

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 19

1 Peter 3.13-17 Peter concluded *v. 12* by promising that the Lord’s favor is on the righteous, but he will punish evildoers.

Generally,...those who suffer are those that do wrong and suffer the penalties inflicted on evildoers.

Conversely...a believer...simply because we are Christians...live a different kind of life.

We are *eager to do good!*

(vs.15-17): The inner motive of obedience to Christ leads believers to bear witness to Jesus in any circumstances...Even persecution!

The focus of Christian witness is Christian hope.

“Prepared to make a defense...” ... ἀπολογία (*apologia*)... “Answer for the self.”

“Christian witness begins with a person’s own faith. We must know what we believe, teach, and confess according to God’s Word...Positive testimony and witness to the truth of the Gospel. Christianity stands up to scrutiny and investigation because it is true. Christians are to be prepared to tell others about this truth whenever they have the opportunity...Others notice the Christian’s faithful response to adversity, which may cause them to seek the reason and thus hear the Gospel.”¹

Again...Peter makes the point that it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

If believers are going to suffer at all, it is better to suffer persecution...for doing good...than breaking the law!

“But why is it *better* to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong? In this context, it is because such wrongful suffering patiently endured is so remarkable that it becomes a powerful form of witness, leading unbelievers to salvation.”²

And again...the motivation...the example...is Jesus! Jesus was righteous (doing good)...Still, He suffered for us, who were unrighteous!

1 Peter 3.18-20 Peter assures the believer that we need not fear—even in troubles and persecutions—because Christ is Lord and He suffered as well!

The “V Shape” Victory... Jesus descended from Heaven...Suffered for us...Jesus descended into hell...Jesus ascended into Heaven! For us!

Jesus’ suffering is described...Christ died for sins. Christ died once for all. Christ died in place of sinners.” Christ died to bring us to God.

(v.19): “Spirits” in prison ... πνεῦμα (*pneuma*)... “Spirit” (non-material being).

¹ *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

² W.A. Grudem. *1 Peter: An Introduction and Commentary* (InterVarsity Press, 1988).

“Spirits” in the New Testament typically refers to spiritual beings (non-human)...Unless the text specifies differently.

The reference here is to demonic beings who are in “Prison” ...φυλακή (*phylake*)... “Jail” (Haunt)

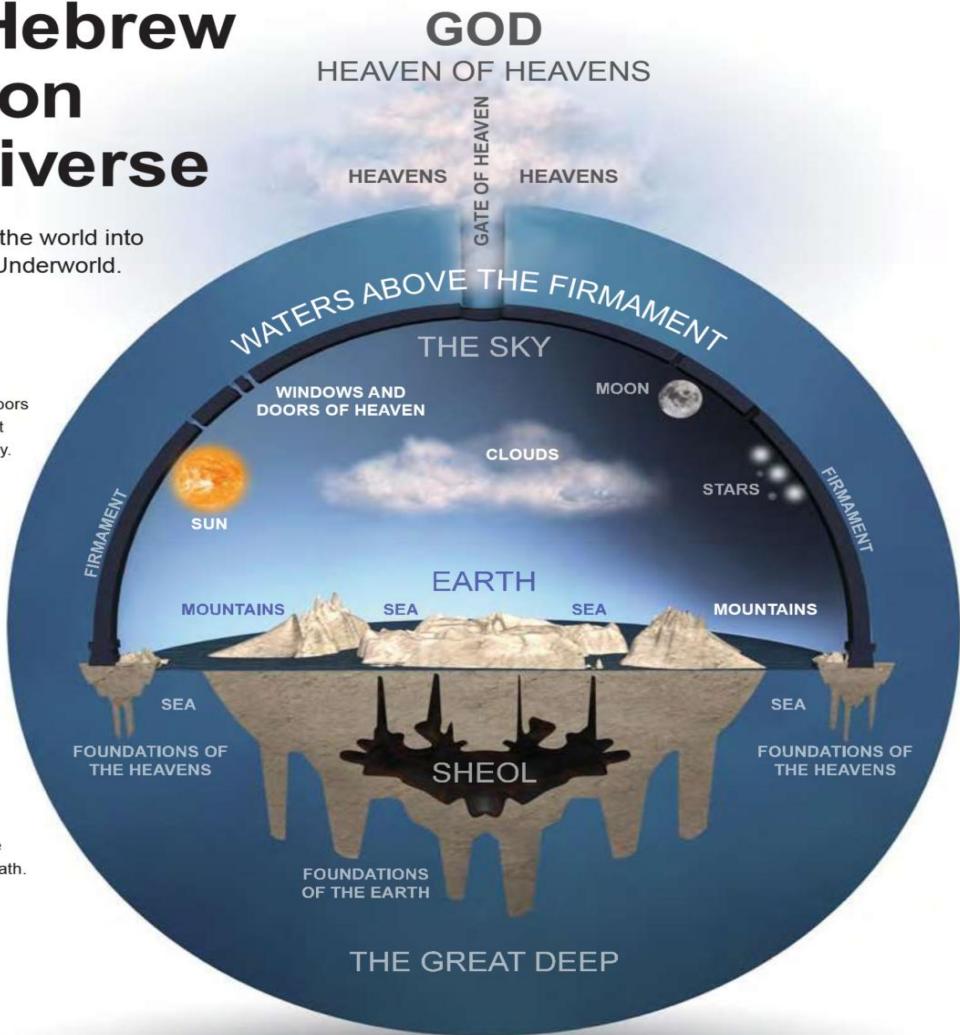
Ancient Hebrew Conception of the Universe

The ancient Israelites divided the world into Heaven, Earth, Sea, and the Underworld.

They viewed the sky as a vault resting on foundations—perhaps mountains—with doors and windows that let in the rain. God dwelt above the sky, hidden in cloud and majesty.

The world was viewed as a disk floating on the waters, secured or moored by pillars. The earth was the only known domain—the realm beyond it was considered unknowable.

The Underworld (Sheol) was a watery or dusty prison from which no one returned. Regarded as a physical place beneath the earth, it could be reached only through death.



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The “Harrowing of Hell” ...

Going Forward...

- How does Peter connect living with character and earning the opportunity to earn the trust of non-Christians so that they ask us questions about Jesus like in verses 13-15?
- What does it mean, very practically, to “honor Christ the Lord” with every aspect of your life?
- How are you doing at saying what is true with “gentleness and respect” so that you are building people up instead of beating people up?