

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 20

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).

“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)

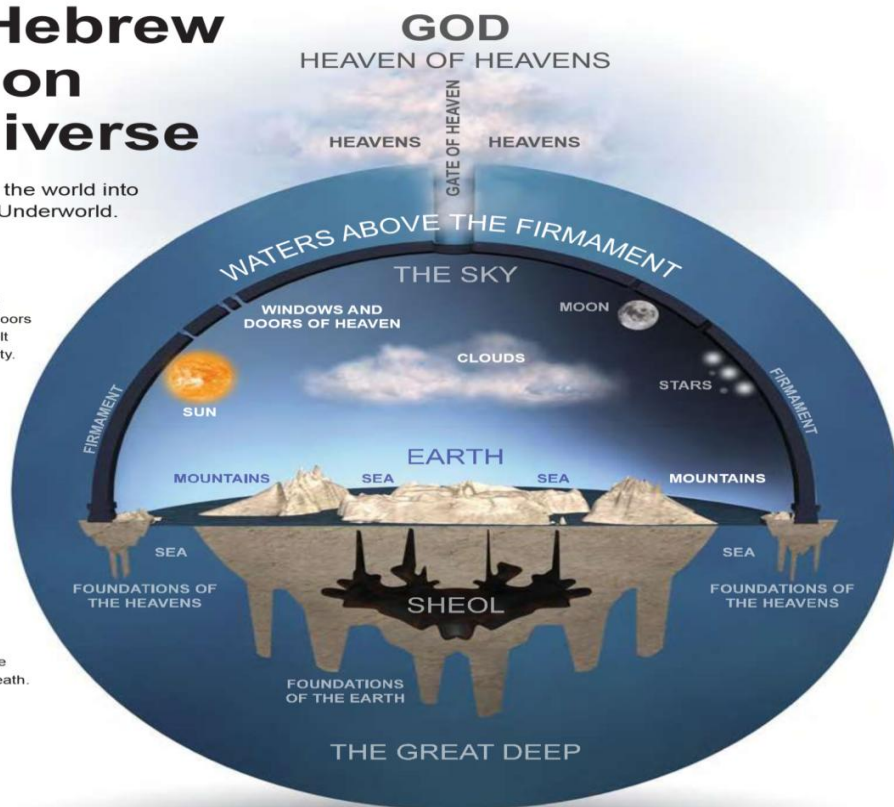
Ancient Hebrew Conception of the Universe

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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Luke 16.19-23...

The “Harrowing of Hell” ...

1 Peter 3.21-22 Peter now compares the ark and baptism as the way God saved...saves...His people.

In both circumstances, believers are saved through the “waters of judgment and grace.”

Luther: “Now baptism is by far a greater flood than was that of Noah. . . . Baptism drowns all sorts of men throughout the world, from the birth of Christ even till the day of judgment. . . . [Noah’s flood] was a flood of wrath, this is a flood of grace (AE 35:32).”¹

As Noah was brought through the waters of the flood to a *new beginning*...Christians are brought through the waters of baptism to *new life* through the death and resurrection of Jesus!

Romans 6.3-5 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

(v.21b): The saving grace of baptism leads the believer to a pledge of a “good conscience” before God...

A commitment to live one’s life as a forgiven and redeemed child of God.

“...believers at baptism ask God—on the basis of the death and resurrection of Christ—to cleanse their consciences and forgive their sins.”²

(v.22): The authority of Jesus is once again affirmed...

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ brought victory over Jesus’ (and our) enemies!

The reference to the “right hand” echoes *Psalms 110.1*...where King David’s Lord sits at Yahweh’s *right hand*.

All three supernatural beings described here are *hostile* angelic powers...

angels... ἄγγελος (*angelos*)... “Messenger”

authorities ... ἐξουσία (*exousia*)... “Authority to rule”

powers... δύνამις (*dynamis*)... “Ability to perform an activity”

“The message for Peter’s readers is clear. In their suffering Jesus still reigns and rules. He has not surrendered believers into the power of the evil forces even if they suffer until death. Jesus by his death and resurrection has triumphed over all demonic forces, and hence by implication believers will reign together with him.”³

Going Forward...

- Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, God has made you His own. All that Jesus has accomplished for you and for your salvation is given to you through faith. The powers of sin, death, and hell may taunt us, but we have the victory in Christ!

¹ Quoted in, *The Lutheran Study Bible* (Concordia Publishing).

² T.R. Schreiner. *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003).

³ Ibid.