

Lesson 6 – October 9
1 Peter 3:13-22

Always Ready



Rome

Our Living Hope



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



1. Sept 4 Living Hope 1:1-12
2. Sept 11 Be Holy 1:13-25
3. Sept 18 Building Our Faith 2:1-10
4. Sept 25 Living as Strangers 2:11-25
5. Oct 2 Living in Relationship 3:1-12
6. ***Oct 9 Always Ready 3:13-22***
7. Oct 16 Equipped to Live 4:1-11
8. Oct 23 When Ridiculed 4:12-19
9. Oct 30 Alert Living 5:1-14
10. Nov 6 Being Useful 2 Pet. 1:1-11
11. Nov 13 With Trust 2 Pet. 1:12-21
12. Nov 20 On Guard 2 Pet. 2:1-13; Jude 16-25
13. Nov 27 With Anticipation 2 Pet. 3:1-13, 17-18



Lesson Author's Theme

**Believers honor God by sharing
His hope with others.**

1 Peter

13-17

Ready to Defend – Be Ready to Defend Living Hope

18-20a

Point to Christ's Work – Christ Made Alive ...

Preached to Spirits in Prison

20b-22

Display Your Faith – Baptism a Pledge of Resurrection



Key Verse 1 Peter 3:15 & 3:22

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Confident because of 3:22

Now that He has gone into heaven, He is at God's right hand with angels, authorities and powers subject to him.



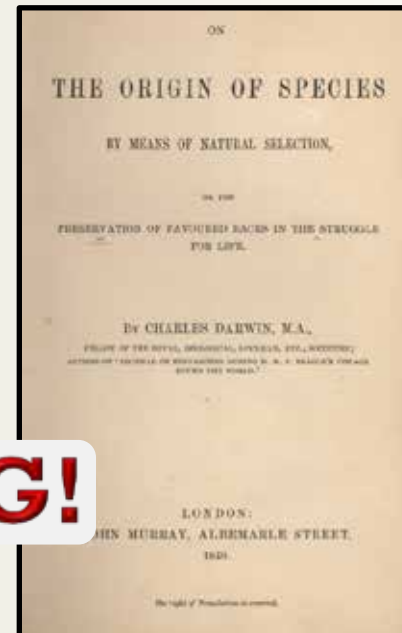
Within this small section of 1 Peter 3:13-22 is the
Most controversial passage in the Bible ... in church history ...

**3:19—After being made alive, he went and
made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits.**

According to the Criswell Study Bible notes, there are over
90 variations of interpretations over the last 2,000 years!

Even Genesis 1—controversy
over CREATION has only been
on fire since **Charles Darwin**
published *Origin of the Species*
in 1859—a mere 150 years!

My Opinion – **NO BIG BANG!**



After the controversial passage, the section closes with reaffirmation of our Living Hope in the crowning achievement of Christ at God's right hand—OVER ALL! 3:21b-22—by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Always ... *ALWAYS* be prepared to give an answer for your

LIVING HOPE



Alternative Title

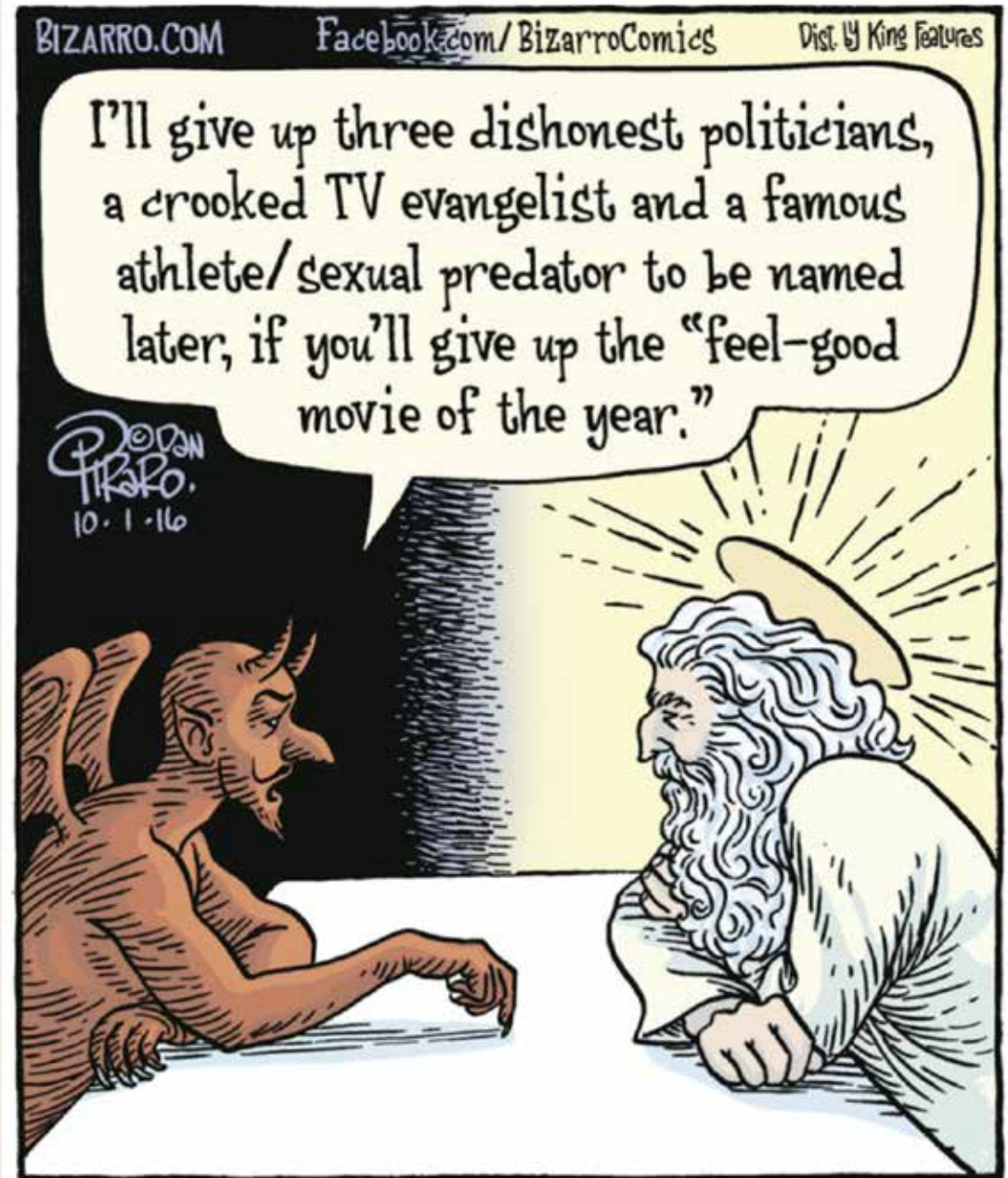
To Hades and Back for YOU



The Art of the Deal

Think of poor, rich Job and the **DEAL** the Devil made with God . . .

Think of Jude v. 9, “Even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, **‘The Lord rebuke you!’**”



New Definition of S.O.S.

C-130 was lumbering along when a cocky F-16 flashed by.

The jet jockey decided to show off.

The fighter jock told the C-130 pilot, **“Watch This!”** and promptly went into a barrel roll followed by a steep climb.

He then finished with a **Sonic Boom** as he broke the sound barrier.

The F-16 pilot asked the C-130 pilot, **“Well, what do you think of THAT?”**



The C-130 pilot said,
“That’s impressive, but watch this!”

The C-130 droned along for about 5 minutes
and then the C-130 pilot came back on and
asked, “What did you think of that?”

Puzzled, the F-16 pilot asked,
“What the heck did you do?”

The C-130 pilot chuckled, “I stood up,
stretched my legs, walked to the back,
used the restroom,
then got a cup of coffee and a cinnamon roll.”

New Definition of S.O.S.—
Slower, Older and Smarter



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

For the most part ... TRUE

And, truly, how sweet life would be if ALL just DID GOOD DEEDS!

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.

“Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

Here, Peter cuts us deep.

FACT: someone will do a GOOD DEED ... and suffer for it!

POLL: Share an experience?

Not easy to share ... cause, well ... ah ... hmmm ...

When you do a good deed and suffer ... someone MIGHT say,

You probably deserved it

13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

For the most part ... TRUE

We are often TWISTED ...

That is why BAD NEWS is so highly rated

Seems like we seem to LIKE bad news
more than good news



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

**¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.
“Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”**

Here, Peter cuts us deep.

**A lie can travel half way
around the world while the
truth is putting on its shoes.**

Charles Spurgeon



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

**¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.
“Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”**

Take a look at www.Persecution.com



The Voice of the Martyrs

We do NOT like to think ... or feel

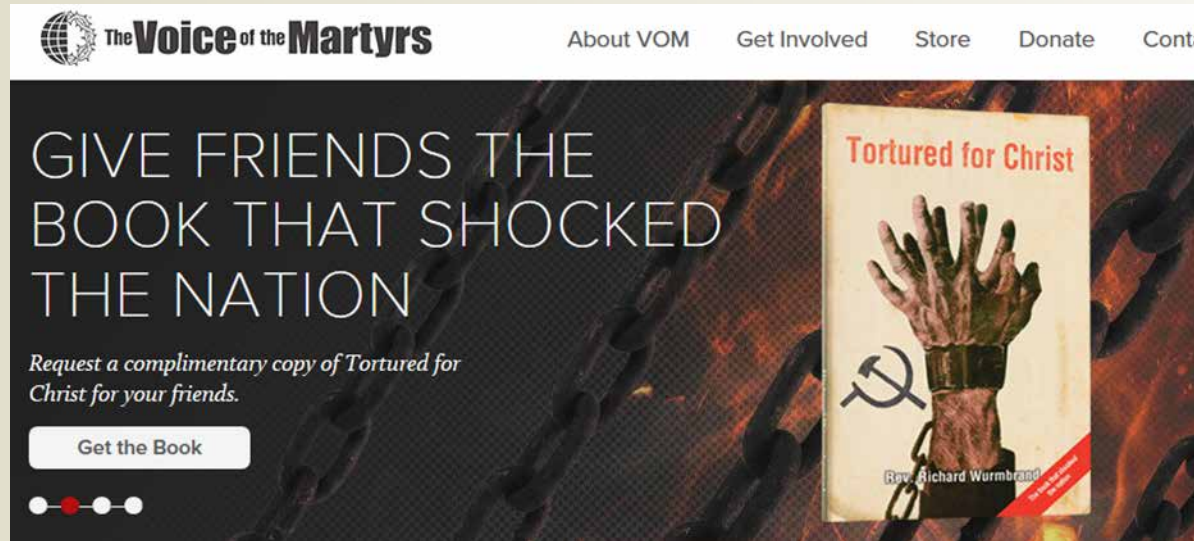
Very sadly ... but we DON'T want to hear much about it

Lot easier to watch a hurricane over Haiti ...

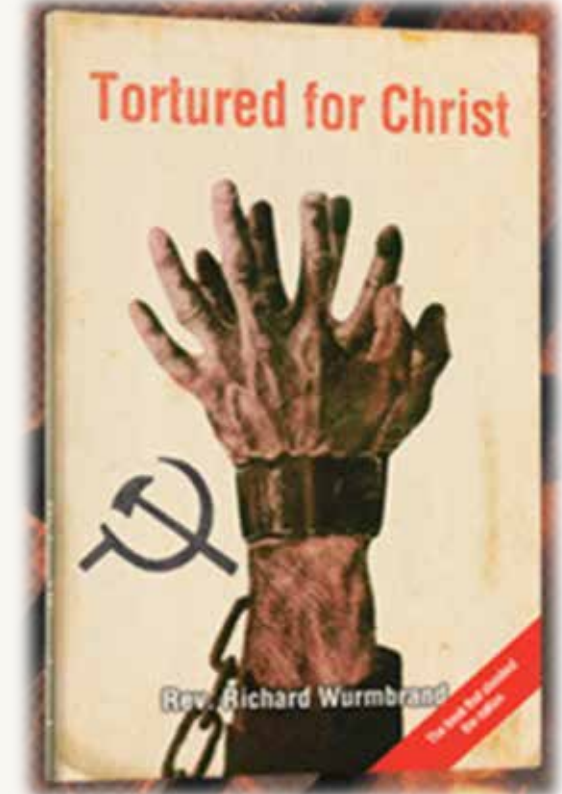
13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.
“Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

Take a look at www.Persecution.com – **FREE BOOK**



Yes, **FREE ... Tortured for Christ**



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.
“Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

Take a look at www.Persecution.com – Suffering



Sudan: Four on Trial

Two pastors and a Czech aid worker are among four people standing trial for "crimes against national security" in Khartoum, Sudan. If found guilty on all charges, the men could be sentenced to death. [Read More](#)

If found guilty on all charges, the men could be sentenced to DEATH

Suffering for Christ in Sudan

13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

**¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.
“Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”**

Take a look at www.Persecution.com – Suffering

Philippines: Church Elder Murdered

Perfecto Padilla, 52, a dedicated church elder from Sultan Kudarat, Philippines, was brutally murdered by two Muslim men on Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. local time. [Read More](#)

Not just “murdered” ... but “BRUTALLY Murdered”

We should NEVER forget Hebrews 11 – **List of Martyrs**

Hebrews 12:1, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders ... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

In the U.S.A.—did not the IRS target “conservative” groups?

13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

¹⁴ But even if you should *SUFFER FOR WHAT IS RIGHT*, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

Take a look at www.Persecution.com



The **Voice** of the **Martyrs**

Get a VOM 2016 Global Report here:

www.Persecution.com/pdfs/Global_Report_2016.pdf

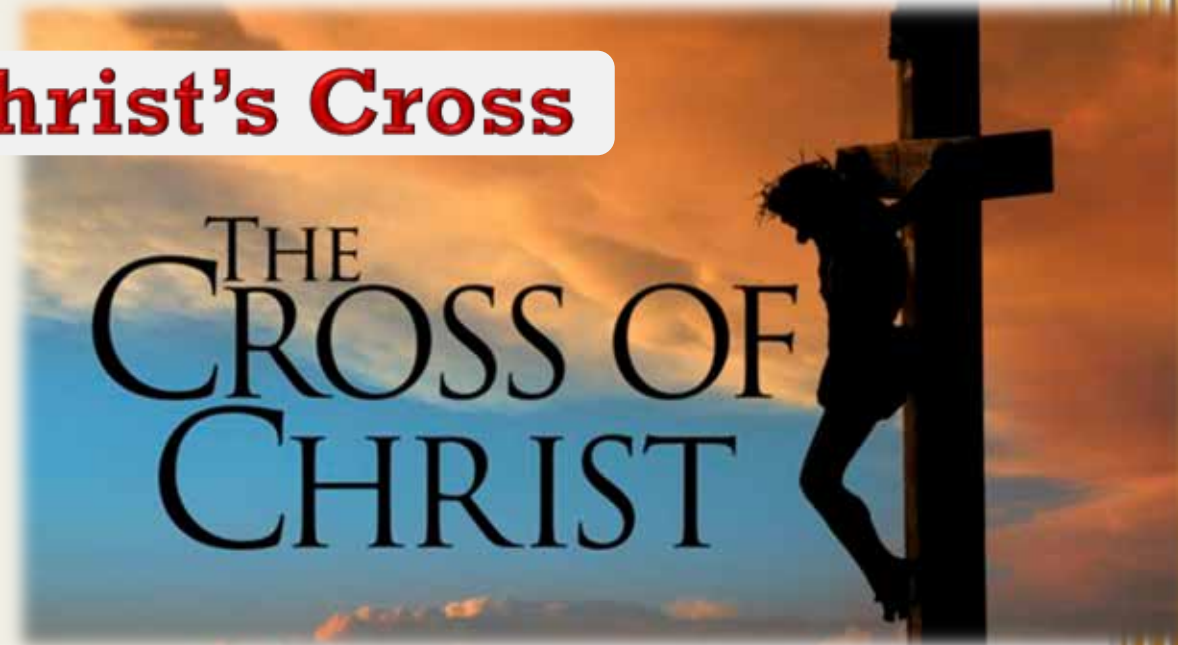
P.O. Box 443
Bartlesville, OK 74005-0443
918-337-8015
thevoice@vom-usa.org

13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

¹⁴ But even if you should *SUFFER FOR WHAT IS RIGHT*, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

Peter reminds us of the FIRST MARTYR

We MUST not forget Christ's Cross



They thought Christ had NO Choice!

13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

¹⁴ But even if you should *SUFFER FOR WHAT IS RIGHT*, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”

Remember last week’s lesson too ...

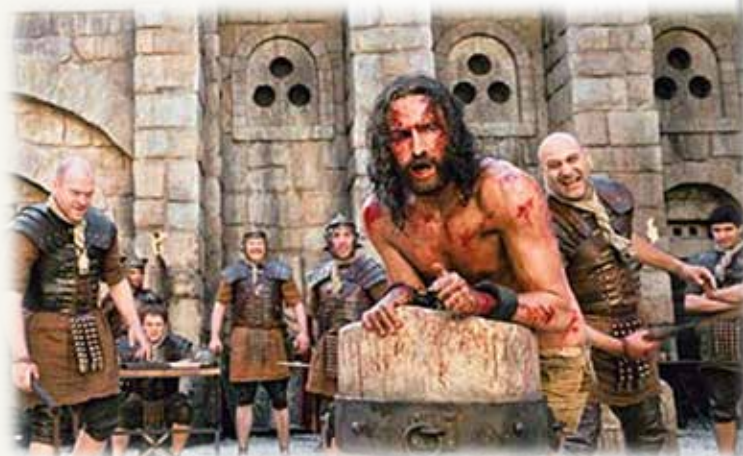
You are “blessed” if you suffer for doing good
and have NO CHOICE

But the high standard of Christ is to suffer for
doing good **WHEN you have a choice**

That is, it’s okay to avoid some suffering
if you have the power to do so

But those who choose **ENDURE** suffering for
doing good **WHEN they have the power to end it**

Those are TRULY LIKE CHRIST



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

In suffering, do not fear ... and Peter continues:

¹⁵ But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts.

NIV: But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

ASV & KJV & Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:

Message Bible: Through thick and thin, keep your hearts
at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master.

If you face persecution for doing good ... How Do You Cope?

How CAN you cope? ... Honor Christ in your hearts!

I'm sure, certain, several of us would say, "Easy for you, Peter."

But, truth be told—Peter was LIVING IT!

13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

Very much like the author of Hebrews, Peter continues without fluff or excuses ... but with a verse we all know:

15-16 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, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

ALWAYS be Prepared to give an answer!

Are you prepared?

After Hurricane Rita in 2005 ...

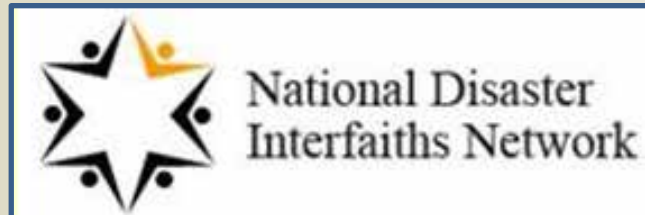
**As for me and my house, I WILL RESPECT
all Category 5 Hurricanes hitting our coast!**



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

At my domain, www.PreciousHeart.net ... bottom of home page

Links to disaster guidelines by National Disaster Interfaiths Network



[Faith Communities](#)

[Where Do Religious Leaders Fit In?](#)

[Disaster Service Organizations](#)

[04 - The Role of Faith Communities in Disasters](#)

[05 - How to Use Your House of Worship in a Disaster](#)

[14 - Faith Communities & Risk Communication](#)

[15 - Faith Communities & Evacuation Planning](#)

[16 - Faith Communities & Disaster Sheltering](#)

[17 - Faith Communities & Long Term Recovery](#)

[18 - Faith Communities & Debris or Mud Removal](#)

[19 - Faith Communities & Cold Weather Hazards](#)

[20 - Faith Communities & Hot Weather Hazards](#)

Added last year ... from Ammo.com

[Terrorism Preparation Guide: How To Survive a Terrorist Attack](#) - by Ammo.com

articles on Active Shooter, Explosives, Chemical, Nuclear, Dirty Bombs, Talking to Children

[11 - Faith Communities & Disaster Mental Health](#)

[12 - Faith Communities & the Disaster Distress Helpline](#)

[13 - Faith Communities & Trauma Resilience](#)

[Terrorism Preparation Guide: How To Survive a Terrorist Attack](#) - by Ammo.com

articles on Active Shooter, Explosives, Chemical, Nuclear, Dirty Bombs, Talking to Children

[24 - Children & Disasters](#)

[25 - Vulnerable Populations & Disasters](#)

13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

15-16 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.

Prepared ... Are YOU Prepared?

I suspect MOST of us feel we are ...

We save money, have spare food

We have a spare tire ...

Most of us have a GUN

Some of us have a generator

**Some have gone to seminars
on disaster training**

We go to church, read Bible

We have several Bibles

We grip tight the shield of faith

Some MEMORIZE the Bible

Some go to Sunday School



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ 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.

Notice Peter did not “ASK” them?

Peter TOLD them ... *and us*
“Always be Prepared”

Listen ... the STORM is coming

As a Christian, you have HOPE

If you are a NORMAL Christian,
you WANT others, too, to have that HOPE.

cause a STORM was coming!



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

But when you do give an answer ...

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ ... do this with **GENTLENESS** and **RESPECT**, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Remember the story of the two pilots?

Young pilot of the F-16 ... and older pilot of the C-130?

I suspect the older C-130 pilot sounded GENTLE

As he said, *“cup of coffee and a cinnamon roll.”*

Prov. 15:1, “A soft answer turneth away wrath” **and more**

No matter what you are going through, whether or not you have the power to avoid it—but especially if you DO NOT have the power—

Gentle Respect will WIN more souls



13-17 Ready to Defend – Ready to Defend Living Hope

As you ready yourself to give an answer for the Living Hope

A Gentle Respect will WIN more souls IN EVERY Pathway of life!

Regardless of your lot in life ... Peter then says,

17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

We really don't know what the future holds.

But as far as is in your power, don't suffer for doing evil!

In God's economy—just FACT—if you have to suffer,

it is FAR, FAR, **FAR better to suffer for doing good ...**

Whether you like it or not ... I think here, even God does not like it.

Why . . . Why . . . Why – we will never know this side of heaven.

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

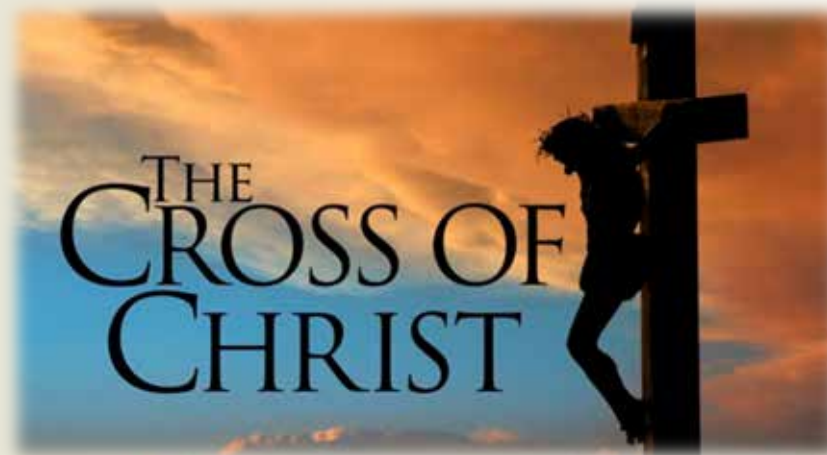
Having encouraged the Christians in Asia Minor and Galatia regarding evil and various kinds of suffering ...

Having stated in several ways that suffering for doing good
CARRIES with it an **EXTRA** Blessing from God.

Peter then spells out precisely how Christ was the pioneer ...

How Christ was the trailblazer ... how Christ was the example!

And, as the pioneer-trailblazer, what God did **THROUGH** Christ!



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, after being put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the SPIRITUAL REALM.

SUFFERED ... the RIGHTEOUS for the UNRIGHTEOUS

WHY? ... so that “He might bring you to God.”

How do you get to God?

Peter shares in verse 21: “the pledge of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Yet BEFORE verse 21 ... in verses 18-20,

Peter takes us on a journey that opens our understanding into the nature of the world like few passages in ALL OF THE BIBLE!

Yet, please, do NOT miss the most important part!

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, after being put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the SPIRITUAL REALM.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART ... is

Christ WILLING suffered ... to get you and me Eternal Life!

**Remember Peter saying that if YOU SUFFER for doing Good,
you are BLESSED! ...**

Remember OUR point earlier ...

- 1. BLESSED if you have NO CHOICE in suffering for good**
- 2. Double-BLESSED if you HAVE A CHOICE and suffer for good**

True ... all true. Now then, think of Christ.

Christ had a CHOICE ... and he was ALL POWERFUL

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, after being put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the SPIRITUAL REALM.

Of ALL people who EVER lived in the past, live in the present,
and will live in the future before God pulls the curtain

Christ “the righteous for the unrighteous” was ALL POWERFUL

I *might* have power to avoid some suffering.

I'm an American ... I have rights. Call the cops. Hire a lawyer.

If I'm kidnapped ...

I hope our local sheriff will find me!

He'll try ... FEDS will help too!

I'll supply the donuts



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

But if our U.S. PRESIDENT is kidnapped ...

Secret Service kicks into overdrive

FBI cancels leave for all agents

CIA taps every resource abroad

NSA pulls phones of entire U.S. population

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corp ... EVERYONE ...

If you even THREATEN to harm the President—you're toast!

To have NO CHOICE, no power and suffer for good—Blessed!

To have a CHOICE and CHOOSE to suffer for good—BLESSED!

**To have a CHOICE and GREAT POWER and still CHOOSE to suffer
that is BLESSED near what Christ did.**



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Yet, Christ was ABOVE ALL

Christ was in Heaven, innocent ...

Came to earth and endured the worst

Christ could have chosen to NOT to Suffer

Christ and God the Father
COULD have ended
the whole show in second.

Christ patiently ENDURED
taking the humiliation kindly

Taking the whip and CROSS
with no complaint

WHY?



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Peter is crystal clear:

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God

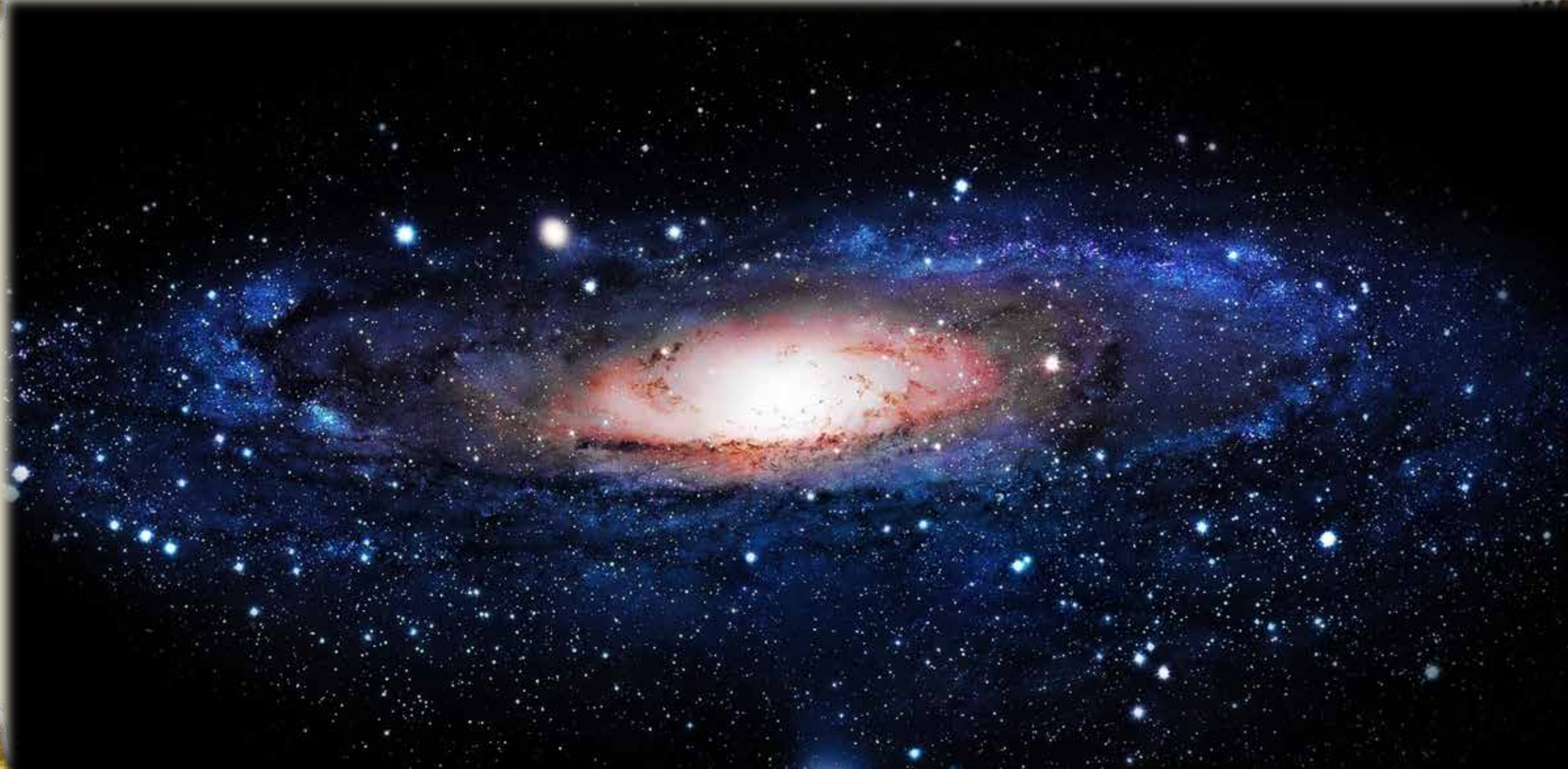
Christ suffered all that on EARTH to bring us to God.

The rest of verses 18-20 take us OFFROAD



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

I mean WAY off road ...



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Peter is crystal clear:

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, after being put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the SPIRITUAL REALM.

What you already know ... and know very well ...

Jesus Christ's journey on earth was the **SHORT JOURNEY**

Christ's 33 years on earth were **TOO SHORT** *by even our standard*

Yet Christ was with the Father from the beginning.

After Christ was killed, he was made alive in the

Spiritual Realm

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Spiritual Realm

Ghost Hunting

Oh yeah ...

on the
Travel Channel

They started with
how **dangerous**
it was to HUNT
ghosts ...

Well, you KNOW
my position!



Fri 10/07

Ghost Adventures

3:00pm-4:00pm
196 TRV, Fri 10/07

Edinburgh Manor Series/Spec
Aaron Goodwin, (2015) A 1
Edinburgh manor; an entity ten
violently chokes people as they enter the
manor. (HD) (CC)
TV Listings (c) Gracenote

Episode: 198 Original Air Date: 08-22-15

Rating: PG,TV-PG

Critique: Done

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Spiritual Realm today is most corrupted EVER

Happy Halloween ... I'll give out candy TOO!

NOT the worst—Peter and I have *already*
talked about Paganism ... there's more!



Movies are numbing us to ALL things spiritual ...

Exorcist came out in 1973 ... I saw it in 1974 on
my HS Senior trip as a non-Christian—scary!

Within the bloody Horror genre, there is a class of
“spiritual” horror—demons slaughter people

NOBODY SHOULD WATCH THOSE!!

Houdini devoted a lot of time to
DEBUNKING mediums ...



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Spiritual Realm IS REAL ...

**Satan loves few things MORE than to convince
people he is a suave horned goffer**

Or, better yet, some fiery-eyed KING of Hell

**GOOGLE “Deal with the Devil” and
see the stories ... no end in site**

**1979, Charlie Daniels Band released
“The Devil Went Down to Georgia”**

A foot-stomping romp where ...

Johnny wages his soul for Satan's fiddle made of GOLD

tell me you've NOT tapped your foot to it ... shame on me, too



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Spiritual Realm IS REAL ...

Faust—popular 15th-century German legends
in books, ballads, now movies

Faust makes a deal with the Devil—Mephistopheles

Trades his soul for unlimited knowledge

DON'T FORGET THE REFORMATION started
in Wittenberg in 1517 by Martin Luther
nailing his 95 theses to church door!

One origin the Faust legend is said to be
Johann Fust (c. 1400–1466), business partner to
Johann Gutenberg, inventor the Printing Press
and first printer of the Bible!!!!



Dr. Fausto, 1921
by Jean Paul Laurens



Mephistopheles Flying over Wittenberg
by Eugène Delacroix (1798-1863)

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Spiritual Realm IS REAL ...

From Dan Brown's books, starting with the *Da Vinci Code*, good cat-and-mouse with art extravaganza and ludicrous plot

Sequel ... *Angels and Demons* ...

But coming out THIS month, October 2016

Inferno, starring Tom Hanks!

From Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy*, 14th-century epic poem, in which is the *Inferno*—Hell, nine concentric circles of suffering, with punishment increasing ... located within the earth

In the lowest NINETH level of Hell, Satan himself gnaws on Traitors

Yes, those consigned to the lowest level of Hell are **Traitors!**



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Peter is crystal clear:

Spiritual Realm IS REAL

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring you to God, after being put to death in the fleshly realm but made alive in the SPIRITUAL REALM.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ In that state He also went and made a PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

Gospel is a Tale of Three Roads ...

1. Heaven to Earth ... 2. Earth to Hades ... 3. Earth to Heaven

Though a lot of guides, NO ONE questions the “Spiritual Realm”

PETER adds a mysterious element UNIQUE in the N.T.

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

19-20 In that state He also went and made a PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

**Small Quarterly and Teacher's Quarterly BOTH favor
Christ preaching through Noah to disobedient in Noah's day
Criswell Study Bible *also favors this view ...***

**Large Quarterly favors Christ preaching to Fallen Angels
in 1 Peter, referencing Gen. 6**

**Since the 2nd Century A.D. — for the last 1,900 years — the
Criswell Study Bible (CSB) notes said there are over **NINETY (90)**
*variations of interpretations on this verse***

**CSB Notes to 1 & 2 Peter were written by Rev. Dr. Paige Patterson,
President of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth**

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

¹⁹⁻²⁰ In that state He also went and made a PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

Here are five views ...

- ~~1. Christ descended to Hades (place of dead) to preach condemnation to those in O.T. period~~
2. Christ descended to **Tartarus** (realm below Hades in Greek mythology) to preach judgment to fallen angels
3. Christ descended to realm of Hades called **Paradise** where Saints of O.T. were held until atonement was finished on Golgotha
4. Preexistent Christ preached to disobedient **through Noah**
5. Christ proclaimed victory to **disobedient "spirits"** in the past who were **STILL** operating in A.D. 33 after crucifixion

We'll look at these four

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

2. Christ descended to Tartarus to preach to fallen angels

Charles Swindoll ...

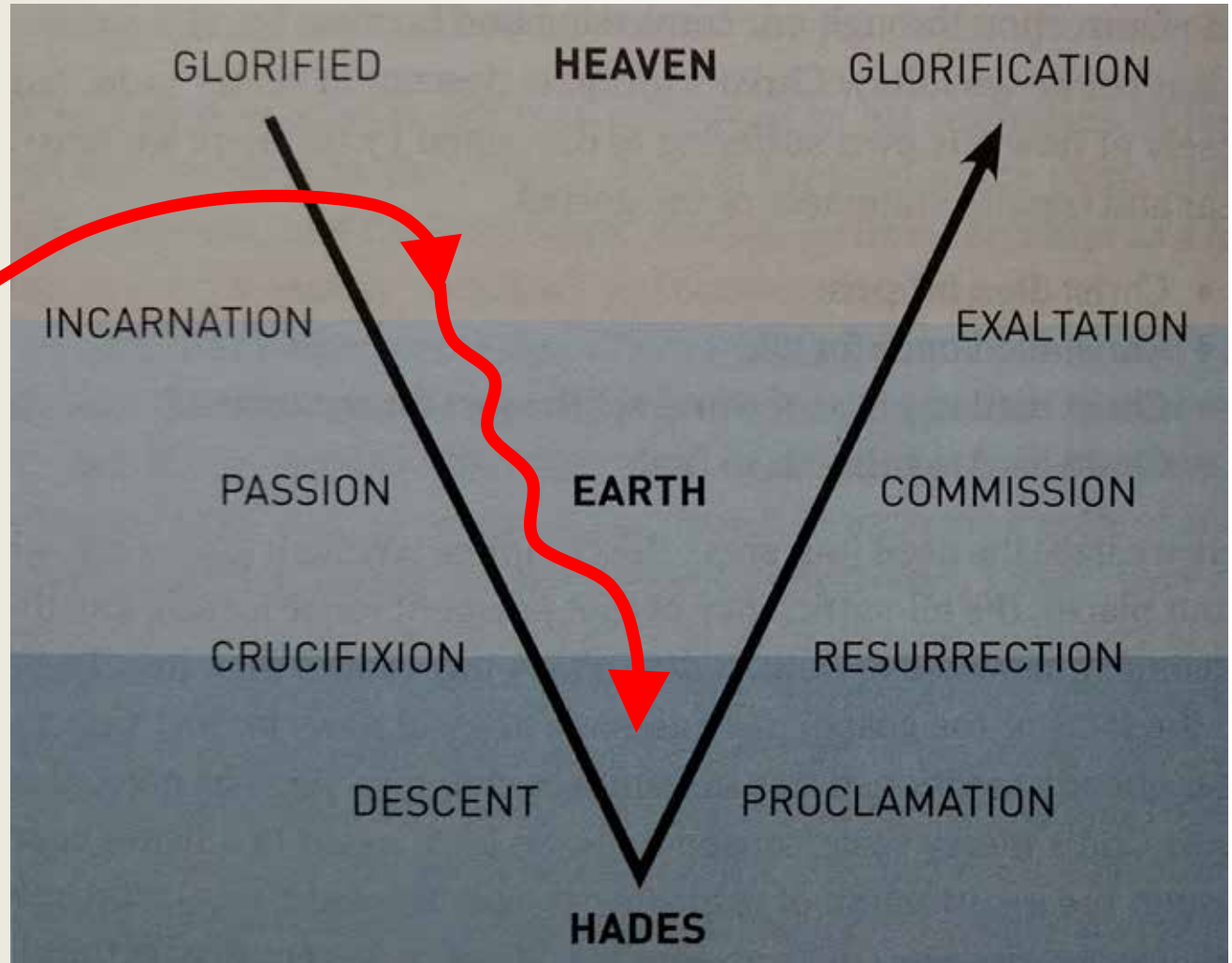
Between Christ's
death and resurrection

Christ takes a trip

Very popular view

Except that the verse
clearly refers to those
in the time of Noah

Unitarians/Universalists
use this view to support
that ALL will be saved.



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Chuck Swindoll notes the Apostle's Creed, from c. A.D. 397

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PLUS—lot of Jewish Tradition and Book of Enoch support this descent

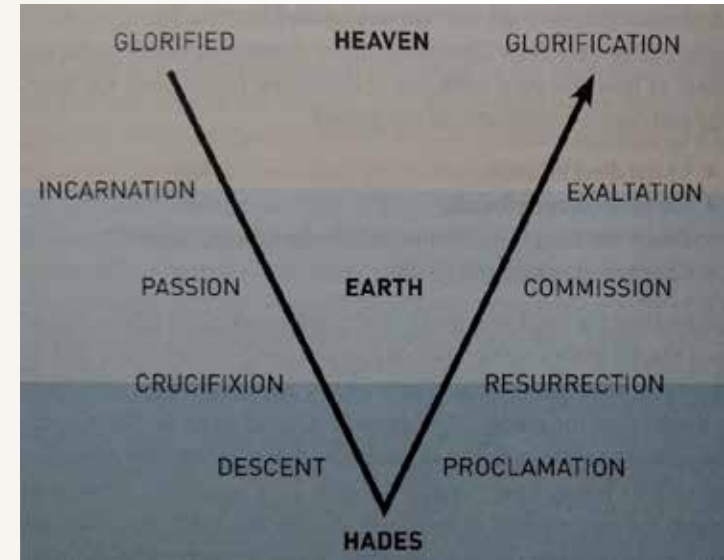
18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Swindoll's view and Jewish Tradition are tied—cosmologically—to Gen. 6:1-4

NIV Sons of God saw that the daughters ... and they married any of them they chose. **LORD** said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

Sons of God are fallen angels

Large Quarterly holds this view too



Not
Real

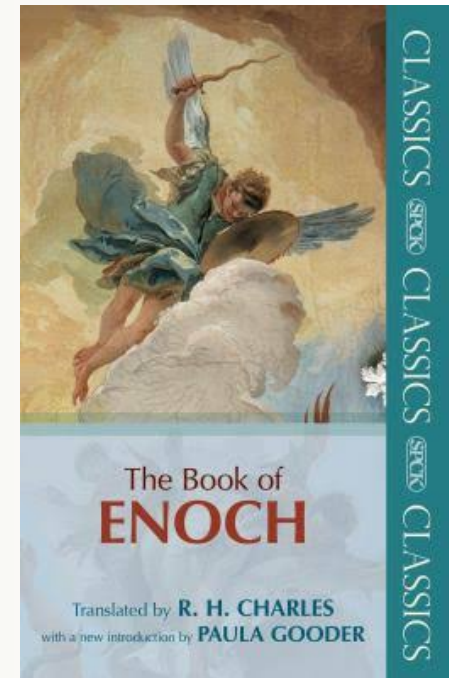
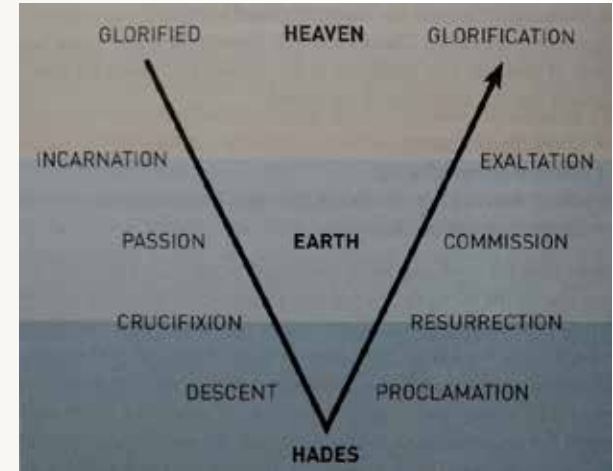
18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Hmmmm ... Swindoll's view, Jewish Tradition, Large Quarterly are tied—**cosmologically**—to Gen. 6:1-4 ... and 1 Enoch

One problem is: Sons of God & Nephillim in 1 Peter are **LIVING TOGETHER** in the times of **BOTH** Noah and Joshua!

Giants of Nephillim are Large, but not angel-sized big in Numbers when 12 spies saw Sons of Anak, who were a part of the Nephillim

1 Peter 3 and Gen. 6 brings into play the **Book of Enoch or 1 Enoch** ... nearly **ALL** agree that this book influenced Peter and 1st century Judaism (forget 2 & 3 Enoch—*blah, blah*)



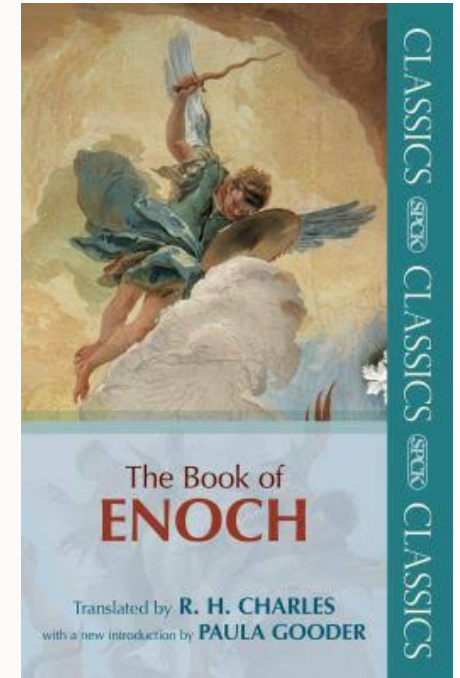
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Book of Enoch – five sections, after the first on the fall of the Watchers, remainder describes Enoch's visits to heaven in the form of travels, visions and dreams, and his revelations.

1. **Book of the Watchers**, vv. 1–36, who fathered Nephilim, Giants in Gen. 6 !!!
2. **Parables of Enoch**, vv. 37–71
3. **Astronomical Book**, vv. 72–82, also called Book of the Heavenly Luminaries (frags. in **Dead Sea Scrolls**)
4. **Book of Dream Visions**, vv. 83–90
5. **Epistle of Enoch**, vv. 91–108

And ... to grapple with the Book of Enoch ...

We must look briefly at this extraordinary man of God



Lineage of Enoch ...

Gen. 4—God curses Cain who flees to Nod, builds city
Adam, at 130, has son, Seth ... in Adam's "own image"

Gen. 5—Seth begets ... begets ... Enoch ...
Enoch "walked with God 300 years"

Enoch is taken up

Enoch > Methuselah > Lamech > Noah @ 500 has 3 sons

Gen. 6—Sons of God (Elohim) married daughters of men
intermarriage between Cainites & Sethites

Heb. 1:7—In speaking of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels spirits."

Matt. 22:30—At resurrection ... neither marry nor are
given in marriage ... we shall be like angels in heaven.



Figures de la Bible
1728 illustrated by
Gerard Hoet

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Book of Enoch was accepted in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and the Eritrean Orthodox Church.

1 Enoch was **scripture** in Epistle of Barnabas (16:4) and several Church Fathers

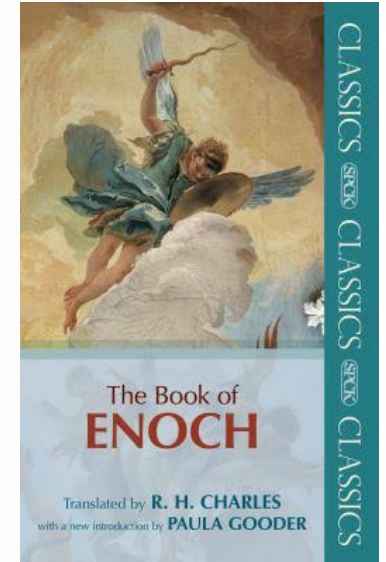
- ✓ Athenagoras
- ✓ Clement of Alexandria
- ✓ Irenaeus
- ✓ Tertullian

c. A.D. 200

Later Church Fathers denied 1 Enoch

Some wanted to exclude Jude

because it quotes from 1 Enoch



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Interestingly enough, 1 Enoch was excluded from the Jewish Canon, esp. the LXX of 200 B.C.

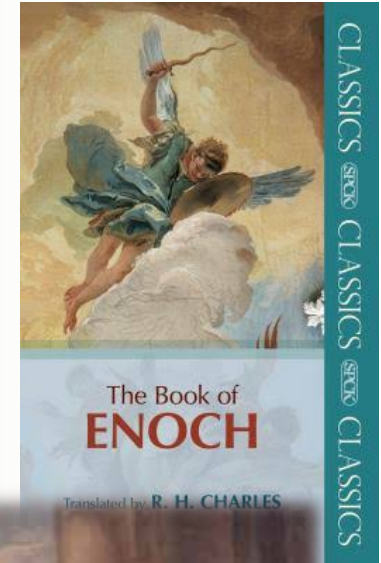
**A.D. 397, Council of Carthage excluded
1 Enoch from the Christian Canon**

St. Augustine argues
with Donatists in 411
another Council at Carthage

Donatists believed that priests
who renounced their faith during
persecutions of Diocletian

INVALIDATED their priesthood

During Reformation Anabaptists
were called Donatists



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

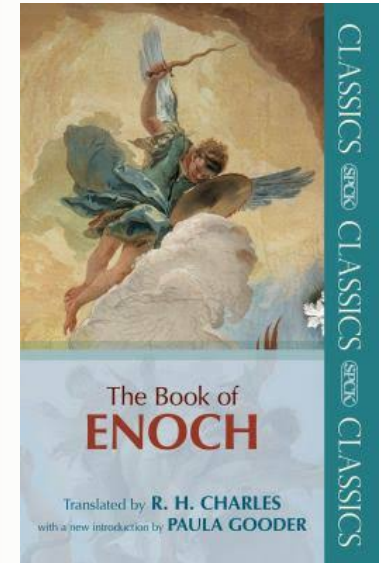
Book of Enoch (1 Enoch) traditionally written by Enoch, great-grandfather of Noah, itself dated to 300-100 B.C.

1 Enoch 15:8-10

⁸ Giants, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits upon the earth.... ⁹ Evil spirits have proceeded from their bodies; because they are born from men, from the holy Watchers is their beginning and primal origin; they shall be evil spirits on earth....

¹⁰ As for the spirits of heaven, in heaven shall be their dwelling, but as for the spirits of the earth which were born upon the earth, on the earth shall be their dwelling.

Whew! ... a Cosmology to think about!



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

19-20 In that state He also went and made a PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

3. Christ descended to PARADISE where Saints of O.T. were held

Eph. 4:8-10 This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions ? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Luke 23:43 Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, today you will be
with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

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19-20 In that state He also went and made a PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

4. Preexistent Christ preached THROUGH Noah to disobedient

Perhaps easiest to grasp, this does NOT DEFINE much cosmology, and was a view held by many ... as far back as St. Augustine

- ✓ **Small Quarterly favors this view**
- ✓ **Teacher's Quarterly favors this view**
- ✓ **Criswell Study Bible favors this view**

**1st Problem: "SPIRITS" used only one other place to refer to humans
Heb. 12:23, "spirits of just people made perfect," as a person has one.**

2nd Problem: Peter uses SOUL several times

3rd Problem: Greek "disobedient spirits" NOT "spirits of disobedient"

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¹⁹⁻²⁰ In that state He also went and made a PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

4. Preexistent Christ preached **THROUGH** Noah to disobedient

To the contrary ...

Many times in the N.T. we see

- ✓ *Unclean Spirits* at least 9x
- ✓ *Evil Spirits* at least 6x
- ✓ *Evil Spirit* at least 18x

Furthermore:

Rev. 16:13, Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs

Rev. 16:14, they are demonic spirits that perform signs

“Evil Spirits” have an independent personal existence

Though the above be inconsistent with “4”—they fit “5”

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

19-20 In that state He also went and made a PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

5. Christ proclaimed victory to “disobedient spirits” in the past who were still operating in A.D. 33 AFTER Christ's crucifixion

Consistent with New Testament cosmology RIDDLED with “spirits”

Ephesian 6:11-12

Put on the **FULL ARMOR OF GOD**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the **RULERS**, against the **AUTHORITIES**, against the **POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD** and against the **SPIRITUAL FORCES** of evil in the **HEAVENLY REALMS**.

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See Luke 11:15-20 (also in Matt. 20 & Mark 3)

15 Some said, “By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons.” ... 17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said: “Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined.... 18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand?...

19 Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? ... 20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

¹⁹⁻²⁰ In that state He also went and made a PROCLAMATION TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

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Perhaps the most remarkable and clearest HAVOC is that of the **Gadarene Demoniac** who lived in the tombs.

Their name was “Legion” who begged Jesus not to go the “Abyss.”

Luke 8:26-39 **ONE MAN**, Matt. 8:28-34, **TWO MEN**

Into a herd of swine they went ...

Disobedient spirits UNDER

Christ's full jailing control



18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Professor J. Ramsey Michaels, *Word Biblical Commentary, 1 Peter* (Waco, Texas: Word Publishers, 1988), p. 211, says:

Peter's "choice of words is **not accidental**, but suggests a close connection ... between the "spirits" and the flesh-and-blood opposition he and his readers faced.... Christ went and made proclamation, long after Noah's time, to these same "spirits"....

The "disobedient spirits" of long ago still exist ... Peter sees their influence behind the ridicule and slander of pagans actively opposed to the Christian movement in his day...."

Compare Eph. 2:2—"in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the **SPIRIT who is NOW AT WORK IN THOSE WHO ARE DISOBEDIENT.**"

Michaels is Professor of Religious Studies Emeritus, Missouri State University; formerly, Professor of N.T., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

18-20a Point to Christ's Work – Christ Alive ... Preached to Spirits

Of 90+ variations—only ONE can be right ... GOD knows

RIGHT one will be the MOST consistent with the rest of Bible

2. **Preaching to Fallen Angels** seems to be the most **drastic** COSMOLOGICAL element unique to Peter
3. **Preaching in Paradise** seems redundant, adding an **odd** COSMOLOGICAL element unique to Peter
4. **Preaching THROUGH Noah** seems to be the easiest and **least** COSMOLOGICAL element unique to Peter
5. **Preaching to “Disobedient Spirits”** seems to be consistent with MORE scriptures, adding only a rather **small** COSMOLOGICAL element unique to Peter
namely: disobedient spirits STILL active through ages

20b-22 Display Your Faith – Baptism a Pledge of Resurrection

19-20 ... proclamation to the spirits in prison ... when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while an ark was being prepared.

20b-21 In it a few—that is eight—were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**SAVED—by pledge of a good conscience
toward God *through* resurrection.**

**Here our Living Hope gets a boost as Peter goes into
GREAT detail the lengths and DEPTHS of Christ's work ...**

Cosmological—How Our World Exists in Spirit and Truth

Now Peter closes with Christ's final victory

20b-22 Display Your Faith – Baptism a Pledge of Resurrection

22 Now that Christ has gone into heaven, He is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities and powers subject to him.

Christ died, descended, rose, appeared to many ... ascended

In this world, Peter prepares them ... persecution coming

Though we will not understand all this side of heaven

We have this assurance:

**Christ is above all and ALL is subject to him
even the evil spirits that cause much havoc**

20b-22 Display Your Faith – Baptism a Pledge of Resurrection

Biblical Cosmology—Real Spiritual Realm

Be Warned . . .

- ✓ God gave us only a SMALL peak at the spirit world
- ✓ Satan lurks like a roaring lion ... evil spirits exist, harass
- ✓ Christian may be oppressed, but NEVER POSSESSED
- ✓ Christians have NO detailed battle plan AGAINST the Satan
- ✓ If Michael the Archangel could not—NO rebuking Satan
- ✓ Our PLAN is to DRAW NEAR to God ... trust God
- ✓ 3:15, even “Revere God in our hearts and always be prepared to give a reason for the LIVING HOPE”
- ✓ We don’t attack Satan—NO—best way to fight Satan is

LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS

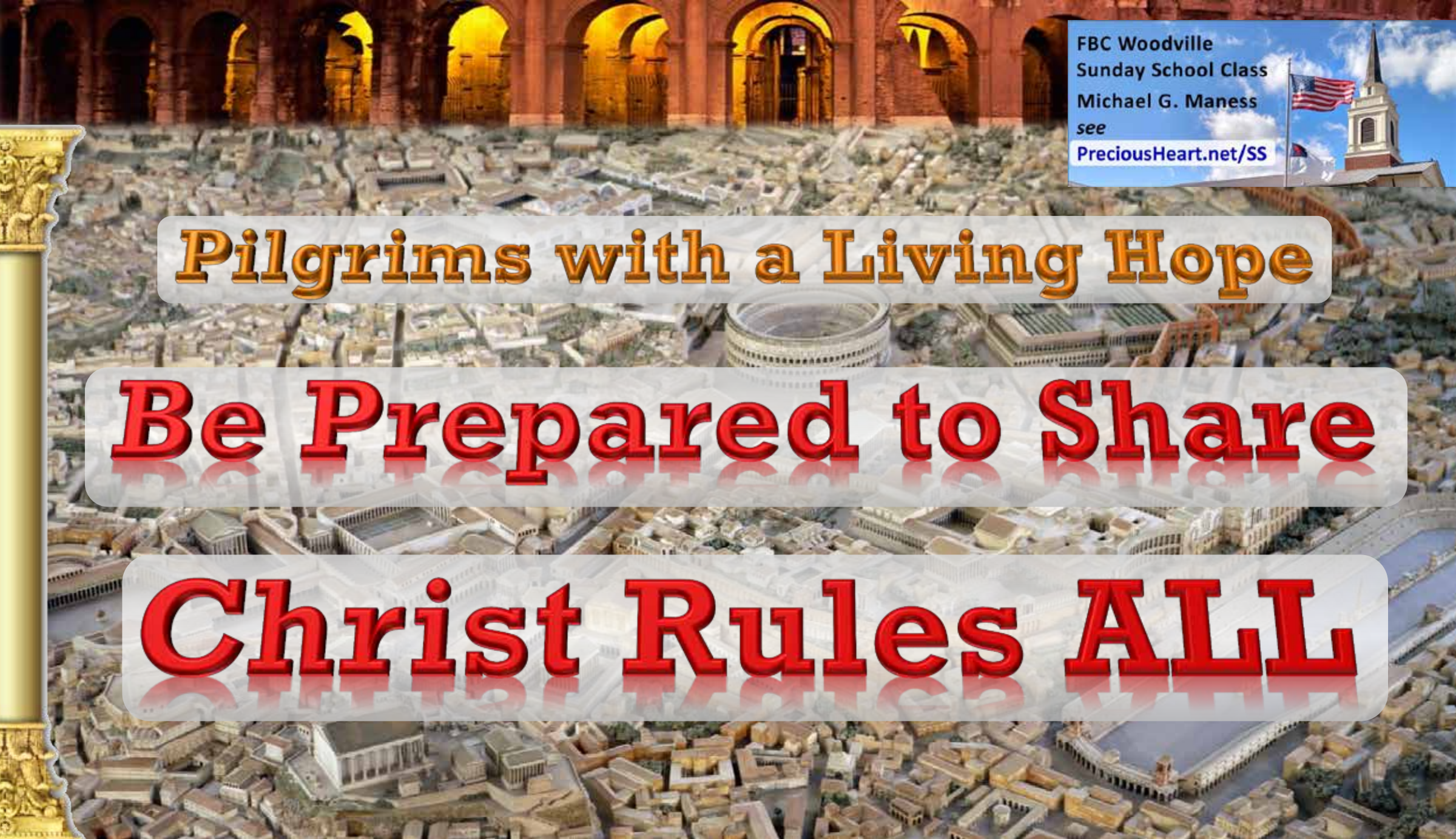
Biblical Cosmology—Real Spiritual Realm

HOW can you ALWAYS make it through the day?

How can you ALWAYS BE PREPARED to SHARE

- ✓ Knowing that if you **suffer for doing good, you're blessed**
- ✓ Knowing that Christ took a **beating for you willingly**
- ✓ Knowing that Christ went to **HADES and BACK for You**
- ✓ **Revering Christ in your heart of hearts**
- ✓ Knowing that Christ is now seated at the **Right Hand of God**
- ✓ Knowing that **ALL Angels, Authorities, Powers—ALL** things in heaven and earth—including disobedient spirits—are

Subjected to Christ



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



Pilgrims with a Living Hope

Be Prepared to Share

Christ Rules ALL