



DID THE DEAD, BEFORE MESSIAH (CHRIST), GO TO SPIRIT PRISON?

By George Lujack

Yeshua (Jesus) did not go to hell and visit with souls in spirit prison. Hell is death. There is no consciousness in death nor is there a spirit prison located in a place called hell. This belief is based on some very misunderstood B'rit Hadashah (New Testament) verses:

1 PETER 3:18-20:

For Messiah (Christ) also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, BY WHOM ALSO HE WENT AND PREACHED TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

How should we interpret what 1 Peter 3:18-20 means? These verses must be read in the context of other related verses such as Acts 26:23.

ACTS 26:23:

The Messiah (Christ) would suffer, that He would be THE FIRST to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.

Yeshua (Jesus) was the first to rise from the grave (to eternal life). If one believes that ever since Adam, people rose from the grave and were sent to spirit prison, this is faulty thinking based on Acts 26:23, along with many other corresponding Scripture verses that declare that the dead are unconscious, in their graves, and know nothing. Yeshua Messiah (Jesus Christ) was the first to rise from the dead. Adam, Noah, and all before Him therefore could not have risen from death to be sent to spirit prison.

What then of 1 Peter 3:18-20? Who did Yeshua (Jesus) visit and how? Spirits in prison refers to *living spirits* (human beings) in actual prisons. When God made Adam, he was made a living spirit (or soul - Genesis 2:7). While we may think the word 'spirit' does not pertain to living beings, Scripture often uses the word 'spirit' in this manner.

GENESIS 2:7:

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Yeshua (Jesus), as the Messiah, visited those who were in spiritual prison, in bondage to sin, to declare the truth and set them free.

JOHN 8:31-36:

Then Yeshua (Jesus) said to those Jews who believed Him, **“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

They answered Him, **“We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?”**

Yeshua (Jesus) answered them, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”**

MATTHEW 9:12-13; MARK 2:17; LUKE 5:31-32:

Yeshua (Jesus) said to them, **“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”**

Yeshua (Jesus) may have also visited living beings (spirits), saints being held in (Roman) prisons. How could He have visited them? If He did, and it was not otherwise recorded in Scripture, it would have been through His Spirit, in the same manner that He had once appeared to the Apostle Paul.

ACTS 9:3-5:

As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”** And he said, **“Who are You, Lord?”** Then the Lord said, **“I am Yeshua (Jesus), whom you are persecuting...”**

Scripture declares that when we die, we remain in a state of death until the resurrection. We don’t go to spirit prison or heaven. To believe otherwise is to believe the oldest lie of Satan with a twist... that we don’t really die when we die, *because our spirit lives on* (Genesis 3:1-5). Eve believed the lie that she would not die, was deceived by Satan, and committed original sin.

When 1 PETER 3:18-20 is read with a proper precept-upon-precept understanding, it should correctly be interpreted in the following manner:

1 PETER 3:18-20 (WITH INTERPRETATION):

For Messiah also suffered once for sins (ON THE CROSS), the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit (MADE ALIVE BY THE FATHER THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT), by whom (BY THE HOLY SPIRIT) also He went and preached (YESHUA / JESUS ALSO WENT AND PREACHED FOR FORTY DAYS AFTER HE WAS RESURRECTED – ACTS 1:3) to the spirits in prison (TO PEOPLE IN BONDAGE TO SIN), who formerly were disobedient (BUT BECAME OBEDIENT AND RIGHTEOUS), when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water (AS YESHUA / JESUS THE DIVINE ONCE WAITED IN LONGSUFFERING, SINCE THE DAYS OF NOAH, FOR THE TIME THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SAVE HUMANITY AS AN ATONEMENT SACRIFICE FOR MAN'S SINS AS HE ONCE SAVED EIGHT LIVING SOULS ON NOAH'S ARK FROM THE FLOOD WATERS).