

Christ's Triumphant Message

1 Peter 3:19-20

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- One of the most difficult interpretive passage in Scripture
- The need to put his passage into context—the larger picture
- The chronology: after death before resurrection
- Popular view: Christ preaching to pre-flood human race through Noah

Christ's Triumphant Message

A. Who are the “spirits in prison”?

1. Man possesses a spirit, but is not a spirit—Luke 1; Heb. 12
2. “Spirit” used alone refers to angels, both good and evil.

B. Where are these spirits housed?

1. Two prison houses for evil spirits in New Testament
 - a. “Tartarus”—2 Peter 2:4 Place of punishment
 - b. “Abyss” or “bottomless pit”—Luke 8; rev. 9:1
2. Jesus Christ went to preach in “Tartarus”—2 Peter 2:4-5

C. Why are they incarcerated in Tartarus?

1. Disobedient during the time of Noah—Jude 6-7
 - a. Angels did not keep their “*proper domain*”
 - b. Order in this universe—Heb. 1:6-7
2. Disobeyed by cohabiting with human women
 - a. Grammatical connection in Jude 6-7
 - b. Biblical Account in Genesis 6:1-7
 - 1) Identification of the “*sons of God*” as angels
 - 2) How can spirit beings marry? Matt. 22:30
 - 3) Angels appear in bodily form with function- Gen. 18
 - 4) Union of demons with women produced corrupt race.
 - a) Absolutely evil—Gen. 6:5, 11
 - b) Super-human race—Gen. 6:4

D. Why did Jesus preach to these incarcerated evil spirits?

1. Not a message of “salvation”
2. But a message of triumphant!
 - a. The scheme of Satan—pollute the human race making the incarnation of Christ impossible.
 - b. Satan thought he won at the cross, but Jesus triumphed over Satan. Col. 2:4-5; Heb. 2:14

E. What difference does it make for us today?