

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 95
December 13, 2020



Saul Invokes the Ghost of Samuel by Bernardo Cavallino Cir 1652

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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message Ninety-Five

GOD'S SERVANT FREES THE CAPTIVES

December 13, 2020

Daniel E. Woodhead

Isaiah 42:5–9

⁵Thus saith God Jehovah, he that created the heavens, and stretched them forth; he that spread abroad the earth and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: ⁶I, Jehovah, have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thy hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; ⁷to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house. ⁸I am Jehovah, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise unto graven images. ⁹Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them (ASV, 1901).

GOD AFFIRMS HIS AUTHORITY TO SPEAK

Isaiah 42:5–6

⁵Thus saith God Jehovah, he that created the heavens, and stretched them forth; he that spread abroad the earth and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: ⁶I, Jehovah, have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thy hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles (ASV, 1901).

These introductory words from God the Father assure us that that this information is authoritative and not to be cast aside or ignored as unimportant. These identifiers describe God the Father as the One bringing some very important promises. This almost seems to be geared to the audience so they can understand how important this is because of the One bringing it to the world. God after introducing Himself begins to state His characteristic of righteousness. In this work of appointing a Servant, God was righteousness. This is because He is righteous and could not provide salvation without a mediator and an atonement. Then, He sent him into the world. He selected one who was eminently righteous to accomplish his purpose; and he came that He might establish righteousness on the earth, and confirm the earth to the just government of God in the Messianic kingdom. At the point of salvation God imputes His righteousness of the Messiah to the believer (Genesis 15:6; I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 5:21). Christ came as a wholly righteous Person, holy in His nature, and character so as to impute it to the believers. When God says, “*and will hold thine hand,*” He is saying that the Father will always be near to Christ the Servant. He will provide His favor and affection for Him, His counsel and direction of Him. God the Father will provide continual support and assistance as well as strength to go about His earthly work. God continues by saying, “*and will keep thee,*” as the apple of My eye, and protect Him from being hurt by His enemies until the time would come to be delivered prophetically into their hands for the atonement. The statement *and give thee for a covenant of the people,* says I will give or appoint thee as the

medium, or means by which a covenant shall be made with the people; or a mediator of the new covenant which God is about to establish with Israel and the Church as a secondary blessing. Christ is instrumental in the covenant of grace; the representative of his people in it; the surety, Mediator, messenger, and ratifier of it, the great blessing in it and all the blessings and promises of it are in Him. Therefore, He is *given to the world* and it is God's free grace that He was appointed and intrusted with all this in eternity, and was sent in time and space to confirm and secure it for *the people*; given to Him by His Father. We are therefore redeemed by Him, and to whom the Spirit applies the blessings and promises of the covenant, who are the elect of God, both among Jews and Gentiles. Jesus is indeed given for *a light of the Gentiles*; who were in the dark as to the true knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, and the way of righteousness and salvation by Him, and of all divine and spiritual things; now Christ, through the ministry of the word by His spirit, was a light unto them.

JESUS RELEASES THE PRISONERS

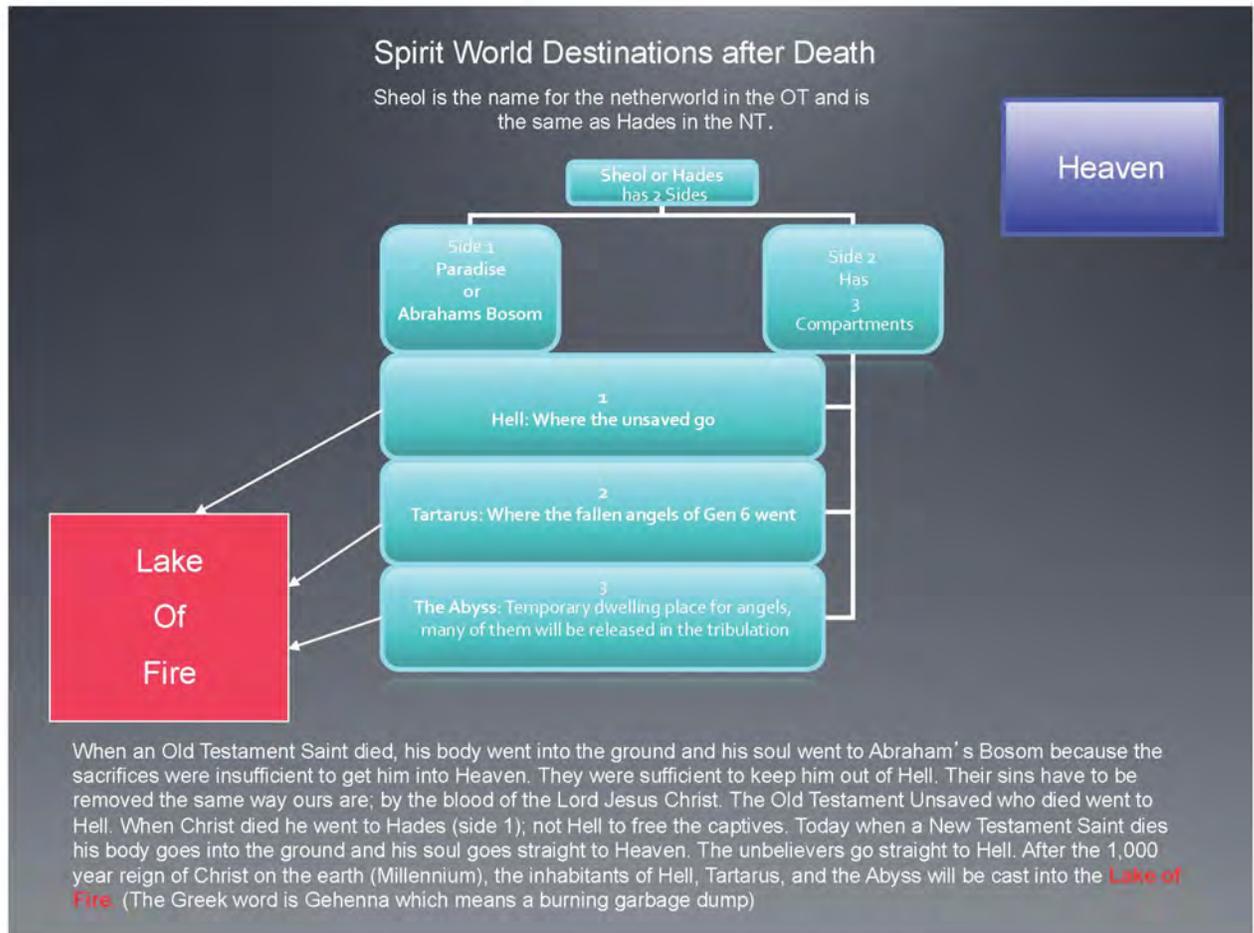
Isaiah 42:7–9

⁷to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house. ⁸I am Jehovah, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise unto graven images. ⁹Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.

There is a twofold group of individuals who are deemed prisoners; unsaved Jews and Gentiles, who were spiritually blind, and Old Testament saints who were in the good side of Sheol waiting for the Savior to release them from the captivity. The Jews and Gentiles who became believers lost their spiritual blindness and realized the truth. Previously they were imprisoned in thought and manner of life by the Prince of this world, Satan. But now they are freed from His imprisonment. The saints in Sheol previously trusted God and upon death they went to the good side of Sheol to await the sacrifice of The Messiah in order to pay the penalty for their sins. Even though they loved God they required the perfect atonement of Jesus' death to release them from their temporary captivity in Sheol and go to Heaven.

Ephesians 4:1–10

¹I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ²with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ³endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things (KJV).



Spirit World Chart by the author

THE LORD JESUS' SPIRIT WENT TO SHEOL AT HIS DEATH

Psalm 16:8-11

⁸I have set Jehovah always before me: Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth; My flesh also shall dwell in safety. ¹⁰For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption. ¹¹Thou wilt show me the path of life: In thy presence is fulness of joy; In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore (ASV, 1901).

David prophesied that his descendant, the Messiah, would die and his body would lie in a tomb but it would not decay. This means that the body would have to be raised from the dead within a short time. Furthermore, the Messiah's soul would go to Sheol (Hades), but would not remain there. Sheol was the netherworld place of the dead both good and bad went after death in the Old

Testament. This is called Hades in the New Testament. Instead, He would be shown eternal life. Thus, His soul would be reunited with His body and be resurrected from the dead.

Acts 2:23-35

²³ this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. ²⁴ "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. ²⁵ "For David says of Him, 'I was always beholding the Lord in my presence; For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. ²⁶ 'Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; Moreover my flesh also will abide in hope; ²⁷Because Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay. ²⁸ 'Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; Thou wilt make me full of gladness with Thy presence.' ²⁹ "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ "And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn to and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. ³² "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet"' (NASB).

The Apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost, which began the Church age, quotes the prophecy by David in Psalm 16, and said that David was not speaking of himself being raised from the dead. Rather, David was prophesying about his descendant, the Messiah, whose flesh did not decay nor was His soul left in Hades. David further prophesied that the Messiah would ascend into Heaven and sit at the right hand of the Father. Christ sitting at the right hand of the Father is not the same as Christ sitting on His own throne, also known as the throne of David. Christ will sit on His own throne when He returns to earth after the Rapture of the Church and after the Tribulation to establish the Millennial Kingdom.

Revelation 3:21

²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne (KJV).

BEFORE THE ATONEMENT THERE WERE TWO SIDES OF SHEOL

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ "Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. ²⁰ "And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹ and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking

his sores. ²² "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. ²³ "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.' ²⁵ "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ "And he said, 'Then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father's house-- ²⁸ for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ "But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ "But he said, 'No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' ³¹ "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead'" (NASB).

Jesus tells the story, not a parable, of the souls of the dead who went to Sheol (Hades), Here He makes it clear that there were two major divisions in Hades, the good side and the bad side. The good side is called the Bosom of Abraham and the other a Place of Torment. There was no way to pass from one side to the other because of an impassable gulf between them. The righteous saints went to the Bosom of Abraham, while the unrighteous unbelievers went to the Place of Torment. The righteous believed looked forward to the redemptive sacrifice of the Messiah, but the unrighteous rejected the revelation of God through Moses and the prophets. The believers were comforted in the Bosom of Abraham, but they were not permitted to go to Heaven yet, because the penalty for their sins had not been paid. They could not enter into the presence of the Living God. Jesus proclaimed when He died "Tetelestai!" it is finished, the debt had been paid, and then His soul descended into Hades. He could then announce to the righteous souls that the time had come for them to be released from Hades and ascend with Him to Heaven in the presence of the Father. Before He could do that, He first had to demonstrate that He had risen from the dead. So, His soul went back to earth, reunited and transformed His body and came forth from the grave victorious over death.

Jesus told Mary Magdalene not to touch Him because He had not yet ascended to the Father.

John 20:15-17

¹⁵ *Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. ¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. ¹⁷ Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God (KJV).*

After Jesus was complete with His resurrection body, He descended again to Hades to gather the Old Testament saints and transport them from Hades to Heaven. When Christ ascended to the Father, He took Captivity Captive. He took the righteous saints from the Bosom of Abraham to Heaven.

Psalm 68:18

¹⁸Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led away captives; Thou hast received gifts among men (ASV, 1901).

Ephesians 4:1–10

¹I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ²with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ³endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ⁸Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things (KJV).

The Old Testament saints were captives in the sense that they were not permitted to go to the presence of the Lord before the Cross. Now, however, Christ led their souls in a great procession to present them to the Father in Heaven as fully redeemed saints awaiting their own resurrection from the dead at the promised rapture and resurrection (Job 19:25–27; I Thessalonians 4:15–18).

When Christ went to Hades, He proclaimed a message to the spirits in prison who were disobedient before the Flood and were on the bad side of Sheol. He also announced to the Old Testament saints that it was now time for them to go with Him to Heaven. The debt for sin had now been fully paid.

1 Peter 3:18-20

¹⁸For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: ¹⁹by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; ²⁰which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water (KJV).

Peter says that Christ died and preached to the spirits in prison. The ones he mentions were certain ones who were disobedient at the time of the Flood of Noah. However, it is also clear that He came to release the Old Testament saints and take them to Heaven. The unrighteous souls, however, would remain in the Place of Torment in Hades until they face the Judge at the Great

White Throne and the Lake of Fire. After He traveled from Hades to earth to Hades to Heaven and back to Earth, Christ appeared to the disciples later to inspect His wounds.

John 20:19-20

¹⁹ Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. ²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord (KJV).

He could now allow them to touch Him. He had accomplished His unique mission of transporting the saints from Hades to Heaven and presenting them to the Father. Now He was ready to present to His disciples many infallible proofs that He had indeed risen from the dead so that they could go out to Israel and the world with the truth of the Gospel. When believers in Christ die today, we do not go to Hades, but we go directly to Heaven to be in the presence of the Lord. Unbelievers go directly to Hell.

II Corinthians 5:8

⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord (NASB).

Believers in Christ today wonder what happens to us when we die. We do not descend into Hades like the Old Testament saints, but our souls go directly into the presence of the Lord. We look back to the sacrifice of Jesus, where the penalty for our sins was paid for in full. We will know each other and have some kind of recognizable form, as did the souls of the Old Testament saints, such as Samuel, Moses and Elijah. We will also be waiting for the time of the Rapture of the Church, when we will receive our Resurrection Bodies. Then we will wait in Heaven to join Christ as He descends again to earth at His Second Coming.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

PRAYER POINT ONE: Expose and hold accountable those who practice the seven things God hates and He says are detestable to Him: According to Proverbs 6:16-17, There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to Him: 1. haughty eyes 2. a lying tongue 3. hands that shed innocent blood 4. a heart that devises wicked plans 5. feet that are quick to rush into evil 6. a false witness who pours out lies 7. a person who stirs up conflict in the community. Heavenly Father, we humbly ask that in the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada, please silence every lying tongue and convict the hearts of those who devise wicked plans intended to invalidate and nullify the expressed will of the voters. Stop those who would be quick to rush into evil. Expose and silence every false witness who utters lies and operates in deceit. Thwart the efforts of every person who attempts to stir conflict within their community."

PRAYER POINT TWO: Expose all wickedness intended to steal, kill and destroy the electoral process in these battleground states. Heavenly Father, we humbly ask that in the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada that you "reveal deep and hidden things. You know what lies in darkness. Light dwells with You." (Daniel 2:22) Please bring to light and expose every lie, deceit, deception, misrepresentation and illegal act intended to "steal, kill and destroy" the electoral process and the expressed will of the citizens and these states. (John 10:10).

PRAYER POINT THREE: Frustrate those who seek to steal, kill, and destroy electoral integrity and authentic, accurate vote counts in these battleground states. Heavenly Father, please "Frustrate the plotting of the shrewd so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise or attain success." May no weapon formed intended to steal, kill and destroy the authentic, accurate vote count and expressed will of the people in the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada be allowed to prosper." (Isaiah 54:17).

PRAYER POINT FOUR: Frustrate and thwart the plans of those who attempt to sabotage the state's election laws and subvert the expressed will of the people. Heavenly Father, please "Capture the wise by their own shrewdness and quickly thwart the advice of the cunning" (Job 5:12) whose intention is to sabotage and subvert state and federal election law and the expressed will of the people in the battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Arizona, and Nevada. "Hold them guilty O LORD, by their own devices let them fall." (Psalm 5:10)

PRAYER POINT FIVE: Psalm 5 for protection and favor for President Trump: Heavenly Father, please "Give ear to President Trump's words, O LORD, consider President Trump's groaning. Heed the sound of his cry for help, His King and His God. For to You does he pray. In the morning O LORD, you will hear his voice; in the morning he will order his prayer to you and eagerly watch. For you are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; no evil dwells with You; You hate all who do iniquity. Destroy those who speak falsehood. You abhor the man of bloodshed and deceit. But as for President Trump, by Your abundant lovingkindness, he will

enter Your house. At your holy temple he will bow in reverence for you. Lord, please lead President Trump in Your righteousness because of his foes. Make his way straight before him. There is nothing reliable in what they say; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. Hold them guilty, O God, by their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out for they are rebellious against You. But let President Trump take refuge in You and be glad. Let him ever sing for joy. May you shelter him. May he who loves Your name exult in You. Bless President Trump, O LORD. Surround him with favor as with a shield. Heavenly Father, please give supernatural wisdom, strength and discernment to the President and his advisors regarding how to navigate the road ahead. In the Mighty Name of Jesus! Amen.