

# RESURRECTION POWER // IN EXILE

## 1 PETER 3:18-22

### Power over Sin // v.18a

*For Christ also suffered once for sins...*

- What is that which disconnects us from God? What is that which causes us to be targets of God's wrath? And what is that which caused Christ to suffer?
- The suffering was only necessary one time (once - ἅπαξ - **hapax** - of perpetual validity, not requiring repetition)
- 2 Cor 5:21 says that "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Christ literally became our sin, conquered it in death, and then freed us of it.

### Power in Death // v.18b-20a

*being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient,*

- He was dead (death - θανατόω - **thanatoo** - to render extinct) in the flesh (σάρξ - **sarx** - the soft substance of the living body, covering the bones, permeated with blood).
- Along with the physical death, Jesus endured somewhat of a spiritual death (although He was made alive by the Spirit), which was not a cessation of existence, but an experience of separation from God.
- The preaching that Jesus did at this location was not of an evangelistic manner (as evidenced by the word Peter uses: κηρύσσω - **kerusso** - to herald something)

### Power over Death // v.20b-21

*...were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*

- God's salvation to Noah and his family was that He would bring them safely through the water...
- Peter further discusses salvation, by explaining the symbolic nature (ἀντίτυπος - **antitype** - earthly expression of a heavenly reality) by which we are saved. He uses the symbolic expression: baptism (βάπτισμα - **baptisma** - to fully immerse).
- What he means by baptism here is that we are immersed in Christ figuratively speaking, as He is our ark of safety that delivers us from divine judgment over the wicked.
- Peter clarifies that he is not talking about water baptism by specifically stating "not the removal of the filth of the flesh."
- Salvation does not come from the act of water baptism. Rather, Peter points out that it is the spiritual reality of coming to God with a good conscience toward Him.
- We must be willing to meet the pre-required conditions (answer or appeal - making a contract) in order to obtain this salvation. These are **repentance** and **faith**, because those are what lead to a good (cleansed) conscience.
- What we have is Christ displaying His power over death. It is only through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### Power for Eternity // v.22

*who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.*

- Not only has Christ displayed His power over sin, in death, and over death, but He has now taken His rightful position as ruler over everything.
- He sits at the most prominent position of prestige and power, at the right hand of God. This is where He deserves to be as a result of His humility, His suffering, and His death and subsequent resurrection.
- Even angels and authorities and powers are made subject to Him. *He owns it all. All authority is His.*