


WHEN CHRISTIANS DIE Pt.2: JESUS LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, SOULS in HEAVEN, SHEOL, DEATH, HELL, GRAVE

I'm picking up where we left off last week looking at different interpretations of Ephesians 4:8-13 where it speaks of Jesus leading captivity captive and ascending up on high.

Here's another interpretation of that Scripture passage:

The phrase "Jesus ascended with many saints in his train" is an interpretation of Ephesians 4:8-10, which quotes [Psalm 68:18](#). It's not about saints accompanying Jesus in a physical procession but refers to a triumphant procession where Jesus, the conquering king, "led captivity captive". This "captivity" is interpreted as those formerly enslaved by sin and death, whom Jesus freed through his death and resurrection. The "gifts" mentioned in the passage are the spiritual gifts (like apostles, prophets, and teachers) that Christ gave to the church to equip believers and build up the body of Christ. 



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This is another example of an incorrect interpretation of Scripture. They are essentially saying that Jesus led people who were held captive to Satan to then be captive to Himself.

Let's break that passage of Scripture down and see what it meant when Jesus led captivity captive.

Pulpit Commentary

As in a literal triumph, the chiefs of the enemy's army are led captive, so the powers of darkness were led captive by Christ (captivity, αἰχμαλωσία, denotes **prisoners**); and as on occasion of a triumph the spoils of the enemy are made over to the conqueror, who again gives them away among the soldiers and people, so gifts were given to Christ after his triumph to be given by him to his Church. We must not force the analogy too far: the point is simply this - as a conqueror at a triumph gets gifts to distribute, so Christ, on his resurrection and ascension, got the Holy Spirit to bestow on his Church (comp. [Ephesians 1:22](#)).

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Verse 11 mentions gifts that He gave to the church in the form of: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Those who hold one of the five fold ministry offices are gifts to the church from Christ and have been called, ordained and anointed with the gift of apostleship, or the office of a prophet, or an evangelist, or of a pastor or teacher. That passage spells out what our purpose is. Above all, the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to every believer that comes to Christ and believes in Him to the point of a changed and obedient life. If you believe you will obey Him. If not, you won't.

When you look at what is being said, it is a picture of a victory in war. The King won and has taken those that were putting people into captivity as His slaves or conquests.



This is a rendition of the Israelites taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar into Babylon. They are chained and walking as his captives.

Col.2:15 - *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

New Living Translation

In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

Colossians 2:15 – In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.

Captivity was the kingdom of darkness ruling spiritually in this world. Jesus led captivity captive – they became His captives.



To get a better idea of what happened in this spiritual victory. Imagine this King is Christ and those in chains are the powers of darkness whom He led captive. He defeated principalities and powers and death, hell and the grave.

There was a battle and Jesus was the Victor and we get to be on the winning side. He celebrated His great victory with His people by giving us gifts. We receive gifts from our Victorious King. Just as kings would share the spoil or booty they had taken in war with their people, Jesus celebrated His great victory with His people by giving them gifts. He is still giving out gifts to those that come to Him today.

About all these wrong interpretations, Pastor Erustus said: He did not take anyone with Him. “Yes, He broke the chains and set the captives free from powers of darkness, not ascending with them.”

There were Old Testament saints who resurrected out of their graves after Jesus resurrected. They went all around Jerusalem and people saw them. **(Matt.27:52-53)** The Bible doesn’t say who they were or how many there were or what happened to them afterward.

Acts 1:8-11 - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.

There is no mention of anyone else ascending with Him.

We do know that after Christ - the First Fruits was offered, then the Bible says every man in his own order or turn:

turn:

τάγματι (tagmati)

Noun - Dative Neuter Singular

Strong's Greek 5001: Rank, division, an ordered series. From tasso; something orderly in arrangement, i.e. a series or succession.

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God uses the imagery of farming throughout Scripture in regards to our work and in regards to us being gathered to Him.

The harvest was gathered in at different times and that is the same way that those belonging to Christ will be harvested or gathered in to Him as well. The righteous are harvested in stages. You won't understand the imagery of people being harvested if you don't read the Old Testament.

The first harvest of righteous souls will be the rapture.

INSTANTLY to HEAVEN UPON DEATH

Let's look at some scriptures that seem to say that we go instantly to heaven upon death.

Acts 7:53- 60 – Who (The Sanhedrin) have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

When they were stoning Stephen, he saw Heaven open and saw Jesus standing at the Father's right hand. To me that was a clear indication of where Stephen was going in that moment. Transitioning from life to death and to be received instantly into heaven. But it doesn't say that does it?

The penitent thief was promised to be with Jesus in paradise.

Luke 23:43 - And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise.

We are giving this Scripture a lot of weight in the theory that we go immediately to heaven upon death. The original manuscripts of scripture did not have any punctuation. What if Jesus said – Verily I say unto you today, you shall be with Me in paradise. It reads differently based on where you place that comma.

We know that the thief did not go to heaven that very day, not the third heaven where The Father is. We know this because when Mary saw Jesus on the first day of the week – this was the third day after He was crucified, Jesus told Mary not to touch Him for He had not yet ascended to His Father. **(John 20:17)** So during the time after Jesus' death all the way up to the third day, He had not gone back to the third heaven.

Paradise was often used in Old Testament times to refer to beautiful lush gardens like The Garden of Eden, to places of bliss, blessedness and peace. Keep that in mind when you think of what Jesus told the penitent thief.

Philippians 1:23 – For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

Apostle Paul desired to go and be with Christ but at the same time he knew he would be more beneficial to the body of Christ if he continued his work in The Lord a little longer. This is our struggle as Christians, we long to be with The Lord but we also want to fulfill our purpose here on earth. We are with The Lord now but we will have a more profound existence with Christ when we leave this world.

When we hear of being with Christ and being at home with Christ we don't think of Sheol, at least I don't. I think of being with Him in heaven where He is seated at God's right hand. Some of why I think that, could be all the wrong teaching from the false teachers on the tv. I used to listen to them as a baby Christian. Regular pastors follow them, they have a prestigious position, a television platform, and millions of viewers. So the regular neighborhood pastors believe like them and have helped to spread their false teachings far and wide here in America.

DEATH, HELL and the GRAVE

As I was about to cover this message, one day I heard a lady call in to the Christian radio station I listen to and brought up this very subject. Now this is a shill radio station, they bring truth out but not all of the truth. They don't expose freemasonry or the Roman Catholic Church, they participate in all the pagan holidays and promote supporting the Jews that teach Judaism and witchcraft. They act like they are awake because they expose some of the false flag events but you have to have Godly discernment to see them for what they truly are and that is freemasons playing the role of Christians. So this lady was asking where we go when we die. She said that the study group she is in does not believe that we go to heaven at the time we die. She then proceeded to say that growing up,

her mother always said, well, Jesus defeated death, hell and the grave. So to her, that meant that we go straight to heaven and of course the radio station agreed with that statement. Let's take a look at where that statement is coming from.

Rev.1:18 – *I am* He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, and have the keys of hell and of death.

We see at this point that Jesus holds all authority over death and the abode of the dead, so He reigns over death, hell and the grave.

1 Cor.15:54-57 – So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave (Oh Sheol), where *is* thy victory? The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The wages of sin is death and the “strength of sin being the law,” is speaking of breaking God's law. We have a new covenant through faith in Jesus Christ. Just as our Master died, and resurrected with a glorified body, and lives forevermore, so will we. Our natural bodies will die, just as the Old Testament saints did. And one day, when the Father says it is time, Jesus is coming for His bride, the church. Jesus defeated death and we no longer have to fear dying because we understand that we will have eternal life in heaven one day with Him forever.

The story in Luke about the rich man and Lazarus once they died shows us that Sheol had a side for the blessed and the other side was for the damned – usually translated as hell in our Bibles. Translations do use the wrong word in Acts 2:27 - Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption. This was prophesied by King David about Jesus. However, it should say Sheol, or the grave instead of hell. Hell, comes from old English and was supposed to be equivalent to Gehenna (Hebrew) for the torment side, or side of the damned. Hades is the Greek word for the underworld and also for a fallen angel called hades. Hades is equivalent to hell. So of course when King David prophesied about Jesus, (**Psalm 16:10**) it was in regards to Him going to the

blessed side of Sheol, not what we call hell. So King David really was saying that God would not leave Jesus in Sheol on the blessed side – the righteous side, decaying and of course we know He didn't.

CLOSING

Jesus defeated death but we still die a physical death, Jesus defeated the grave but our bodies still go into a grave when we die, Jesus defeated hell through His death and resurrection. Hell represents satan's kingdom. We know as Christians that Jesus defeated all these things, and it means that one day when He comes for us we will live for all eternity in heaven with Him. He took the fear of all those things away for us because He was our example of what we have to look forward to in eternity.

PRAYER