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I Peter 3:18-22

- By Paix Rature

V.18 "Quickened by the Spirit"

(1) Made alive "by" the Spirit - a reference to resurrection.

- (2) Made alive "in" the Spirit a reference to a condition of His Spirit immediately after His bodily death.
- V. 19 (1) "He went"
 - (a) A journey to the underworld made after crucifixion.
 - (b) A spiritual journey in the days of Noah in which Christ preached through Noah.
 - (2) "and preached"
 - (a) kērussō = to proclaim victory
 - (b) kērussō = to proclaim judgment
 - (c) kērussō = to proclaim release
 - (d) kērussā = to proclaim a second chance
 - (e) kērussō = to proclaim salvation contingent upon repentance and faith
 - (3) "to the Spirits"
 - (a) Fallen angels
 (b) Disembodied Old Testament saints
 - (c) Men in the flesh whose "spirits" are confronted in the preaching of Noah
 - (4) "in prison"
 - (a) Angels reserved in chains of darkness in the Abyss or Tartaros
 - (b) Old Testaments saints in Hades (Paradise)
 - (c) Man imprisoned by their sins
 - (d) Old Testament sinners confined in Hades
- V. 20 (1) "were disobedient"
 - (a) Fallen angels from Satan's rebellion
 - (b) Fallen angels from an Antediluvian rebellion
 - (c) Antediluvian men
 - (2) "In the days of Noah"
 - (a) Reference to Fallen Angels
 - (b) Reference to Antediluvians of Noah's time
 - (c) Antediluvians mentioned as symbolic of those to whom Christ preached

I Peter 4:6

- (1) "The gospel was preached" (euengelisthe)
 - (a) Is the statement related to 3:18 f ? If so, there is either a second chance offered or else the passage has reference to men in Noah's day.
 - (b) Is the statement related to the present preaching of gospel?
 - (c) Is the passage unrelated to I Peter 3:19 f.
- (2) "to those who are dead"
 - (a) Reference to the spirits in prison who are dead
 - (b) Reference to those dead in trespasses and sin

A THEOLOGICAL PERSUASION

- The program of God has, in a sense, been the same throughout history, i.e. to bring about the redemption of lost men at His own personal cost (grace) on the basis of repentance toward God and faith in God's salvific provision.
- This may be seen most clearly in the sufferings of Jesus on the cross (v.18), but also in the efforts exerted by the Spirit of Christ in the days of Noah (v.19-20). (Peter demonstrates uncommon interest in the Noachian flood and the Antediluvian civilization.)
- 3. The same Spirit which was made alive at the time of Christ's death (v.18) preached to those imprisoned by their sins, i.e. Noah's contemporaries, (v.19-20) through Noah himself. Noah was a "preacher of righteousness" (II Peter 2:5). Whatever preaching was done had to be the Gospel because that is the general use of kerusso and always of euengelisthe in 4:6
- In spite of God's longsuffering, there were only seven conversions who were saved out of that decadent society by the rising waters of the flood.
- Baptism is a figure (Antitupon) of the deliverance of a soul from the power and presence of sin in a manner similar to the deliverance of Noah and his family from the flood.

SPIRITUAL AND PRAGMATIC VALUES OF THE PASSAGE REGARDLESS OF EXEGETICAL MINUTIAE

- Our Lord does not forget His creation but tenderly, selflessly, compassionately seeks man's good.
- Death is of only relative consequence to Christ and His people.
- Baptism is the public antitype of salvation, providing a beautiful picture of deliverance from sin.
- 4. Christ reigns as Sovereign over seen and unseen worlds regardless of apparent chaos.

Prepared by Paige Patterson for CBI Class on I Peter

MAJOR HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

- 1. Proclamation of Judgment to Fallen Angels
 - 1. Place The Abyss or Tartaros

 - Nature of Message Condemnation
 Time Between Crucifixion and Resurrection
 Problems
 - - (a) No apparent purpose is served by announcing angelic condemnation
 - (b) Kepusso usually is associated with good news, not bad news
 - (c) While angels are "spirits," so are men (Dan.7:15; I Cor.5:5; Acts 7:59; Eccl. 12:7); and there is no contextual justification for insisting that these spirits are angels.
 - (d) If the passage connects with 4:6 and the use of euengelisthe, then the idea of "judgment" is certainly absent.
- II. Proclamation of Judgment to Antediluvians
 - Place Sheol or Hades
 - 2. Nature of Message Condemnation
 - 3. Time Between Crucifixion and Resurrection
 - 4. Problems
 - (a) Same as (a), (b), and (d) above
 - (b) Why single out the Antediluvians rather than including all the last of the pre-Christian era?
- III. Proclamation of A New Opportunity for Either Fallen Angels or Lost Antediluvians or Both
 - 1. Place Sheol or Hades
 - 2. Nature of message Gospel of the second chance
 - Time Between Crucifixion and Resurrection
 - 4. Problems
 - (a) There are no concomitant grounds in either Testament to support the possibility of any opportunity of salvation after death.
 - Only universalists or semi-universalists hold this view, doing so because they cannot imagine a gracious God and eternal punishment co-existing.
 - (c) If the view is correct, why is there no comment as to the success of such an endeavor?
- IV. Proclamation of the entire accomplishment of the Gospel to Old Testament Saints
 - 1. Place a division of Sheol or Hades known as Paradise.
 - Nature of Message the thorough accomplishing (teleios) of promised redemption.
 - 3. Time between Crucifixion and Resurrection.
 - Problems
 - (a) Why are the Antediluvians singled out rather than all Old Testament Saints?
 - Why did Jesus promise "paradise" to the thief? (b)
 - Why did Jesus "comment" His Spirit to God, if in fact Hades was his (c) destination?
 - Why did Paul feel that "absence from the body" was "presence with the Lord"? (d)
 - (e) What is the rationale or necessity for this proclamation?
 - (f) Where did Enoch and Elijah go when taken bodily from the world?
- Proclamation of the Gospel to Antediluvians by Noah

 - Place The Antediluvian Earth
 Nature of Message Invitation and exhortation to repentance
 - 3. Time the days of Noah

4. Problems

(a) "He went" (poreuthers) seems to imply a personal journey and is a term often associated with death.

(b) The journey appears to be at the time of Christ's passion.

(c) If Paradise and Heaven are synonymous, and if hades refers only to a "state" and not to a "place," why utilize these terms in such a confusing way?

(d) The word "prison" yields better to an understanding of "intermediate state" or even "intermediate place," than to a spiritual condition.

(e) Is not the appearance of the Old Testament saints at the time of Christ's resurrection not associated with His return from Paradise, the godly realm of Hades.

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