Lesson 7 – 1 Peter 3:13-22 Persecution and the Victorious Jesus Christ
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(13) Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. Yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

(18) For Christ also suffered once for sins --- the Righteous for the unrighteous --- that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit, in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

(21) Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

<u>Think on these things:</u>

1) Let's answer Peter's first question in v.13. Who is out to get you if your focus in life is doing good? Yet, if you do suffer for doing good, what is the promise?

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2) When should you be ready to share your testimony of belief in Jesus? What are you trying to convey to the listener, in good conscience? What should your demeanor be?

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3) Are good living, good-intentioned people ever subjected to suffering and persecution? How should we defend ourselves?

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4) Why did Jesus suffer for sins --- God's Righteous One for unrighteous people (v.18)?

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5) Between His bodily death and bodily resurrection, Jesus didn't just stay in the tomb. There are a few references for this time period that are hard to understand. To begin with, turn to Genesis 6:1-6 to see who in Noah's time disappointed God greatly, and Jude 6 for God's judgment on them. From v.19, what does it say Jesus did with this group? If this is a demonic group, what would you guess is being communicated? Keep in mind, Jesus has just physically died in Israel, and He is yet to arise physically to meet His disciples.

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6) How many people were saved in Noah's ark? Do you realize that this means today's "humanity" descended from Noah lineage back to Adam (through Seth – Genesis 5)?

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7) The flood brought death to the world. Noah's ark brought deliverance and new life to his family. V.21 says this event "corresponds" to the concept of baptism, and that baptism is an appeal to God for a good conscience --- based on the resurrection of Jesus. When Christians rise in baptism, what then are we proclaiming (see Colossians 2:12)?

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8) Where is Jesus today? What is subject to Him, and what is not yet subject to Him? See Hebrews 2:6-9)

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: