

Message Notes

Jesus brings us to God

summerquestions@hopecc.com

This is a tough passage!

Between Two Worlds A Study of First Peter

Today's message: 1 Peter 3:8-12

What's the answer to the question?

1 Peter 3:13

When I suffer, why am I blessed? 3 reasons

1 Peter 3:14-15a, 17

"Why do you have hope?"

1 Peter 3:15b-16

The gospel as definitive proof

1 Peter 3:18

Christ did what?

1 Peter 3:19-20

Two possible options, each of which presents difficulties

Does baptism save me? Yes and no.

1 Peter 3:21-22

Tie three stories together

1. Noah and the ark
2. Isaiah and the Assyrians
3. Jesus and baptism

The good news of the gospel - Jesus died for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God!

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

1 Peter 3:13-22

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so that I do not know for certainty what Peter means.

MARTIN LUTHER



This is felt by me to be difficult.

SAINT AUGUSTINE



The title 'BETWEEN TWO WORLDS' is centered on a dark blue background. The text is white and has a slightly distressed, hand-drawn appearance. The word 'BETWEEN' is on the top line, 'TWO' is smaller and positioned between 'BETWEEN' and 'WORLDS', and 'WORLDS' is on the bottom line. The entire title is surrounded by numerous short, white, radiating lines that create a starburst or sunburst effect.

BETWEEN
TWO
WORLDS

A STUDY OF FIRST PETER

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:13–22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

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¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits — ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

What's the answer to the question?

1 Peter 3:13

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

When I suffer, why am I blessed?

#1 – You’ve been associated with Christ

1 Peter 3:14a

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Acts 5:40–42

⁴⁰ They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

John 15:18-21

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.”

When I suffer, why am I blessed?

#2 - You know whom to truly fear

1 Peter 3:14b-15a

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Isaiah 8:11-15

¹¹ For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: ¹² “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. ¹³ But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. ¹⁴ And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.”

“Why do you have hope?”

1 Peter 3:15b-16

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When I suffer, why am I blessed?

#3 – God can and does work through suffering

1 Peter 3:17

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Questions to address:

1. Who are the spirits in prison?
2. When/how did Jesus proclaim to them?
3. How is this connected to Noah and his ark?

First view:

1. Who are the spirits in prison?

The spirits are imprisoned demons (fallen angels) awaiting judgment and consignment to hell.

2. When/how did Jesus proclaim to them?

Jesus literally proclaimed, (preached in hell e.g. Apostle's creed), or figuratively declared victory, through his resurrection

3. How is this connected to Noah and his ark?

These demons who disobeyed in the days of Noah are the "worst of the worst" and Jesus stands in victory over them.

Second view:

1. Who are the spirits in prison?

The spirits are fallen people who disobeyed the message of Noah and are presently imprisoned awaiting consignment to hell.

2. When/how did Jesus proclaim to them?

Jesus, *in the Spirit* (pre-incarnate), proclaimed *through* Noah while the ark was being built.

3. How is this connected to Noah and his ark?

Peter's audience is suffering, Christ suffered, and Noah suffered. Christ was raised, Noah's family was saved, and so will you be.

Does baptism save me? Yes and no.

1 Peter 3:20b-22

¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits — ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also — not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Luke 12:49–53

⁴⁹ “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Tie these stories together

Noah & The Ark

Isaiah & Assyrians

Jesus & Baptism

Tie these stories together

Noah & The Ark

Isaiah & Assyrians

Jesus & Baptism

- Increasing wickedness
 - God is grieved and takes action
- Noah is “righteous” by faith (Heb. 11:7)
 - “Make an ark of wood”
 - “All flesh will die.”
- Waters increased and bore up the ark
- Only Noah was left and those with him

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Isaiah & Assyrians

- Wickedness like Sodom
- God is grieved/angry and takes action
- Isaiah’s sin is atoned
- “The (wooden) stump remains...The holy seed is its stump.
- Desolation coming
- Assyrian army → waters of the River
- A remnant, with Isaiah, will be preserved

Jesus & Baptism

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Jesus & Baptism

- None is righteous
- God is grieved/angry and takes action
- Jesus, the Righteous One, died for sin
- On the (wooden) cross, Jesus died
- The wages of sin is death
- Jesus: I have a baptism to undergo.
- Only Jesus remains and those in Him

Luther: a wonderful text is this

Jesus: I will bring you to God