



## Lord's Day Worship

April 26, 2020

### Opening Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving

Read or have someone in your home read Rev. 3:7-13 aloud and then have an open time of prayer, giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness and mercy. After closing in prayer, you may begin to play the service audio or video from the church website.

### Riverwood Family Greeting

Erma Clark

### Elder Greeting & Pastoral Prayer

Yusufu Jinkiri

### Songs of Praise

*"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"*

*"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

### The Teaching of the Word

Credo – Part 12 – "Christus Victor"

### Song of Response

*"Living Hope"*

### Benediction

Read or have someone in your home read aloud Jude 20-21

# CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 12

"Christus Victor"

26 April 2020

## Introduction: What happens when we die?

- As believers in Jesus, we know that "to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." (2 Cor. 5:8b). That knowledge gives us hope and confidence as we live in uncertain days. It was not always this way, however, for God's people. Consider the following words from King Solomon in Ecclesiastes:

Ecc. 3:20-21—<sup>20</sup>All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. <sup>21</sup>Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?

**Key Point:** It is ultimately through the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ that we, as believers, have come to understand with certainty the hope that we have in both life and in death.

## Important Considerations Regarding the Descent Clause

- The descent clause **IS NOT** reference to Jesus going into \_\_\_\_\_ (the place of torment) or \_\_\_\_\_.
- The descent clause **IS NOT** a reference Jesus' work of \_\_\_\_\_ atonement.
- The descent clause **IS** a reference to Jesus' work to proclaim the \_\_\_\_\_ to the OT saints in paradise who were awaiting the fulfillment of God's promises and to proclaim His \_\_\_\_\_ over the enemies of God and His people.

**Key Point:** The work of Jesus following His physical \_\_\_\_\_ but preceding His bodily resurrection is both the end of His humiliation and the beginning of His exaltation.

## The Concept of Death and the Place of the Dead in the OT

- Death itself is referred to primarily, although not exclusively, in \_\_\_\_\_ terms.  
Gen. 2:17b—for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.  
Ecc. 8:8—No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death.  
Gen. 25:8—Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.
- In the OT, Sheol is referred to as the place of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Job 7:9—As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up.  
Psa. 89:48—What man can live and never see death? Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol?  
⇒ **Both the righteous and the wicked were understood to go down into Sheol upon death.**  
Psa. 55:15—Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.  
Gen. 37:35—All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.
- The OT prophets offered hope to God's people that they would be delivered from death and would experience a bodily \_\_\_\_\_.  
Ezek. 37:5-6—Thus says the Lord God to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord.'  
Dan. 12:1b-2—But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

**Key Point:** Although OT saints had \_\_\_\_\_ in the promises of God, they lacked a clear understanding of what they would experience in the afterlife (specifically, the disembodied state).

### THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY  
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;  
AND IN JESUS CHRIST  
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,  
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,  
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,  
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,  
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,  
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN  
FROM THE DEAD  
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,  
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE  
FATHER ALMIGHTY;  
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE  
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.  
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;  
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;  
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;  
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,  
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.  
AMEN.

## 2nd Temple Judaism & the Teachings of Jesus

- During the intertestamental period, the place of the dead came to be understood in terms of three compartments:

The Place of the \_\_\_\_\_ →

The Place of the \_\_\_\_\_ →

The \_\_\_\_\_ for Certain Fallen Angels →

- Jesus confirmed much of this understanding, while also clarifying some key things in one important parable.

### Luke 16:19-31 Observations:

1. The righteous and the wicked did go to the same general place.
2. One portion was a place of fellowship with the OT saints and rest in God's presence, the other was a place of torment.
3. There was an impassable separation between the righteous and the wicked.

**Key Point:** There is a distinct difference between the afterlife as described by Jesus and how it is described in the rest of the NT. The effects of Jesus' descent and resurrection are the only \_\_\_\_\_ for this.

## The Work of the Son: His Descent

- We believe that after Jesus died his human \_\_\_\_\_ was parted from His body and went to the place of the dead.

### Acts 2:22-28 Observations:

1. Jesus' resurrection affirms His identity as Messiah (v. 22-24)
2. Psalm 16:8-11 confirms that the Messiah would die a human death, but also would experience bodily resurrection (v.25-28)

*As a righteous man, Jesus' soul went to paradise, just as He predicted He would* (Luke 23:43)

- We believe that while there, He proclaimed the \_\_\_\_\_ regarding His person and work as Messiah.

### 1 Peter 3:18-20 Observations:

1. After accomplishing the work of substitutionary atonement, Jesus went to the underworld and \_\_\_\_\_! (v. 19)
2. Jesus proclaimed His victory to the "spirits in prison."
  - \* This is most likely a reference to certain fallen angels who have been imprisoned because of a particularly egregious action that occurred in the past (Gen. 6:1-8).

Jude 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,*

*Jesus' death for sinners and His coming resurrection meant the defeat of God's \_\_\_\_\_!*

### 1 Peter 4:1-6 Observations:

1. The suffering the righteous experience in life is intended by God to turn us away from sin (v. 1-2)
2. Unbelievers continue in sin and mock and malign believers for not joining in with them, but they will be judged (v.3-5)
3. It has always been this way and this is why Jesus proclaimed His victory to both the righteous and unrighteous dead (v. 6)
  - \* This was the fulfillment of the hope of the OT saints!

1 Pet. 1:10-11—<sup>10</sup> *Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,* <sup>11</sup> *inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.*

*Jesus' preaching during the descent was \_\_\_\_\_ for the OT saints and \_\_\_\_\_ for the wicked!*

### Eph. 4:8-10 Observations:

1. To explain Jesus' authority to distribute gifts to His people, he quotes from Psa. 68:18 (v. 8)
2. He explains that Jesus' "ascent" began in "the lower regions of the earth" and that when He ascended He brought others with Him (v. 8-10)

*Jesus' exaltation to the right hand of the Father brought the OT saints into God's \_\_\_\_\_ with Him!*

## Concluding Thought

- The work of Jesus Christ has completely \_\_\_\_\_ and clarified our understanding of eternal life.

Heb. 12:22-24—<sup>22</sup> *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,* <sup>23</sup> *to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,* <sup>24</sup> *and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.*