott McKnight, p. 215]

#### **I. CHRIST'S TRIUMPHANT ATONEMENT** (18a)

##### **A. HIS DEATH**

1. For sins
2. Once for all > See Hebrews 10

##### **B. HIS SUBSTITUTION: The just for the unjust**

- The sinless on behalf of the sinful - Isaiah 53:5-6

##### **C. HIS PURPOSE: To bring us to God**

- See Eph. 2:13, Matt. 27:5 and Heb. 10:19

#### **II. CHRIST'S TRIUMPHANT ANNOUNCEMENT** (18b-20)

##### **A. A PROCLAMATION**

1. My death is not my end (18b)
2. My death brings believers to God > See Eph. 4:8a
3. My death confirms your demise (19)
  - I'll be victorious over death and as such become your judge

##### **B. TO IMPRISONED SPIRITS (19-20)**

1. Who ignored godly propriety: They were disobedient
2. Who ignored God's patience: God kept waiting
3. Who ignored godly preaching: In the days of Noah
4. Who ignored God's provision: The ark right in front of them!

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C. THERE IS NO PARDON

1. This is a proclamation not an invitation
2. There is no second chance opportunity to receive Christ as God's provision

III. **CHRIST'S TRIUMPHANT ACCOMPLISHMENT** (21)

A. THE PARALLEL IS INTERESTING: "Corresponding to this"

1. The flood was an actual saving series of events orchestrated by God
2. Baptism too demonstrates an actual saving series of events orchestrated by God

B. THE PRONOUNCEMENT IS ASTONISHING: Baptism now saves you

1. It's not the water of baptism that saves us any more than the water saved Noah
2. The ordinance of baptism symbolizes salvation truths - Read Rom. 6:3-4

C. THE PARTICULARS ARE IMPORTANT

1. Not by cleaning the flesh
2. But because of an appeal to God
  - a. A prayer to God for a good conscience
  - b. A pledge to God to maintain a good conscience - Note Rom. 6:12-13
  - c. And based upon Christ's resurrection - See I Cor. 15:20-22

IV. **CHRIST'S TRIUMPHANT ASCENSION** (22)

A. HIS POSITION: Having gone into heaven

- Peter has taken us from Christ's death (18a) to His victory lap (18b-20) to His resurrection (21) and finally to His ascension (22)

B. HIS PLACE: At God's right hand

- See Psalm 110:1-2 and Hebrews 1:3

C. HIS POWER - Consider Phil. 2:9-11

- Reigning over angels, governors and demons who all must submit to Him

V. **SOME ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS**

A. WITH REGARD TO SALVATION

1. Have you been brought to God through the death of Jesus? (18)
2. Do you realize that God is patient but not permanently so? (20a)
3. Are you heeding the preaching that you're hearing (20b)
4. What safety boat are you counting on? (20c)

**B. WITH REGARD TO SUFFERING**

1. Our focus should not be on unjust suffering but on unbelievable outcomes
  - a. Sometimes these are not fully known to us (and may never be)
  - b. Example: “Operation Auca” in September 1955 to the Haurani tribe of east Ecuador
    - Jan. 8, 1956: The martyrdom of five missionaries inspired many to serve though they may suffer
2. Know that out of suffering comes salvation

**CONCLUSION:****When suffering, believers should remember and reflect upon Christ’s triumph amid injustice**

Jesus Christ ....

- Brings us to God (18a)
- Proclaims victory to the sinful (18b-20)
- Gives salvation to believers through His resurrection (21)
- Reigns supreme in heaven today (22)

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. - II Corinthians 2:14

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