

Between the Cross and the Resurrection

May 5, 2019

Ephesians 4:7-10 ESV

7 **But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.**

8 **Therefore it says, [Ps 68:18] "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."**

9 (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that **he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?**

10 **He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)**

Questions:

- Where was Jesus and what was He doing between the crucifixion and the resurrection?
- Could this passage of Scripture be a description?
- Who does this "host of captives" include?
- What are the "gifts" Jesus gave to men?
- What is meant by the "lower regions" of the earth?

Matthew 27:50-54 ESV

50 *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.*

51 *And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.*

52 *The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,*

53 *and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.*

54 *When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"*

In becoming our Substitute on the Cross of Calvary, bearing our judgment and consequences for our sins, did Jesus suffer the torment of Hell?

- **Consequences of Sin - Physical and Spiritual Death**

Ezekiel 18:20 ESV "The soul who sins shall die."

Romans 6:23 ESV "For the wages of sin is death."

Genesis 2:16-17 ESV

16 **And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,**

17 **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."**

- *Since Adam and Eve did not physically die the same day as they sinned, we know the death they suffered was the spiritual death of separation from God.*

Genesis 3:24 ESV

24 **He drove out the man**, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

- To be our propitiation and atonement, Jesus had to bear the totality of both our spiritual and physical death.

1 John 4:10 ESV

10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation (*hilasmos* - an appeasing, atonement) for our sins.

Hebrews 10:10 ESV

10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- "...once for all..." signifying that all requirements for our redemption were satisfied perfectly and completely in Jesus' offering - nothing else remains to be done.

John 19:30 ESV

30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- *finished* (*teleō*) fulfil, accomplish, bring to a close, end
- Could Jesus uttering, "It is finished" be understood sequentially?
 - Meaning Jesus had suffered all there was to our judgement for sin, both physical and spiritual death, at this moment in time?

Matthew 27:45-46 ESV

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah."

48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink.

- *forsaken* (*egkataleipō* - abandon, desert, leave helpless)
- Could it be that the propitiation for our spiritual death (abandoned by God) was satisfied on the cross and thereby there was no need for Jesus to descend into Hell?

Isaiah 53:11 KJV

11 **He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge** (*da`ath* - knowledge, perception, skill, understanding) shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

- Jesus clearly identifies two locations where He will be after His crucifixion - contradiction or complement?

Matthew 12:40 ESV

40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Luke 23:42-43 ESV

42 And he [one of the thieves crucified with Jesus] said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

- **What and where is Sheol?**

Psalm 16:10 ESV

10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

- (shě'owl) *grave, pit, underworld, home of both the righteous and wicked dead but in separate compartments awaiting the resurrection, contains compartment for the righteous dead called Paradise or Abraham's Bosom, contains compartment for the wicked dead which is a place of torment*

Psalm 139:8 ESV

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

Luke 16:19-31 ESV

19 There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,

21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,

23 and in Hades (*hadēs - realm of the dead, grave, hell*), being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'

25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.

26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.'

27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house--

28 for I have five brothers--so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'

29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

- **Between the crucifixion and resurrection, did Jesus visit the compartment of Sheol for the righteous dead?**

1 Peter 3:18-20 ESV

**18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,
19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,**

- *What did Jesus proclaim, and was this a second chance for the dead in hell to be saved, even though they did not obey while on earth?*

Hebrews 9:27 ESV "...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment."

20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

- *"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 a certainty just what Peter means."*

—Martin Luther, Commentary on Peter & Jude, 1 Peter 3:19

1 Peter 4:3-6 ESV

3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.

4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you;

5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.