



The Reality of Suffering and Persecution

The Triumphant Christ

1 Peter 3:18-22

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • OCTOBER 22, 2017

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1115.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text. Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com

This is the most difficult passage in the New Testament.

- Dr. John MacArthur, Jr.

There is little doubt that these verses represents the most difficult passage in the entire letter—if not, the entire New Testament.

- Paul J. Achtemeier

I don't know what Peter means in this passage.

- Martin Luther



1. Christ died for our sins.

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 3:18, NASB95 -¹⁸ For Christ also [the conjunctions "for" and "also" point the readers back to the previous passage (3:13-17) and remind us that we should not be surprised or discouraged by suffering because Christ suffered] died [Eng: excruciating, ex = out of or from; cruciare = to crucify; -ate makes it a verb; lit., (Christ died for us; He suffered) the pain that comes from being crucified] for sins once [He died one time and one time only; it never happened again] for all, the just [that Christ] for the unjust [that's all of us], so that He might bring us to God, [the phrase "bring us to God" is a technical term that means "to gain audience before a judge in court"; it references our complete access to and before God] having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in [lit., by] the Spirit;

2. Christ preached to the spirits in prison.

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 3:19, NASB95 -¹⁹ in which also He [Jesus] went [change one letter in this Gk. word and it becomes ascend, change it back and we get the word descend (used here)—a downward motion is strongly implied in this word here; it is also used later in this passage] and made proclamation [lit., He heralded meaning; He preached a message of victory] to the [evil] spirits now in prison...

2 Peter 2:4–5, NASB95 -⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits [lit., prisons] of darkness, reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly....

Jude 6–7, NASB95 -⁶ And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

It should not surprise you that the total rejection of God led to nauseating sexual immorality and an outbreak of sin unprecedented in history—which resulted in God's harshest judgment.

3. Christ rose from the dead.

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 3:20–21, NASB95 -²⁰ who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting [120 years] in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through [they weren't in the water; they were in the ark (the water that saved them never touched them)] the water [which is a symbol God's judgment]. ²¹ Corresponding to that, baptism [lit., to immerse] now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, [not water baptism], but an appeal lit., a pledge—a commitment to something or someone] to God [a pledge to God that He might place them into the spiritual ark of salvation] for a good conscience [notice where the work takes place—inside the person, not outside the person; it's a dry baptism/immersion/pledge that saves; i.e., spiritual baptism]—through [lit., because of] the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

4. Christ ascended into Heaven.

STUDY VERSE SECTION - 1 Peter 3:22, NASB95 -²² who is at the right hand of God, having gone [an upward motion is strongly implied in this word here] into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him [Question? Who has triumphant? • Answer: **The Triumphant Christ!**]



With Christ, what starts with suffering, ends with triumph.