

The Scribe

"Every Scribe which is instructed unto the Kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old" - Matthew 13:52



Amos Olusegun Omoboriowo

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HE PREACHED TO SPIRITS IN PRISON: WHO ARE THEY? PART 1

This message was preached by Brother Amos over two service days, Tuesday 7th, and Sunday 19th August, 2007, at Bible Faith Tabernacle, Lagos, Nigeria. What a perfect and marvellous insight God has given Brother Amos, into exactly who Christ preached to in Hell, and the significance of what Christ did in that day.

Good evening church. I greet everyone in the most precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We want to turn our Bibles to the Book of 1 Peter Chapter 3, and take verses 18-22. It reads: ***"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."***

(In other words, he was made alive by the Spirit of God): ***"By which" (Spirit) "also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison", (or souls in prison); "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; Angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto***



him." Amen. Saints of God, we want to consider this Bible passage tonight. We will just go straight into it.

When Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary, that ended a phase of his ministry; it ended the first phase. It opened up the second phase of his ministry, for when he died, he entered into the second phase. He had to go into the earth, into the belly of the earth, way down there, to do battle with the devil. He had ministered to the living, but now he was going to take his message to the dead, those spirits in prison. Therefore, taking a very close look at this Bible passage, in order to truly consider the spirits in prison, showing precisely who they are, strictly in the light of truth, I title my message: ***He Preached To Spirits In Prison: Who Are They?*** I will say this as I begin my message tonight. As long as time has not come that God will shed His light upon a Scripture, or upon a truth, to give a true understanding of His Word to His seeds, we are at complete liberty to look at it in any way which seems most plausible to us, and we can project it in any way best thought of. In such cases, God does not judge us, and neither does He say

anything, for according to the written Word, He winks at the days of ignorance. But when the time comes that God wants to unveil a Scripture, to make the truth of it known, and He then sheds His light upon His Word, thereby revealing the truth of it, and it is declared or unveiled to the people of the Lord, such a divine move takes away ignorance. It is no longer the days of ignorance. From that time on, everybody is under an obligation, a divine obligation, to walk in the light of truth, for nobody can claim ignorance any longer. Everybody will be judged by the standard of truth now unveiled for God's elect children. Period! But until that time comes, men will tug at it the way they are given to see it, by their fleshly minds. I know messages have been preached on this Bible text, all through time, by various men, and the prophet to this age also preached a message based on it, titled, *Souls in Prison*. However, I want you to know tonight, that his message on *Souls in Prison*, in its main focus, was not looking at, or dealing with, the unveiling of the souls Jesus Christ preached to in prison, even though he touched on them in that message, thus

giving us a version of who they are. But his main focus, and the principal reason for that message, was the vision of the women he saw in hell, which same women he saw in real life, at a JC Penny Department store! I take that again. Brother Branham's primary focus, and principal motivation for taking that message, was on account of the vision of certain women he saw in hell, and the reality of that vision he faced many years later, which caused him to preach on that Bible passage. And although he spoke about the souls Jesus preached to in prison, giving us a version of them, nevertheless, his inspiration was not focused on unveiling the souls Jesus preached to in prison, but on warning the saints from the use of paints on their lips and faces, for that is the kind of women he saw in hell! There is a very fine distinction in that, for the emphasis of the Spirit of God in that day, was not on the unveiling of the class or the category of spirits or souls Jesus preached to in prison, but on the type of women in hell, thereby projecting the truth on women's bodily adornment, for the bride of Christ, in order to keep us from the

snare of the enemy, by which souls are being lured to hell! Period! On the other hand, the main focus of my message tonight, is not on the type of women going to hell, or that are in hell, and neither is it on women's bodily adornment, but it is specifically and strictly on the class of souls or spirits Jesus preached to in prison. Period! If you cannot see the difference in the two objectives, and hence see the difference in revelation focus, I cannot help you. But you are not going to use the prophet's statements to contradict the truth which the Lord is moving me to share with you tonight. I say that because any man can go into any Bible text or passage; but the main issue is: What is his focus? What is the main thought he is trying to bring forth? That is the issue you must consider! I therefore pray you will keep an open mind, for the Holy Bible will vindicate the truth, being the sole foundation of truth. After all, it is the Word of God that settles everything for all God's true children, for we are the children of light. Consequently, regardless of what anyone thinks or feels on this matter, when by the grace of God, I open up this subject, and lay everything on the written Word of God, and

the truth is made plain, you can tell precisely what the truth of the matter is. You will be able to tell precisely, who the spirits in prison really are, in the light of the Scriptures, the spirits Jesus Christ preached unto. Hence the title of my message: ***He Preached To Spirits In Prison: Who Are They?*** Specifically speaking, What category of spirits are they: Are they saved or unsaved? That is the main crux of the matter we want to deal with in this message. Please come with me to the written Word.

Here, I have a poor rough chart of Hell. Before we proceed any further, we first want to take a close look at Hell itself, and its conditions. Here is the earth, (Brother Amos is pointing to the chart), where we have vegetation and human existence. This part which holds the clouds, gives us the heavens. But right under the earth, is where we have this prison house, the "**prison**" Jesus went down to, according to the record of Apostle Peter. It is called Hell, or Hades. It is a prison house for the souls of men, deep down in the belly of the earth. However, in that temporary a b o d e o r p r i s o n house, there are two

regions it contains, for the spirits of the dead, for it is divided into two main regions. We have the **Region of the Saved**, which is located or established in the upper part of Hell, housing the souls of all God's redeemed, and we also have the **Region of the Lost**, which is located in a much lower region of Hell, housing the souls of all those who are damned, and are therefore, bound for the lake of fire, after the White Throne Judgment. In other words, in Hell or Hades, we have the region of the redeemed, called "**Paradise**", or "**Abraham's Bosom**", AND we also have the region of the damned, or of the unsaved, or of those who are lost. Let me remind you concerning paradise. When the thief on the Cross asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom, Jesus promptly answered him in Luke Chapter 23, verse 43, saying categorically: "**... Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me IN paradise.**" As such, when Jesus died, he went with the soul of the thief on the Cross to Hell, to the "**paradise**" part of Hell, which is the region of the redeemed of God. I have gone into that, just to prove that "**Abraham's bosom**"

was also called paradise in that day. Period! The truth of the condition in Hell, is well laid out in the parable of Jesus Christ, concerning the rich man and Lazarus, for in that parable, the Lord opened up the truth of the layout of Hell. It is recorded in the Book of Luke Chapter 16, verses 19-31. It states: ***“There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the Angels into ABRAHAM'S BOSOM”***, (because he was a believer. He was not taken into Abraham's bosom because he was poor, but because he was a believer, otherwise, he would not have been taken to Abraham's bosom. Jesus Christ continued the story, saying): ***“the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments”*** (plural), ***“and seeth Abraham AFAR OFF, and Lazarus IN”*** ***“his bosom”***, (which means he was IN

paradise; he was inside paradise, as verse 22 confirms, for it declares that Lazarus was carried ***“INTO Abraham's Bosom”***. Verse 24 states): ***“And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but NOW HE IS COMFORTED, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into THIS PLACE OF TORMENT. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.***

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. Brothers and sisters, the very fact that in this parable, the rich man had to ***“lift up his eyes”***, and saw Abraham ***“afar off”***, certainly shows that the region of the saved is on a much higher level or plane, than the location of the region of the damned, though both were in Hell. Secondly, the fact that Abraham stated that there was ***“a great gulf FIXED”*** between the two regions, obviously shows that there can be no crossing over from one region to the other. That is utterly and absolutely impossible, simply because the eternal fates of the spirits in both regions are sealed, in their respective class! Period! Thirdly, from this parable, we see that whilst the paradise part of Hell is comfortable, the region of the damned is certainly most uncomfortable, even though there is no literal fire burning there yet, for there is no literal fire burning in Hell, except the figurative fire of torment, which is strictly the torment or agony of the human mind, who now realises in Hell, that he lost an eternal opportunity to be saved, an opportunity

he had had on a platter of gold, when he was on earth! That is the cause of the great anguish of their soul; although this region of Hell, being a prison house for the damned, is certainly also most uncomfortable! Paradise on the other hand is a place of comfort! But the region of the unsaved is not a nice or cool place, which is why it is called a place of torment! God took Brother Branham to see this region of the lost, and it is way deep down in the belly of the earth. When he was being taken to it, in that spiritual experience, as he was falling into Hell, he was falling forever, for it seemed there was no end to his fall, as he kept falling down, like into an endless hole, most dark! The Book of Revelation Chapter 20, verse 1, confirms this truth, for in that prophetic Scripture, Hell is called "**the bottomless pit**". That lets us know that there is quite some distance in the spirit realm, even in the belly of the earth, housing these two spirits, the spirit of the redeemed, and the spirit of the damned! And just as we saw earlier, the gulf between the two regions is exceedingly very wide indeed, and absolutely uncross-able! Moreover, Luke Chapter 16, verses 23-24, also states: "**And in**

hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and SEETH ABRAHAM afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." Saints, what does that show you? The people in Hell do not look like floating spirits, for there is not only consciousness in Hell, the spirit man housed in Hell, still has a form that characterizes man's very image, the image of a man's person, so much so, that every individual spirit is distinctively recognisable! That was why he saw father Abraham, and knew exactly who he was, just as he also saw and recognised Lazarus! Both Abraham and Lazarus were not floating in the air, like a little cloud we see in fairy tales! The soul of man in Hell is still in the precise form of the physical person he was here on earth! Brothers and sisters, there is consciousness in Hell. Death only takes people to another dimension or region or plane. Death is not the end, but is only the beginning of another existence, and that is a long, long, existence; for

we are looking at eternity: It is either eternity with God, or eternal separation from God. But there is no eternal Hell, as all Hell will be emptied out into the Lake of Fire, after the White Throne Judgment, to be eventually completely annihilated. However, the matter is that the rich man asked that Lazarus be sent to dip the tip of his finger in water, to cool the anguish of his tongue. I therefore ask: What will Lazarus dipping the tip of his finger in water do, to soothe his anguish? It will not make a difference! But that just lets us see how desperate he is, and just how painful and unbearable that part of Hell is, that he does not even mind if it is just a drop of water from a finger dip! He was earnestly looking for something to soothe his pain, and his torment, for he was in great pain and torment! But please note that this is not the Lake of Fire, for Hell is not the Lake of Fire. However, the truth is that when God designs a prison house, He does not do it like the Americans; let me tell you that. It is in American prisons or penitentiaries that they have nice comfortable beds, and a television set, with nice hot food, and a good shower, which inmates may not even have

in their private homes, because they cannot afford it! That is why some people love to go to prison, particularly at Christmas time, because they are guaranteed good food, which is free, a good bed for a cosy sleep, and warmth! So they offend on purpose at Christmas time, desiring to go to jail! But God's Jail house, which is Hell, and specifically the region of the damned, if people were allowed to return, or to get out, they will never reform! Because it is a place of torments, plural! That is the truth! Because God is not sending people there for a tea-party, and early morning cornflakes! They even riot in prison over food! This world is upside down! A prison house was never meant to be a comfortable place, for you do not go to prison to enjoy! But human rights will not let it be what it is supposed to be! That is precisely why the devil has taken over the societies of men. They cry and agonize over the evils going on in the world, and yet, they are the very people that are opening the door to Satan! Because the very means by which the society can be disciplined or sanitized, that is the very thing they do not want, all in the name of human rights! Paedophiles or child molesters, rapists,

murderers, sadists, and such evil and wicked and despicable elements of people, who should simply be killed, are kept and fed at the tax payers' expense, with full Medicare, for years unend, in prisons, only to be later released into the human society, to start another cycle of mayhem! They give them a new identity, and relocate them, so that they can do more harm to innocent little girls and boys, raining more evil on men! Brothers and sisters, the prison house of God is a prison house indeed! God designed it originally as a place to hold these fallen evil spirits, just as the Book of Jude, verse 6 reveals, but we will take it from verse 5. It reads: ***"I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."*** Where are they reserved or kept? In Hell! Hell is therefore a prison house, a bottomless pit, also holding the spirits of

fallen wicked angels, for that is its first objective or purpose. Hence, it is written in the Book of Revelation Chapter 20, verses 1-3: ***"And I saw an Angel come down from heaven, having the key of THE BOTTOMLESS PIT and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."*** As I stated earlier, Hell was designed originally for the devil and his fallen angels; but now, when men also fell, God also had to make room for them there. He now carved out a region in it, manifesting a little bit of His presence there, for spiritual comfort, strictly to house the souls of His fallen children, which is why Jesus called it paradise. And from that time, saints of the living God, every one that dies, is sent straight to Hell, either to the region of the saved, or to the region of the lost, depending on the state of his soul. But I want to remind you that

according to Luke Chapter 16, verse 23, Hell has torments, even as it is written: ***“And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in TORMENTS...”*** This lets us know that there are different kinds of conditions in Hell, which creates torments, plural. One is the torment of memory, the fact that these people could have been saved, for they had ample opportunity, but they turned it down, and now they find themselves in Hell, which is the region of the damned, rather than in paradise, paying for rejecting the Gospel of truth. These people now have ample time to think of the salvation they missed on earth, a salvation they could have so easily received. They have time to think on all the messages they had heard, messages they threw to the dust in utter rejection, all out of wilful hardness. Now, no doubt, each man began to ask himself, blaming himself in utter regret, *“Oh, why did I not listen?! Why did I not accept the Lord? Why did I reject the truth of God, when it was presented to me? And to think that the message came with such plainness! Why on earth did I do that to myself and reject the light?”* Saints of God, there is nothing that torments a man, like when

he misses an opportunity that came his way, a golden opportunity that could have saved his life! The thought will just keep gnawing at him, tormenting him, ringing every minute: *“I could have been saved! I did not have to come to Hell! I could have been saved! Salvation was presented to me! I heard the message! And it was offered freely! I did not have to come here!”* I often use the example of a woman who goes to a Medical Doctor, saying, *“My child is not well. He is my only child. Please help him.”* The Doctor examines him, and prescribes a particular medication, which she is then given. It is to be used for five or seven specific days. But after using it for one or two days, this woman just feels it is not necessary to continue administering the drug, and she stops giving the child the medication. And she should not have done that, but she felt she knew better. They always know better! But unfortunately, the child died. And when the autopsy report came, it plainly showed that if she had only completed the administration of the medication prescribed, it would have certainly cured the child, and hence saved him. In other words: It was

a needless death, for the child need not have died! And unfortunately, that was the only child the woman had! Many times than not, such a woman simply runs mad, because the thought will forever haunt her, of the instruction the Doctor gave; and how she just disobeyed! She realises she is responsible for his death, and her torment will know no appeasement. The memory is an undying fire or torture, a ***“worm”*** or a gnawing memory, that never dies. Let her see one little baby smiling somewhere, and off she goes again in her anguish, *“Oh, the Doctor said it! He said it, but I refused out of wilful hardness! He said the medication will do the job, and I did not listen! My child would have been alive today, but now he is dead, and I am childless! And I bought the drug! I bought it, and then I stopped it.. Why did I do this? Why?”* It is too late. It is too late! I am not saying these things to scare anybody, for I do not believe in preaching scary sermons to get people to stand for the truth of Christ; because fear cannot give people revelation. It can bring them to church a few times though, but that is all it will do. It will not put revelation in their soul; because if God is not

dealing with you, to give you the revelation of His Word, thereby anchoring your soul in the light, fear cannot give you revelation either. And anything that is not of faith, is not acceptable to God, for it is sin, which is unbelief. Hence the reason why I do not believe in preaching fearful sermons of Hell, in order to get people to follow the Lord! Yet, Hell is a horrible place, where no man should go, and where no man needs to go! But without faith, which is divine revelation, you cannot avoid going to Hell, even if you go to church! Simple! Just consider what the Lord set forth in the Book of Luke Chapter 16, verses 27-31, which we saw earlier. The Bible states of the rich man: ***“Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, IF THEY HEAR NOT MOSES”,*** (whose written message is with them), ***“AND THE PROPHETS”,***

(whose writings are also with them), ***“NEITHER WILL THEY BE PERSUADED, THOUGH ONE ROSE FROM THE DEAD.”*** By this statement, God firmly placed total supremacy on the FULL AUTHORITY of the Holy Scriptures, AND on the SUFFICIENCY of the witness of the written Word, above any and every other testimony or witness; for the greatest vindication any man can have, is the vindication of the inspired written Word of God! Period! In other words: It is not about the type of witness of truth that counts before God, but strictly about faith in the written Word of God, which is the most vital issue before God, for that is what alone can give life! Therefore, everything boils down to the issue of faith in the revealed Word! It is therefore strictly a matter of revelation! If a Jew cannot see truth in the written law Moses gave, and in the inspired writings of the prophets, even if an Angel comes down from heaven, he still will not believe, for it will not make a difference! After all, God even appeared to Cain, and did Cain do as God required? No! Why not? It was simply because he did not see God's truth, or God's point,

for he could not receive any ounce of divine revelation, being a seed of the serpent! Moreover, the Jews in the wilderness saw the Angel of the Lord, as he led them by day and by night, in a pillar of cloud, and a pillar of fire, and they still rebelled anyhow! Why? Because the Word of God they heard did not mix with faith in their hearts, for they were simply unbelievers! Once you do not have faith, you just do not have faith! Simple! The fact is, however, that the thought of a golden opportunity of salvation missed, is one major constant torment in Hell! But there are other causes of torment, for we should not also forget that these fallen angels, these fallen spirits, are demons, and being demons, they are tormentors, for that is what a demon is, a tormentor! Remember it is written, that when Lazarus died, he was ***“CARRIED BY THE ANGELS”,*** (righteous Angels, holy Angels), ***“into Abraham’s bosom”,*** (which is paradise. However, when the rich unbelieving man died, it is simply written): ***“the rich man also died, AND WAS BURIED”,*** (no doubt with much pomp and pageantry, unbeknown to his relatives, what great anguish he was suffering in Hell. My point is

this: If holy Angels, Angels sent to minister to the heirs of salvation, carry or escort the soul of the redeemed to paradise, who do you think carry or escort the soul of the damned to Hell? It is the fallen angels of course! They are the ones that escort the spirits of the damned to Hell, just as by their operation, people who are non-seeds, are kept from following the light! And when the time comes for souls bound for Hell to die, demons, who are fallen angels, are also at hand, to take such souls to Hell. I am trying to show you some of the torments in Hell. And if they torment men here on earth, it will not be in the region of the damned in Hell, where they reign, that they will not similarly torment lost souls, if you see the point! Because they are nothing but tormentors, being demons! And Hell is full of demons, fallen angels, who originally made up one third of the hosts of heaven! Just think of it! Consequently, Hell is not only a very bad place, or a very horrible place, it is also a place of torments, where demons, who are tormentors, are the officers in charge! Do not think they make it pleasurable! Please! You do not want to go there! And if you have a true revelation of Hell, it is

not where you would wish even your enemy to go! When Lazarus died, holy Angels came to carry his spirit, and they ushered him straight to paradise, the part of Hell ordained for the redeemed of the Lord, because it is God's prison house, on account of the fall. And this is where the thought of prison first originated, before men started building prisons. But when the rich man also died, demons also came for him. That is why, when people are at death's door, as unbelievers, or as wicked and most selfish evil people, sometimes, they see horrible things, demons at their bedside, and a great cloud of darkness enveloping them out of this world! We have heard people, grown up people, scream as they are dying, crying that the demons, hideous looking spirits, should not touch them! Sometimes they are manifested with terrible looking horns, and with long forked tails, and are covered with darkness. They come to escort damned souls, and they are just waiting for them to give up the ghost, because they belong to the region of the lost, where they reign supreme. Once they give up the ghost, they enter a darkness that is most

palpable, and out steps the demons, to take them through darkness, straight to Hell, where a reception party is waiting for them. No, there is no light when they pass from this world into the other side. Once they break through the veil of the human body, to the other side, it is all darkness, and in that horrifying spiritual darkness, they are led way down into Hell, where demons reign, for in Hell, Satan is king! The Book of Revelation Chapter 9, verse 11, confirms this truth, for it is written concerning Hell: **“And they had A KING over THEM, which is THE ANGEL OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.”** On the other hand, brothers and sisters, when an elect seed of God dies, which is to break through the veil of the human body, he steps into a marvellous and an incredible light, one that is beyond description. Angels of God are also waiting to lead him or her to paradise, through that light. Many wonderful accounts abound, of the experiences of God's children at death's door, as holy Angels manifest themselves at their bedside, waiting for

their soul to depart. And what a most peaceful, and a most blissful and happy departure they have from this evil world, to paradise, a place of comfort, though a region in Hell, being in the belly of the earth. Church, however, on account of the fact that the region of the damned in Hell, is the prison house for all wicked spirits, whether of men, or of fallen angels, that region is simply called Hell, and is synonymous with Hell; whilst the region housing the righteous spirits of all God's children, is simply called Paradise, and is synonymous with Paradise, in contra-distinction from each other. This is revealed in verses 22-23, of Luke Chapter 16, which records: ***“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the Angels into ABRAHAM'S BOSOM: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in HELL he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom...”***, thus giving us in simple terms, ***“Hell”*** AND ***“Paradise”***, or ***“Hell”*** AND ***“Abraham's Bosom”***. Period!

Come back with me to consider something very crucial at this point, which in turn will lead us to consider

another truth. Brothers and sisters, here we have the **Region of the Saved**. (Brother Amos is pointing to the chart). It is called **Paradise**, or Abraham's bosom. The other region is the **Region of the Lost**, or the region of the damned, also called Hell, two different and distinct regions in Hades or Hell, in the belly of the earth. Consequently, when righteous people die, as we all know, and as we have already stated, they go straight to the Paradise region of Hell. On the other hand, when unrighteous people die, their souls go straight to Hell. This has been the true reality of things, for many centuries of time, ever since Adam and Eve were placed here by God, UNTIL when Jesus Christ died. When he died, church, he entered the second phase of his redemption work, for he had paid the price of redemption. That is precisely what we read in 1 Peter Chapter 3, verses 18-20, which states: ***“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which ALSO HE WENT AND PREACHED UNTO THE***

SPIRITS IN PRISON; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.” He went to preach to the spirits that were in prison. And I ask: Who are they? However, before we consider this issue, we have two crucial related things to touch on, in the light of truth. Look at it, when Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary, he took the battle straight to Hell. Why do I say that? It is because the Book of Hebrews Chapter 2, tells us something, which also dovetails with a prophetic Scripture we shall see shortly. Hebrews Chapter 2, verse 14 declares: ***“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he”*** (meaning Jesus Christ), ***“also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, that is, the devil.”*** What does that show you? Firstly, it shows that the devil held the power of death. Secondly, it shows that Jesus, having paid the price of redemption by his shed blood, went down to Hell to

do battle with the devil, to strip him of the power of death and of Hell he held, and thus collect the keys of death and of Hell, which Satan had held all this while! Absolutely! But Jesus triumphed over the devil, beating him hands down, and collected the keys from him! Hence our Lord Jesus declared in his prophetic revelation to Saint John, in AD 96, as recorded in the Book of Revelation Chapter 1, verses 17-18, saying: ***“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; AND HAVE THE KEYS OF HELL AND OF DEATH.”*** That plainly confirms that Jesus took from Satan, the power that Satan held over Hell AND death; for as the Book of Hebrews Chapter 2 records, Satan ***“had the power of death”***: That is, the devil had authority over death! But he also had the keys, plural, of Hell! But why does Hell have ***“keys”*** plural? It is simply because, we not only have one major gate leading into Hell, from the physical world, therefore requiring one major key, but also in Hell, we also have two other

gates, leading to the two main regions in Hell, which is that of the saved, and the region of the damned, giving us two additional keys, making up a total of three keys of Hell! That is precisely why our Saviour Jesus Christ declared, that he has the ***“keys of Hell”***, (plural), ***“AND”*** (which is a conjunction, and it therefore means, in addition to the plural keys of Hell, Jesus also has the key, singular), ***“OF DEATH”***. From this infallible testimony of the Scriptures, we know that Hell has a major gate, with a major key, and it also has two other gates with two keys, all keys which were held by the devil! When Christ died, he went down to Hell, and did battle with the devil, broke his hold, floored him, bound him, and rendered him completely useless, and he collected the keys of Hell and of death from his hand, and now he, Jesus has the keys! JESUS HAS THE KEYS OF HELL AND OF DEATH! Hence, in the Book of Psalm 24, in his triumphant and spectacular entry into Hell, which David saw by divine inspiration, when Christ faced the gates of Hell, he cried as recorded in verses 7-10, saying: ***“Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be***

ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY? THE LORD STRONG AND MIGHTY, THE LORD MIGHTY IN BATTLE. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!” And the gates of Hell began to give way that day, showing that the power or authority over Hell, was now invested in him, for he now holds the keys, having gained the victory over the devil, through his death on the Cross, making Satan now a defeated foe! And when he rose from death on the third day, that was proof, infallible proof, that he also held the power over death, for the grave could not hold him down! No! And he rose most triumphant, ***“the first begotten of the dead”***, showing evidently that he has the power and authority over death, and Hell, and the grave! Halleluia! And, church, as we speak tonight, the KEYS of Hell and OF DEATH, is solely in the hands of Jesus! It is not in the hands of the devil anymore, and as such, there is absolutely nothing he can do to your life, for he

is a defeated foe! And there is not one strand of your hair that can fall to the ground, unless and except God permits it! Halleluiah! Saints, hold it here for a minute, for I need to introduce a crucial and material issue here, for it relates to this very thought. Before Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary, and went to take over Hell, Lucifer held the keys of Hell and of death. Consequently, along with his fallen angels, he could do certain things, with the spirits in Hell, whatever the region, because he had the power, for he held the keys over death and Hell! Therefore, he could open the doors of Hell as he pleased, for he was the chief officer-in-charge, The CEO of Death and Hell! Oh, my! Please pay attention, and come with me to a scenario related in the Word. King Saul went to ask a witch, a woman with a familiar or an evil spirit, the witch of Endor, to call up the spirit of Samuel, the prophet of God. It is recorded in 1 Samuel Chapter 28, and we will take it from verse 3, which reads: **“NOW SAMUEL WAS DEAD, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the**

wizards, out of the land. And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. And when Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by DREAMS, nor by URIM, nor by PROPHETS. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee.” (She was a witch, and she could therefore perform necromancy, which is to conjure up the dead, or to raise up the spirit of the dead). **“And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul**

hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? And Saul sware to her by the Lord, saying, As the Lord liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, BRING ME UP SAMUEL. And when the woman SAW SAMUEL”, (not an evil spirit, but the spirit of Samuel, for the Bible says when she saw Samuel), **“she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me?”** (for it let her know precisely who had hired her; for she could now perfectly connect the dots! She cried, saying): **“FOR THOU ART SAUL.”** (And that is absolutely true! And if the identification of a disguised Saul was true, a king whose identity had been perfectly concealed from the woman, until this very point in time, then, you have to know that the identification of Samuel was also true)! **“And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I SAW**

gods ascending out of the earth." (Of course the guardians of Hell, who are spirits, fallen angels, have to bring Samuel up, although they can do him no harm! And thus, they appeared with him, even though it was only Samuel that was needed! Hence, the witch said she saw "gods", meaning that she saw plural spirits coming up! But Saul knew that Samuel had to be there, as the main spirit in projection, being the person whose spirit was conjured up! Hence he now asked): **"And he said unto her, What form IS HE of?"** (Not what form ARE THEY of? But what form is HE of?) **"And she said, AN OLD MAN"** (singular), **"COMETH UP; AND HE"**, (singular), **"IS COVERED WITH A MANTLE"** (of a prophet). **"And Saul PERCEIVED"** (or knew) **"that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself."** Let us pause here for a while. Saints of God, before Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary, and took the keys of Hell, Satan held the keys, for he was the Custodian of Hell. He could therefore open it at will, to serve the desires of his mediums or agents on earth, witches or necromancers! That was

precisely why the Witch of Endor, an agent of the devil, a medium of Lucifer, could bring up the spirit of a servant of God, for Satan held the keys to the two regions! Wake up! His agents had access to call forth any spirit they wanted, in any region of Hell, whether he was saved or lost, because Lucifer held both keys, as the custodian! The witch of Endor, by her sorcery, or shall we say, by satanic power and authority, therefore, successfully called up the spirit of dead Samuel! This apostate Christian world has no clue to spiritual realities of the spirit world! They say it was not Samuel that was raised up, but a contrary spirit. Nonsense! Church, all they read, and all they see, is what she said initially, that she saw **"gods ascending out of the earth"**! They see nothing else, and hear nothing else! They do not even understand the context in which she made that statement! They do not read anything else, but just this singular statement! They obviously do not read the rest, and they refuse to read the rest! And even if they do, they have made up their minds to ignore its truth, for it is mind boggling, for they cannot explain this spiritual scenario, and

hence, they find it difficult and impossible to accept as true! Yet, it is true nonetheless! For God confirmed in verse 12 that the woman saw Samuel! She saw Samuel, just as it is written: **"And when the woman SAW SAMUEL..."** That was not the woman's testimony, but that of the Lord! Of course, what do you see when you see a spirit coming forth, accompanied by other guardian spirits? You have to see "gods", which simply mean spirits! Remember, she serves the devil through her idolatry, giving her various gods! However, when she was asked what he looked like, she did not describe plural "gods"! She described one lone individual! Come on! When she described what he looked like, Saul knew without a shadow of doubt that it was Samuel, and he bowed! And when the woman saw Samuel, a scale fall from her eyes, making her now realise who her disguised clientele or customer was! Think about it! Saul told her not to be afraid, but to go ahead! And this is the clincher, brothers and sisters, for it seals this matter, showing precisely who was raised up. Verse 15-19 records: **"AND SAMUEL said to Saul..."** Did you hear that?

“... SAMUEL said to Saul...”! Remember that this is the testimony of the Spirit of God, recorded in the written Word, spelling out precisely who spoke to Saul on that day, thereby removing any and every doubt! Argue with that! **“And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up”** (from paradise)? **“And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do.”** (And to show you that this was Samuel indeed, the prophet of God, and not another spirit, and knowing that the passing away of a man does not change his position in God, or who he is, FOR ONCE A PROPHET, ALWAYS A PROPHET, Samuel entered into his prophetic office, and gave perfect and infallible prophetic utterances that day, which came to pass perfectly, exactly and precisely as he prophesied it would happen, as verses 16-19 now record): **“Then SAID SAMUEL, Wherefore then dost thou ask of ME,**

seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?” (This was not a demon but Samuel, just as the Bible states! Now listen to the next statement, for only one person could make that claim, even as the Scripture now confirms, for Samuel first addressed the woman concerning Saul, before turning to address Saul himself, saying): **“And the Lord hath done to him, as HE SPAKE BY ME”**, (facing and talking to the woman): **“for the Lord hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David”**, (facing and talking to Saul): **“Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the Lord, nor executedst His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day. MOREOVER THE LORD WILL ALSO DELIVER ISRAEL WITH THEE INTO THE HAND OF THE PHILISTINES: AND TO MORROW SHALT THOU AND THY SONS BE WITH ME: THE LORD ALSO SHALL DELIVER THE HOST OF ISRAEL INTO THE HAND OF THE PHILISTINES.”** Brothers and sisters, this prophecy came to pass the very next day, clearly evidencing that this was

not an evil spirit, but it was indeed the spirit of Samuel, raised up from his resting place in paradise, a place of comfort, not one of torment! It also shows that death does not change who we are in Christ, nor the position we hold in the body! Halleluiah! Exactly! Saints of God, all around this world, people commune with the dead, and they go to necromancers, witches, wizards, agents and mediums of Satan, and they also go to graveyards, all in their desperate bid, either to know something, or in order to have one carnal thing or the other. But the point is this: When Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary, thereby paying the full price of redemption of Adam's fallen race, and of planet earth, that price gave him the full and unfettered right to the title deeds of the earth, the scroll of redemption God held, which also bears the names of all God's redeemed children. Consequently, when Christ gave up the ghost, he descended into Hell, carrying the battle to the enemy of men, who is Lucifer, whipping him black and blue, and he took the keys of Hell and of death from his hands. And on the third day, he rose from the

dead, conquering Hell, Death, and the Grave! But what does Ephesians Chapter 4, verses 8-9, also tell us? ***“Wherefore He”*** (God) ***“saith, When he”*** (Christ) ***“ascended up on high, he”*** (Christ) ***“led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that HE ALSO DESCENDED FIRST INTO THE LOWER PARTS OF THE EARTH?)”*** That is, that he descended first to Hell! I ask: To do what? IT WAS IN ORDER TO LEAD ***“CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE”!*** And who are the captives? It gives us strictly the souls of all the saints of God held in paradise, which was in Hades, or in Hell! Remember Job had prophesied about the Messiah, for he died in hope, being a man of faith, one who lived and died under the blood, waiting for the day when Jesus would come to redeem his soul from Hell! In Job Chapter 19, verses 25-27, Job declared: ***“For I know that MY REDEEMER LIVETH, and that HE SHALL STAND AT THE LATTER DAY UPON THE EARTH: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for MYSELF, and mine eyes shall behold, and not***

another; though my reins be consumed within me.” Consequently, when Christ descended into Hell to do battle, on the third day, he arose, having taken the keys of Hell and death, and ***“he led captivity captive.”*** What was that? He carried Abraham, Lazarus, Job, Adam, Sarah, David, Isaiah, Miriam, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, and the souls of every redeemed child of God resting in Paradise, right up to the thief on the Cross, and rose up with them, taking them up to heaven! He led captive all the souls in Abraham's bosom, and carried them into heaven, completely emptying out the paradise part of Hell, which in that day, was in the belly of the earth! No, he did not touch or take any of souls in the region of the damned! He left every last one of them there, and they are still there as we speak today, Jesus having emptied out the region of the saved in Hell, not leaving one soul of God's children behind, taking them all into heaven. And therefore, tonight, brothers and sisters, as we speak, paradise is no longer in the belly of the earth, for it is no longer in Hell, as part of Hell, but it is in heaven. Therefore, there is not one soul of God's

redeemed people that is in the belly of the earth today; because paradise is now in heaven, and up there in heaven, where the throne of God is! Up there is now where we have the souls of all God's redeemed people who die! When they die, their souls go up to heaven, to paradise. This is precisely why it is written in the Book of Revelation Chapter 2, verse 7: ***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, WHICH IS IN THE MIDST OF THE PARADISE OF GOD”, IN HEAVEN!*** That is so, simply because paradise is now in heaven! But for those who are lost or damned, their souls go right down to Hell, and there they will remain, until the White Throne Judgment, when we will have the Second Resurrection, after which they will be thrown straight into the Lake of Fire, which is their final destination! And because paradise is no longer in the belly of the earth, that is, because paradise is no longer in Hell, and furthermore, because Jesus is the one who now holds the keys of Hell and of death, and not the devil, I will tell you now, that there is no spirit or soul

of any child of God, which any man or spirit can call down from heaven. It is absolutely impossible, for it is no longer possible to do what the witch of Endor did that day! No one can do it! I repeat: Since Jesus led the souls of God's people up into paradise, there is no spirit of any child of God anyone can possibly call up! He would only be faced with lying spirits! Period! What Saul did that day cannot be done again in this grace age, and neither can it be done again and forevermore! Amen! However, before they were taken up to heaven, they first made an appearance in Jerusalem, to show that the power of Hell, death, and the grave, had been broken, and that the New Covenant was not only in effect, or in force, but that it was also effective, being most powerful, being a life giving Gospel! In Matthew Chapter 27, verses 52-53, it is written: **“And THE GRAVES were opened; AND many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves AFTER HIS RESURRECTION”**; (not before, but they rose after Christ's resurrection), **“and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”** Hold it there! Many bodies of the sleeping

saints arose, and appeared unto many people. What does that show you? The appearance was not made by every dead saint, but those who appeared, appeared unto those whom God elected would see something, and be in the know, that the resurrection had taken place, just as the Scriptures had promised! They left a live testimony, a living witness, by appearing unto many! No, they were not here for days, going from house to house: It was a matter of seconds, and it was all over! And what happened thereafter? They went up to heaven together with Jesus, thereby giving us the first phase of the first resurrection, or what Saint Paul called the **“firstfruits”** of the resurrection, according to 1 Corinthians Chapter 15, verse 23. Jesus has led captivity captive, and now, paradise is up there in heaven, whilst Hell remains strictly as Hell, in the belly of the earth, the exclusive region of the damned. Moreover, Jesus holds the keys of Hell and of death. Amen!

This brings us back to our main Bible text, and our main Bible question, recorded in 1 Peter Chapter 3, verses 18-20,

which states: **“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also HE WENT AND PREACHED UNTO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”** Brothers and sisters, seeing that this refers strictly to the days of Noah, a period of time when Hell contained both regions, the region of the saved, and the region of the lost, for it was before the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we must now ask: Which prison house, or which region in Hell did he go to? Exactly! In other words: Which spirits did Christ preach to in Hell: Was it the saved or the lost? **He Preached To Spirits In Prison: Who Are They?** That is the question! That is the material issue we now want to consider, for that is the very essence of this message. Did he preach to the souls in Hell, or was it to the souls in Paradise? Who precisely did he preach to? But first we have to

consider the message William Branham gave in Jeffersonville, Indiana, USA, on 10th November, 1963, concerning this Scripture, when he preached a message titled, *Souls That Are In Prison Now*. We will start from the tail end of page 13, right up to the beginning of page 19. The prophet declared: ***“Now in this vision, the first one, here's what took place: After the vision struck me, and I was so weak, because I had lost all that blood, I thought I was sinking into an endless eternity. Many of you have heard me tell this before; I was sinking into an endless eternity. First, I was going through what seemed like clouds, then through darkness, and sinking on down, down, down. And the first thing I knew, I got into the regions of the lost. And in there I screamed. And I looked there, and just everything, there was just no foundation to it. I could never stop falling. For eternity, it looked like, I was going to fall. There was no stopping, anywhere. And then, what a difference it was from the vision I had here, not long ago, of being in Glory with the people! The contrast! But in this, as I was falling, I***

screamed for my daddy. Of course, being just a kid, that's what I would do. I screamed for my daddy, and my daddy wasn't there. And I screamed for my mother, “Somebody catch me!” There was no mother there. I was just going. And I screamed then to God. There was no God there. There was nothing there. And after a while I heard the most mournful sound that I ever heard, and it was the most awful feeling. There is no way to describe it - even a literal burning fire would be a pleasure by the side of what this was. Now, those visions have never been wrong. And it was just one of the most horrible feelings I ever had. And I heard a noise, sounded like some kind of a haunted affair. And I looked at what was coming, and it was just women; and you could just see their faces, and they had green stuff under their eyes, and their eyes looked run back, like the women today paint their eyes. They were run back like that, just their eyes and faces. And they were going, “Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh!” Oh, my! I just screamed out, “Oh God, have mercy upon me!

Have mercy, oh God! Where are You? If You'll only let me go back and live, I promise You, to be a good boy.” Now, that's the only thing I could say. Now, God knows, and at the Day of Judgment, He'll judge me for that statement. That's what I said, “Lord God, let me go back, and I promise You, I'll be a good boy.” And when I got shot, I had told lies, I had done pretty near everything there was to be done; only one thing that I could say. (I might as well just clean it out while I'm right here now). And when I looked down and saw I was half blown in two, almost, I said, “God, have mercy on me. You know I never did commit adultery.” That was the only thing I could say to God. I had never accepted His pardon, and all these things. I just could say, “I never did commit adultery.” And then they took me out there. And then, in that situation, I cried, “God, be merciful to me. I'll be a good boy, if you'll only let me go back”, for I knew there was a God somewhere. And so help me, those weary creatures all around, I HAD JUST BEEN A NEW ARRIVAL. It was the most hideous,

horrible, ungodly feeling, in that they looked like great big eyes, with big eyelashes out like that, and run back like a cat, back like this; and green stuff, and as if it had cankered or something; and they were going, "Ooh, ooh, ooh!" Oh, what a feeling! Then in a moment's time, I had come back to natural life again. That thing has bothered me. I thought, "Oh, let it be that I'll never go to a place like that. No other human being will ever have to go to a place like that." Seven months later, I had the vision of standing in the West, and seeing that gold Cross coming down upon me. And I knew that there was a region of the damned somewhere. Now, I never noticed it too much until about four weeks ago. I never thought of it in these terms. About four weeks ago, the wife and I went down to Tucson, to do some shopping. And while we were sitting, for we went downstairs, there was a bunch of sissy-like boys, that had their hair ratted, (you know, like the women do), and bangs combed down here in front, and these real high trousers on. I guess they were beatniks, or whatever you call

them. And they were in there, and everybody was looking at them, and their heads was that big, like the women that wear these "water head" haircuts, you know; and they were down there. A young woman came by, and she said, "What do you think about that?" I said, "Then you ought to be ashamed of yourself, if you can think that." I said, "He has just as much right to do it as you do. Neither one of you have a right." So I went upstairs, and I sat down. And where I sat, there was an escalator, (it was at J.C. Penney's store), and the escalator was bringing the people up. Well, I really turned sick in my stomach, seeing those women come up there; young, old, and indifferent, wrinkled, young, and every way, with little bitty shorts on; their filthy bodies, and those sexily dressed women, with those great big heads like that. And here they came. And one coming right up that escalator, just coming right up like that, where I was sitting back in a chair, sitting there with my head down. And I turned and looked. But one of them coming up the steps was talking in

Spanish to another woman. She was a white woman speaking to the Spanish woman. And when I looked, all at once, I was changed! There, I had seen that before. Her eyes, (you know how the women are doing now, painting their eyes, just recently), like a cat, you know, put it up like this, and wearing cat glasses and everything, you know, with eyes up like this, and that green stuff under their eyes. THERE WAS THAT THING THAT I SAW WHEN I WAS A CHILD. THERE WAS THE WOMAN JUST EXACTLY. And I just got numb all over, and begin to look around; and there were those people mumbling, you know, going on about the prices and things in the building. And she looked like that. I just changed for a moment. AND I LOOKED AND I THOUGHT, "THAT'S WHAT I SAW IN HELL!" There they were, that canker. I thought because they were in hell, that made them that way: a greenish blue under their eyes. And here were these women painted with greenish blue, just the way that vision said about forty years ago. (See, about forty years ago, is what it has been.

I'm fifty-four; and I was fourteen. So it's about forty years ago). And that's the number of the judgment, you see. Now I had seen that, and I couldn't even speak to my wife when she came. She was over there trying to get Sarah and the kids something, a kind of dress or something for school, and I couldn't even speak to her. She said, "Bill, what's the matter with you?" I said, "Honey, I'm almost a dead man." And she said, "What's the matter? Are you sick?" I said, "No. Something has just happened." Now she doesn't know. She is waiting for this tape to return. I've never said it to anybody. And I thought, I'd wait, as I promised to bring it to the church first. See? Bring it to the church. That was my promise. And you'll realize after tonight, the reason I try to keep my promise. I thought then as I noticed those cankered-looking eyes on those women. There were the Spanish, French, Indian, and White, and all together; but that great big head, you know, bushed up, with those combs, the way they comb it back, way big, and then comes out. You

know how they do it, fix it in like they do it. And Then, those cankered-looking eyes, and the eyes with the paint, they run back like a cat's eyes; and they were talking, AND THERE I WAS AGAIN, WHILE STANDING THERE IN J.C. PENNEY'S STORE, BACK IN HELL AGAIN. I got so scared. I thought, "Lord, surely I haven't died, and You've let me come to this place after all." And there they were, making, just around like that, in that vision, as if you could just barely hear it with your ears, you know, just the mumble and going on of people; and those women coming up that escalator, and walking around there, and that, "Ooh, ooh!" And there were those green, funny-looking eyes, and mournful. And my wife came up, and I said, "Just let me alone a minute, Honey." I said, "If you don't mind, I want to go home." And she said, "Are you sick?" I said, "No, just go ahead, Honey, if you've got any shopping to do." She said, "No, I'm finished." And I said, "Let me take you by the arm." And we walked out. She said, "What's the matter?" I

said, "Meda, Something happened up there." And while I was under that, I thought this, "What day are we living in? Could this be the Third Pull?" Now I've got some notes here..." (We will skip the next four paragraphs, and continue the quote, as Brother Branham continued, saying): "Now after Jesus had clearly come, identified Himself, (for God identified Him), and He prophesied, after the days of His prophecy, though Scripturally identified, the people rejected Him. That's right. And He preached then, after they rejected Him here, to the ones that had a possibility of being saved. Remember, when He was preaching, there was a possibility of anybody being saved. We don't know who they are; they are predestinated. But He continually preached. But after the days of His preaching, His ministry continued on, because THE LAST GROUP HE PREACHED TO, WERE THE SOULS THAT WERE IN HELL, THAT COULD NOT BE FORGIVEN. I have clearly read that from the Bible here, from 1 Peter. See? He went and preached to souls that were in prison, which is hell, locked up

until the Day of Judgment; because, you see, the Judgment isn't now, and there is no burning hell now. If somebody tells you, "That guy is burning in hell now," that's wrong. See? A Judge of this earth is just enough to never condemn a man, until he's first brought to trial. And God will never throw a man into the fiery furnace, until first he is condemned by God's Own laws. He rejected mercy, so, you see, he first has to have a trial, and the trial is the Great White Throne Judgment. But now, he's in a place called APRISON HOUSE. As I saw the vision of both places, and by the grace of God, (I say this not to be sacrilegious, and, if it's wrong, God forgive me), I believe I've been in both places. And I have seen the redeemed, the blessed; and I have seen the lost, and where they are. And that's why I stand as your brother today, to warn you to flee from that downward path. Don't you ever take that road. And you've got everything to live for, in that blessed upward way, where the redeemed are enjoying peace, and they can't sin, they can't be sorry. There is nothing... They are perfect. I have seen both places! I know that's an awful statement for a person to make, but God being my Judge, I solemnly believe I've seen both places. I believe that. And, oh, far be it from any person ever entering that region of the lost! If you were standing with hot wires bored through you, tormented in every way, it would not be like that DEVIL TORMENT THERE IS IN THAT PLACE. There could be nothing... the human mind couldn't comprehend what that region of the lost is. There is no way to explain it. And there's no way to explain what the region of the blessed is; it's so great! That one is so horrible, and this one is so great. It's from the ridiculous to the sublime..." (We will also skip the next two paragraphs, and conclude the quote, as Brother Branham re-stated conclusively): ***"Now, Jesus, after He had finished His ministry, He preached to those souls that were unsaveable, that could not ever be saved. Now the Bible tells us that. "He went and preached to the souls that were in prison, that repented not." When***

mercy was given to them, they spurned mercy, and now they're waiting for the Judgment."

Now, please pay very close attention, for every true child of God should be able to see where the truth lies. In the first place, and as I stated earlier, when Brother Branham took this sermon, he was inspired or motivated by the spiritual experience he had, by the vision he had of Hell, for in that vision, he visited Hell, where he saw women with a certain condition, which he thought Hell made them have, for they had green paint under their eyes, and such stuff. This troubled him greatly, but he laid the vision on a shelf. However, when at a J.C. Penny's store, in the natural, he also saw the very women he saw in Hell about forty years earlier, coming up an escalator, he relived his vision of Hell, and this now moved him to take the message he took. He preached that message, strictly in order to warn people, particularly women, from this particular fashion of wearing paints (or make-up) on their faces, and such worldly stuff, so that they do not go to Hell, for the inspiration of it originates from the pit of Hell, and it is leading

straight to Hell. But in order to give grounding to that message in the Word of God, he had to take the Bible text he used, which also spoke of Jesus Christ, who similarly visited Hell, wherein he preached! Therefore, although he plainly and categorically taught in that message, that the souls Jesus preached to in Hell in that day, were the spirits of the damned, or the souls that were lost, which gives us the region of the unsaved, nevertheless, we must not forget, that the main focus and thrust of his message, was not the exposition of the souls Jesus preached to in **“prison”**, but of the women in Hell, and the horrible and hideous conditions of Hell! That was the focus and essence of his message, for it was what motivated him to take that message, and everyone with a pure and open mind, should be able to see that! On the other hand, and in contrast, the focus and essence of my message today, is not about the women in Hell, and it is also not really about the conditions in Hell, (although we have also considered it), but it is mainly about the exposition of the class of spirits Jesus preached to in Hell. Period! Hence I said that the focus and the emphasis of our sermons

are different, although we have used the same Bible text as a basis. In the second place, and more importantly, although Brother Branham went to Hell in a spiritual projection, and Jesus Christ also went to Hell, after his crucifixion, you have to agree with me that the Hell Jesus went to in his day, housed two regions, the region of the saved, and the region of the damned. Consequently, the prophet to this age was considering Hell, strictly from the view point of when he visited it, at a time when paradise and Hell had been absolutely separated! The Hell he went to, only had one region, and therefore, we must not confuse it with Hell, as it was in the day Jesus that went there, for they are two different things! The prophet talked about having visited **“Glory”**, which is the region of **“the blessed”**, which is up there in heaven, and of having also visited **“Hell”**, which is the region of the damned, which is in the belly of the earth, two distinct spiritual spheres or planes: One is up, and the other is down! Consequently, and inarguably, Brother Branham was obviously not considering Hell as it really was, in the days

when our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ went there! He was certainly not considering it, for he lost sight of that infallible scriptural fact! And I do not say this to condemn the prophet, but to let you see that it was not given to him by God, to unveil the truth concerning the class of souls Jesus preached to in Hell, being a truth ordained to come with further light! You have to see that! That was precisely why he completely lost sight of the fact that Hell also housed the region of the blessed, in the day Jesus went there! Therefore, despite Brother Branham's message, brothers and sisters, we still have to consider the particular region that Jesus preached to in Hell, for Hell had two regions in that day! And precisely which region did he go to? That is the question! For the question still remains, for we must still ask! Hence the reason for this message titled, **HE PREACHED TO SPIRITS IN PRISON: WHO ARE THEY?** This proves without any shadow of doubt, that at the hour the prophet took his message, it was not yet time for God to shed light on the truth of the class of souls Jesus preached to in prison. Period! No one can deny that! And that is precisely why we cannot

condemn the prophet for his interpretation of Apostle Peter's writings, in relation to the category of souls Christ preached to in Hell, for we should be able to see that his main inspiration and focus, was not on its exposition, but on women inspired from Hell, that it may act as a serious warning for the daughters of God, so that they do not follow the inspiration of Hell, in their bodily adornment. Period! That was precisely why he completely lost sight of the fact that the Hell he visited, the Hell he preached about, also housed the region of the saved, for it housed the two regions, in the day Jesus preached there! Simple! Who can deny that? The question therefore remains, *He Preached To Spirits In Prison: Who Are They?* I repeat: What Brother Branham was looking at, is not what I am looking at. As such, the emphasis and focus of our message is not the same. Consequently, brothers and sisters, you cannot use the message the prophet preached on *Souls That Are In Prison Now*, to nullify what I am laying forth today, from the Word of God, because we are not looking at the same focal picture! Our emphasis and focus is not the same, which is why the prophet

rightly titled his sermon: *"Souls That Are In Prison NOW"*; meaning, Souls that are in Hell TODAY; not when Christ went to it, but souls in Hell now, a message which was given as a serious warning! My message today, however, is simply expository, for it is mainly revelatory! Saints, he saw women in Hell with all their green eye shadow, lipsticks, false eye brows, and with all their false eyelashes, groaning hideously, **"Ooh, ooh, ooh!"** Because they were in torment in Hell! In that vision, Brother Branham had to scream to God, *"Lord, have mercy on me! I promise to be a good boy if you take me out of here!"* In that spiritual experience, God brought him back. Here he was with his wife, about forty years later, at a J.C. Penny department store. He saw two women coming up an escalator, chatting in Spanish, with green eye shadow, and with paint on their lips and faces, and he suddenly remembered, *"This is who I saw in hell!"* Church, instantly, he began to re-live his experience in Hell, for being a prophet, the vision suddenly broke out again, and right there, he began to hear those horrible voices groaning in Hell, **"Ooh, ooh, ooh!"** It

seriously affected the prophet emotionally and psychologically, that he had to go home immediately, because of the awful way he felt! But I ask: What triggered it? The ladies he saw in Tucson, ladies who were the very ones he saw in Hell about four decades earlier! No, no, no, it was not the torment side of Hell that triggered his bad feelings; it was the imagery side of Hell that did it, the women he saw in Hell, and in the very likeness and appearance he saw them there! This, brothers and sisters, was precisely what motivated him to take his message on *Souls That Are In Prison Now!* It was to warn the saints, not to follow the fashion of this world, for its inspiration and end is Hell! And that is why we do not touch these worldly evil things, the cosmetics of the world, for their inspiration comes from the pit of Hell. Those that do so are going to hell, for the spirit of it is from Hell. And let me tell you this, even as an unbeliever, one who is not living for God, dressing clean, and living a clean life has its benefits, because those are the kind of mortal elements of humanity God will preserve to repopulate the earth in the Millennium. Yes! Please do not dress like Jezebel,

and do not look like Jezebel; do not portray yourself as a bait for the devil, for you will pay a big bill if you do. We are called unto sanctification and holiness; let us therefore walk in true holiness. However, the truth remains that according to the Book of 1 Peter Chapter 3, Christ went to preach to spirits in prison. The question therefore is: Who did he preach to? Where exactly did he go? Was it to the region of the saved, or the region of the lost? Or did he preach to both groups of spirits? That is exactly what we want to find out, the Lord being our helper, for in that day, Hell housed the two regions: The region of the saved, and the region of the damned. But before we lay out the relevant passage of Scripture dealing with this subject for close and detailed consideration, I first want to give you the stand of Raymond Jackson, the chief apostle of this last age, on this issue. Please pay attention.

In the Contender Message titled, *Record Of Genesis*, Part 1, page 18, Brother Jackson stated: **“Great multitudes of those born in the last few hundred years before the flood were completely diabolic, just simply satanic in their overall makeup, just**

like we are seeing in our day. Therefore try to understand that in the last hundred and some years before the flood, as Noah and his sons were in the process of preparing the ark, many of those sons and daughters of the various Sethite line of descendants whose longevity of life carried them right on through to the time just before the flood, those whose behavior was affected by their surroundings, died before the flood came. That is why their spirits went into hell. Those that Peter wrote about actually died before the flood even hit. Since there was no written law, those who did manage to keep from being completely contaminated by Satan's tactics were somehow restrained by the Spirit of God: even though they did not understand many of their inner feelings. Therefore it is written in 1st Peter 3:18-20, that when Christ did die on the cross He then went into hell and preached to those imprisoned spirits. Actually it was the spirits of those that somehow or other were restrained by some means from becoming so completely

contaminated and possessed by the spirit of Satan, even though they did not understand why they were being restrained, or held back from doing what almost everyone else was doing. It was the Spirit of God that was doing it, preserving them, so they would not be completely lost in the day when the resurrection occurs. That is exactly why Jesus went into hell. HE WAS NOT PREACHING TO THE WICKED, DOOMED, SATANIC MOB OF LAWLESS SOULS that had lived their days in rebellion against God's righteousness; to give them another chance. NO. HE WAS PREACHING TO THOSE THAT SOMEHOW OR OTHER GOD SAW WOULD FIT INTO HIS PLAN. That is why they were witnessed to: so they would know what restrained them, and why, and how man's sin debt was paid. Every last one of them died before the flood. That is the only way you can read 1st Peter and make it fit into the picture; because it specifically covers that last period of years while Noah was building the ark.” However, in his message in a 1988

Contender Magazine, titled, *Faith versus Faith*, part 1, page 30, Brother Jackson stated: "Remember now, it is **ETERNAL LIFE** we are going to talk about. How can one have eternal life and still die? Has always been a question in the mind's of some. Notice a couple more verses. John 6:54, says, "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." That was Jesus talking, so notice, John 10:27-28, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto the eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (John 11:26) And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Well saints, here is what You need to see. Eternal life does not die; because the Spirit which is God, is that eternal life we receive. Therefore as your life separates from your body, the Holy Ghost goes right with your spirit. It is only your body of flesh that dies. It is dead because the spirit of life has left it; but the spirit does not die. Do you understand that? That is why **JESUS, EVEN THOUGH HE DIED**

PHYSICALLY, COULD GO DOWN INTO HELL AND PREACH TO ALL THE DEAD that were held in captivity by the devil. His spirit did not die; and neither did the Spirit of the Father leave His spirit. Therefore by the power of that sovereign Spirit that was merged with His spirit, He went down into hell and preached, while His body remained in that tomb where they had placed it. That is what Peter was explaining when he said, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also HE WENT AND PREACHED UNTO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON; (HE WENT DOWN INTO HELL, BOTH IN THE PART CALLED PARADISE AS WELL AS THE PLACE OF TORTMENT. Peter then explained what he was referring to.) Which **s o m e t i m e w e r e disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." I said earlier, that righteous**

Abel was the first man whose life was taken, in the beginning story of mankind. Cain slew him. He did not die a natural death. In other words, Abel was a very young man. He was the first one that went to hell; but he was in the paradise part of hell. He was certainly not in the torment part of it; he was in paradise along with a lot of others that had walked with God. Those that perished in the flood of Noah's day, were in the torment part of hell, as well as everyone else that had ignored the word of God for their day." (Moving much further down in that message, he re-established the same thought saying): "**Jesus went into hell, to make sure EVERY EVIL PERSON that lived and died before Calvary knew why they were in that place of torment; and to make them see what an endless hope they had; but those who live and die this side of Calvary need no such witness, for they have ignored the gospel of salvation that has been preached ever since. He witnessed to the righteous souls in paradise, to confirm to them what it was that had restrained them from**

doing wrong; and that had dealt with them in various ways during their lifetime.” In the first quote, Brother Jackson declared that Jesus did not preach to the souls in the region of the damned, but to the saved, and yet, in the second quote, he stated categorically that Jesus went to both regions in Hell, the region of the saved, and that of the damned, in order to preach to both categories of spirits. Brothers and sisters, the two quotes of Brother Jackson I presented are clearly contradictory. Certainly! Therefore, these two opposing quotes cannot both be right. So, the question remains: Which quote or statement is correct? This plainly shows, (for it confirms the fact), that the **“FAN”** also worked in a measure, in the Continuity Message he bore for the universal bride of Christ. Saints of God, knowing that Brother Jackson did not take 1 Peter Chapter 3, verses 17-20, as a focal message, and also, by virtue of the opposing views he gave on this matter, you have to agree with me, that the chief apostle was not given the revelation of this Scripture, hence the duality of his thought on the matter, for the revelation of God is one! Consequently, the

matter is one which the Spirit of God has to open up in absolute detail today, for the universal bride of Christ, that the truth of the Word may be made plain for God's elect seeds. But please, I want everyone to know that I am not knocking the chief apostle on the head for his dual statements, for I cannot do so, being a fruit of his ministry, and knowing that you cannot judge a man for a truth that has not been opened up in his day. But I am bringing out these things, simply to let the saints realise that the issue we are dealing with in this message, was not given to him to unveil for the body of Christ, and neither was it given to the star messenger to this age to unveil, for the time of its unveiling had not yet come, that this truth may form a basis for progressive revelation. Period!

Let us therefore now open up the Word of God, in order to x-ray this Scripture, in the light of true revelation, the Lord being our helper, for there is a truth this verse of Scripture holds. **HE PREACHED TO SPIRITS IN PRISON: WHO ARE THEY?** We take our text again from 1 Peter Chapter 3, starting from verse 17. It provides: **“For**

it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust...” What did Christ suffer for? He did not suffer for wrong doing, for he did no wrong! He was perfectly sinless! And he did not suffer for himself! He suffered for you and me; for he took our place on the Cross, paying the penalty of sin that we should have paid! He suffered on account of men, that by that means, we may be justified! Period! **“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”** So his suffering and death was a great exchange, for he bore the penalty for the sins of the whole world! He bore our sins! He took our place! The Just was smitten for the unjust! The Righteous was crucified for the unrighteous! He did it to set the whole of Adam's fallen race free, from the power of sin, death, hell and the grave, that we may have life eternal; for he paid the full price of redemption! Hence, he was **“put to death in the flesh, but quickened”** (or made

alive) ***“by the Spirit.”*** What Spirit? The Spirit of God! The Spirit which raised him to life on the third day, that we may have access to the Spirit of life! Now watch. Verses 19-20 adds: ***“By which”*** (Spirit) ***“also he went and preached unto the SPIRITS IN PRISON; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”*** Saints of God, I am not going to rush this message. I am going to take my time. That means I do not expect to finish it today. But I pray that God will help me to bring it forth, in a way that will be simple and plain, for all God's children to understand. I must confess though, that it has not been an easy message for me to project, because I know the Branham Movement will viciously condemn me for this truth, simply for lack of understanding, being only a carnal bunch of followers of the Message of the end time Elijah, William Branham. Nevertheless, the truth of the Word has to be established, for the spiritual edification of the bride of Christ, for we want to go home. Please do not forget that Hell held two regions in

that day: The region of the saved, and the region of the lost, people who have no eternal life attribute in them at all. Whoever is in the region of the damned is finished. He has no hope of any resurrection of life, except that of the damned. Therefore, he is confirmed for the Lake of fire, after the White Throne Judgment. Hence, as I stated earlier, there is no burning in Hell right now, for Hell is not on fire, although it is not a comfortable place either, being strictly a place of torment. Consequently, the place has much heat, and as such, it is definitely not a place where you can have Rock and Roll, as these unbelievers sometimes suggest in unholy jest, simply because musicians like Jimi Hendrix, Elvis Presley, and Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, have gone on there, without Christ! They say that there will be a big jam (or music concert or jamboree) in hell. If only people know what Hell is, and also the final destination where its occupants are heading directly to, thereafter, they would not talk sacrilegiously like that! Church, even now, it is a place of torment, and not a comfortable one at all; because it is a place God has reserved for souls that

are bound for the Lake of fire! So, this is the prison house for their spirits, pending that great day. But on a much higher level from Hell, we have the region of the saved. But on account of the fact that Jesus ***“led captivity captive”***, church, paradise is no longer in the belly of the earth, as a region in Hell: Paradise is now in heaven. Thank God for Calvary! But in that day, it was part and parcel of Hell, and as such, we must determine precisely, what region Jesus went into, to preach his message. The prophet to this age stated that Jesus preached to the lost souls in Hell. And in order to prove this, he stated that the ministry of Christ had ***“three pulls”***, just as his own ministry had three pulls, which simply means three stages or phases of his ministry. And of a truth, Brother Branham's ministry had three pulls, as declared by the Angel of the Lord. Healing was the first pull of his ministry. Discernment, (knowing the secrets of the heart), was his second pull. And the third and final pull was divine Revelation, the unveiling of the Word. We must therefore understand that the ***“Pulls”*** as a terminology, was peculiar to the prophet's ministry, for it was the coinage of the

Angel of the Lord to him. Brother Branham, as a man of God, is however entitled to take Jesus' ministry, and type it in whichever way he feels inspired to do. He then typed the third pull of Jesus' ministry to preaching to the lost, or to the unsavable, when he went to preach to the spirits in prison. But on the other hand, it is an infallible fact that the third pull of Brother Branham's ministry was not to the lost! The third pull of Brother Branham's ministry was strictly for the bride of Jesus Christ, and hence, by it, the world was shut out from the fountain of divine revelation, which was opened up to the elect bride! Wake up, now! The first pull was for everybody. And every tadpole, every cockroach, and every scorpion and bird of the night loved it; for they loved healing their sick bodies! When he also entered into the second pull of his ministry, knowing the thoughts or secrets of the heart, that even caused more attraction, for people loved it, and could not have enough of it! However, when he entered into the third pull of his ministry, it shook off every tadpole and bird of the night! That was when all the great throng of people from all religious walks of life left him! Why?

Because the third pull was and is strictly for the bride, placing absolute emphasis on the Word, being divine revelation, opening up the door of accessibility to unparalleled truth, to the end time bride! It gave us accessibility to fresh carcase! That being so, and we know it is so, and also knowing that the terminology and thought of the pulls, was peculiar to his ministry, and it started with his ministry, then, the third pull of Jesus Christ, should also open up a door of divine revelation to seeds, and not be a message for the lost! That is to be expected! Therefore, since he took the third pull and also applied it to Jesus' ministry, I would have expected him to similarly apply it to the elect seeds of God, and not to the damned! But please note that I am not judging him for the way he took it; but nevertheless, the fact remains that like begets like, for the standard of God is one! The prophet, or any other man for that matter, has a right to type whichever way he sees fit to type. But remember, Brother Branham's third pull had nothing to do with the damned, except that it blinded them from the light, for that pull was reserved strictly for the bride of

Christ, and that is what the Angel said will get the bride. And that is precisely why the third pull is still being carried on today, in simplicity, and in a most humble way, in the bride. It will come to its climax and most glorious end, in the ministry of the seven thunders, which is still not a ministry to the lost, but one strictly to the bride of Christ! As such, if Jesus also had a third pull, and I do not doubt that he did, we would expect it to be a ministry phase, that is applicable strictly to the elect seeds of God, and not to the lost! That is my point! Yet, I do not say this to condemn the typology of Brother Branham, but simply to make a serious point! For every man has a right to type in any way he sees fit, as long as he does not go against the Scriptures of truth! There are various ways you can type, for it all depends upon what you are looking at. Let me give you an example... I think I need to take the message on Types and Shadows again. Church, let me give you an example. From a scriptural standpoint, I can look at Joshua, and say that Joshua types the fivefold ministry of Ephesians Chapter 4. Why? It is simply because Joshua was an offshoot of the ministry of

Moses, just as the fivefold ministry is an offshoot of the end time Elijah's ministry. Do not forget that Moses, a prophet and deliverer, types the end time Elijah's ministry, for he was also a prophet and deliverer: He similarly called out the nation of the bride, from spiritual bondage, in the organised religious world, at this end time. Therefore, Moses types Elijah of the end time, and Joshua also types the fivefold ministry. Halleluiah! The fivefold is the ante-type of Joshua. I can perfectly type Joshua as the fivefold ministry. But I can also type Joshua as representing the ministry of the apostles. How? By looking at Joshua, not alone, but in relation to the other fold of ministries that were set in that day, over the children of Israel, giving us the additional ministries of priests and Levites, for he lead them all! In this instance, and in essence, I am looking at Joshua in his leadership role over the other folds of ministry in that day, just as the plural apostles make up the head of the Ephesian ministry. Perfect! Consequently, I can look at Joshua, and type him to be the head of the fivefold ministry. Yet, again, going even one step further, I can also use Joshua, as a type of the

lead apostolic ministry or standard bearer, for Joshua, like Apostles Paul and John, was a lead ministry in his day, having stepped into the shoes of Moses. That was why God asked Moses to lay his hands on Joshua in the presence of the people, that his honour may be placed upon Joshua! Are you with me? Yes, it is a perfect type, for you can type whichever way you want, as long as you keep the Scriptures in view, and you maintain a scriptural balance! It all depends on what a person is looking at! But the real issue is this: Is it Scriptural? That is the issue, for it must have a scriptural basis! And you also need to keep a Scriptural balance! You can type something this way today, and take the same thing, and type it in another way tomorrow, in order to bring out a different thought; but as long as you maintain a scriptural balance, and as long as you keep the continuity of Bible thought, you are at complete liberty to do so. Everything, however, is based upon the level of understanding of the Word we have. But with the typology the prophet gave, we still have to ask, **He Preached To Spirits In Prison: Who Are They?**

We must ask, for inspite of his typology, we are still not settled on this truth! We are not settled on it, simply because when the prophet went into it, he did not avert his mind to the fact that the region of the saved, together with that of the damned, were both in Hell, in the belly of the earth, and as such, we need to determine which particular region Jesus went into. This in turn shows that the time was not yet right, for the unveiling of this truth, and hence the reason this matter remains unresolved, inspite of what Elijah and the chief apostle taught on the subject. Full stop! Nevertheless, I must point out, however, that in the main, we have all looked at it the way the prophet projected it. But come with me.

Brethren, when we look at 1 Peter Chapter 3, we have to ask ourselves: Why is it that all through time, we have always looked at it the way Brother Branham has projected it, that the souls Christ preached to in prison, were lost or damned souls? Why? It is because of something we see in that Scripture, a word which pops out in our face, blinding us from looking further into the Word. All we see in the text in 1 Peter

Chapter 3, is verse 20, for it has a word in it which pops out in our face. Let us however start from 19, which reads: ***“By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were DISOBEDIENT, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”*** What pops out to us? Disobedience! That is what stands out to us, AND the fact that they did not make it into the ark, is all that pops out in our faces! That is all we see! And when we do that, church, the preceding verse loses its application. I was editing the message titled, *The Third Pull In Relation To the Three Steps into the Rapture*, and as I sat in my office, I came to a point, as I was going through something, a Bible text, and something else broke out before my eye of faith, and I screamed when I saw it! I know our computer typist, Sister Comfort Jude, would say to herself, *“Brother Amos!”* But she simply smiled, knowing I had seen something. I kept quiet about it. And this is exactly what I saw. I immediately rushed and opened to 1 Peter Chapter

3, because the Lord in His sovereign love and mercy, had opened it up for me. As I stated earlier, what pops out in our faces is the word ***“disobedience”***, AND the fact that they did not make it into the ark. Consequently, we assume that they were the class of souls that were not saved, but were damned. However, I say to you today that that is absolutely not so! No! Please hear me out though. We have a Scripture, where a similar word also pops out in our faces, and we need to consider it. Come with me to the Book of Ephesians Chapter 5, and we will take it from verse 6. It states: ***“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the C H I L D R E N O F DISOBEDIENCE. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.”*** I now ask you: Who are the children of disobedience? These are the seeds of Satan; children of the devil! They are called the ***“children of DISOBEDIENCE”***! And what do we do? Instantly, we apply that thought to the scenario in 1 Peter Chapter 3, and yet, it is not necessarily so, for it does not necessarily apply! You will see why shortly, for in fact, it does not apply in this

instance. In Chapter 2 of Ephesians, Apostle Paul also wrote, taking it from verse 1, just for a background, saying: ***“And you hath He” (God) “quicken, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world...”*** Saint Paul said that, because we Gentiles were ruled by Satan, being servants of sin, and hence, servants of the devil. We were not his children though, but as it is written in Romans Chapter 6, verses 16-18, the Bible says, ***“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, HIS SERVANTS YE ARE to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?... Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”*** That is the Word of God through the mouth of Apostle Paul, for we are indeed servants to whom we yield ourselves to obey. Continuing with Ephesians Chapter 2, we will take verses 1-2 again. It reads: ***“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this***

world”; (Saint Paul was addressing the saints, and was talking about their past walk, and how they were influenced), **“according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”** (Again, we see the children of disobedience). Verse 3: **“Among whom...”** He says that because we lived our lives among the children of disobedience! Is that right? Yes! We are not referred to as the children of disobedience, but that we live side by side with these people, who are the children of disobedience! **“Among whom also we all had our conversation”** (or manner of life) **“in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature THE CHILDREN OF WRATH, even as others.”** Did you hear that? Not that we were the children of disobedience, but that the fallen nature we had by birth, made us worthy of wrath, which is destruction, for we were all sinners by birth! We were therefore by nature, children worthy of destruction or death! But thank God for Calvary! Verses 4-6 adds: **“But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when**

we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Where are we sitting today? In heavenly places! No, we are not literally in heaven, but we are born again by a powerful revelation of life, and by the infilling of the Holy Spirit, which makes us sit in heavenly places by the operation of faith, because we are identified with Christ! Church, but look at what Saint Paul called us. He identified the children of disobedience who are out there, but he also says that by nature, we were also children of wrath or destruction, even as others, but that God's mercy reached out to us, and gave us life, who were once dead in sins and trespasses! What are you looking at? The mercy and grace of God unto salvation, manifested in our lives, making the difference! Look at Titus Chapter 3, and we take it from verse 3, which declares: **“For we”** (believers; we the saved of the Lord), **“ourselves also were sometimes foolish, DISOBEDIENT, deceived, serving divers**

lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” I ask: What is justification? Justification is total absolution! It simply means that you never sinned! You are not hearing me! To justify you means to set you completely free from your sin. It sets you apart from your sin, as if you had never even committed it in the first place. It is not just that God forgave you, it also means that He set you free from it, absolving you from it completely! Justification therefore separates a man from sin, and his sin no longer has any application to him. Period! That is justification! But how are we justified? By grace! But before grace came, the load of sin we were carrying, showed we were bound for hell, every last

one of us, for we were all disobedient! Consequently, the fact remains that the people God justified, were once disobedient. That is the absolute truth! You are not hearing me. The people God justified were once disobedient! We all were! But divine grace, God's sovereign elective love and mercy towards us, made all the difference! Therefore, we must be very careful in our application of the people whom the Lord said were disobedient in the days of Noah. We must be careful, for there is a world of difference in being merely **disobedient**, and being a **child of disobedience**. They are two different things! We were once disobedient, and thus worthy of death or destruction, but we were not the children of disobedience, for the children of disobedience are serpent seeds! I am only laying a solid foundation for the truth I want to project in this message. So, please bear with me, and follow me closely. The Word of God will settle everything.

Let us take a look at Romans Chapter 5, verses 18-19. We will start however, from verse 14, as it is written: ***“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them***

that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one” (who is Adam), ***“judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one”*** (who is Christ), ***“the FREE GIFT came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so BY THE OBEDIENCE OF ONE SHALL MANY BE MADE RIGHTEOUS”***, (though undeserving). Saints, now listen. From the last two verses, verses 18-19 which

we just read, it is evident that salvation is strictly of the Lord, for it is a divine gift. This is a fundamental truth that I want to fortify my foundation with, before we move on. I repeat: Salvation is not of man; salvation is strictly of God, apart from merits. Prophet Jonah confirmed this fundamental truth in Chapter 2, verse 9, declaring: ***“But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. SALVATION IS OF THE LORD.”*** King David in Psalm 3, verse 8, tells us the same thing, saying: ***“Salvation belongeth unto the Lord...”*** But in particular, I want us to see Romans Chapter 9, verses 15-16, which states: ***“For He”*** (God) ***“saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.”*** I ask: What does this show? It undoubtedly shows that salvation is strictly of God! He rules it; He determines it; He ordains it; and no man can question Him, or query whatsoever He does. He will save whom He will

save, and He will have mercy on whom He will have mercy. He does not care whether the person is totally immersed in sin or not. If the Lord will save him, He will save him, for He is able to save, regardless of how sinful a man is. Salvation is not of man, but it is strictly and solely a prerogative of the Almighty God, for it is a gift. Saints of God, what is all this showing us, and why am I laying out this fundamental truth of God? It is simply to let us realise that the message of salvation, is much deeper than how we oftentimes look at it. This message of redemption is much deeper and much broader than we often consider it. God alone rules His Kingdom. It is not that He does not want any particular person to be saved, it is the knowledge of the fact that not everybody is saveable, by reason of their right of choice, not to be saved! Hence, there are people that are unsaveable, not because the opportunity for salvation is not given to them, it is that they do not care for salvation, and they will not accept salvation, which is a gift receivable by faith! And God by His infallible foreknowledge, knows precisely who will be saved, and who will not be saved, for He knows who will accept salvation, and

who will reject it. He knows the end of everything from its very beginning! Hence, on account of His sovereignty and Omnipotence, He is able to save whomsoever He wants to save, for salvation is a gift, and hence it is by grace, being an unmerited favour! I will say it like that, and leave it just like that. Nonetheless, the fact remains that salvation is of the Lord. And with this thought at the back of our minds, when we therefore consider our focal and major Bible text for this message, 1 Peter Chapter 3, verses 18-20, we must not lose sight of the prerogative right of God, to give salvation to whomsoever He wishes, for salvation belongs to God alone. When He decides to give life to those that are worthy of death, that is His prerogative; and nobody can question Him for doing so. Even mortal men, being evil, on account of being the president of a nation, can give a State pardon to a man on death row, a condemned criminal, who has been sentenced to death! How much more God! The reason I am emphasising this point is because, when we consider our main Bible text, all people see and think about is the word

“disobedient”, a word they use in their carnal determination of the class Jesus preached to, rather than to take a close and unbiased look at truth. But the truth is that we are dealing with Hell, which had two distinct regions in that day, housing two different classes of disobedient people: those who are **children of disobedience**, who belong to Satan, and **those who were merely disobedient** in that hour of time, but seeds of God, nonetheless, for they did not make it into the ark, for one reason or the other! This will lead me to consider this question: Where exactly are the souls of God's people who failed to make it into the ark? Are they in the region of the saved, or the region of the lost? That is the question! Furthermore, when Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary, do you know how many souls had died before then, all through time, to that point in time, right from the first Adam? Remember, the first one to die was Abel, not Adam. But Adam also eventually died. Are you with me? All through time, up to Noah's day, and right after Noah's day, men had been dying, even right up till we came to the time of Abraham. Men had been dying, and souls had been

going to prison, till the hour Moses also came. The Jews were given the Torah, and they embraced it. But they were still dying all the way through time, until our Lord Jesus eventually came, to usher in the New Dispensation of Grace, and he died on the Cross of Calvary, after which he went to preach to the souls in prison. Now, church, this is my question, which you first have to answer. Why is it that the souls in Noah's day were singled out of all those that were in prison? Why? What was it for? Why were they the only ones mentioned? But they were not the only souls in prison! Why did God inspire Saint Peter to mention only souls that perished in the hour of Noah? Are they the only ones that are damned, if we think they are damned? Are

they the only ones? What about others who lived after the event of the flood? Think about it!

These are just questions I am putting to you, to make you have a re-think, to reconsider, and seriously too. Because there has to be a reason why the Spirit of God zeroed in on only one class of people! God singled out a people within a specific time period, just as it is written: **“By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited IN THE DAYS OF NOAH...”** But what about all those who died in all other periods of time, prior to Calvary? Why did God leave them out of this

projection? And what do we do with their souls? Where are they? These are questions we have to be able to answer, and we must answer, if we are to do justice to this message, because it is all part of the picture, and they all give us different pieces of the puzzle. But our understanding of this truth must be complete, if we have the true light. And if indeed we have the true light, then we must be able to answer all these questions, for the revelation of God is perfect. We will continue on Tuesday, by the grace of God. Let us bow our heads in prayer. (Brother Amos prayed).

May the Lord bless you.

HE PREACHED TO SPIRITS IN PRISON: WHO ARE THEY?



DIRECTORY OF THE SCRIBE contd.

22. The Walking Voice, Parts 1 & 2 (October 2007).
23. The Man That Was Caught Up, Parts 1 & 2 (December 2007).
24. Genesis: The Creation Of The Universe (January 2008).
25. Genesis: The Eden Of Angels (February 2008).
26. Genesis: The Eden Of Man (March 2008).
27. Genesis: Cain And Abel (April 2008).
28. Genesis: The Mark Of Cain (June 2008).
29. Genesis: The Mixing Of Seeds (July 2008).
30. Genesis: The Travails Of Ham (August 2008).
31. Why Continuity?, Parts 1 - 5 (September 2008 - February 2009).
32. The Promise Of John - Parts 1 & 2 (March - April 2009).
33. The Spirit Of John - (June 2009).
34. John: The Angel's Feet Placing (July 2009).
35. John: The Eating Of The Scroll (August 2009).
36. John: Completing The Voice Of The Seventh Angel (September 2009).
37. John: The Foundation And The Plumline (October 2009).
38. John: They Confessed And Denied Not (December 2009).
39. The Unseen Headship Of Jesus Christ (January 2010).
40. The Beautiful Bride - Part 1 (February 2010)
41. John, Angels, And Prophecy; *Special Edition* (March 2010).
42. The Beautiful Bride - Parts 2 & 3 (June 2010)
43. The Beautiful Bride - Parts 4 & 5 (August 2010)
44. The Beautiful Bride - Part 6 (September 2010)
45. Demonology: The New Face Of The Contender; *Special Edition* (October 2010).
46. The Beautiful Bride - Parts 7 - 9 (December 2010 - February 2011).
47. Latter Rain (March 2011).
48. Joel's Army (April 2011).
49. An Unholy And Profane Sign (June 2011).
50. A Religion On Its Last Trail - Parts 1 - 4 (July - October 2011).
51. He Preached to Spirits in Prison: Who Are They? Part 1 (December 2011).

Announcement

Our Convention dates for 2012 & 2013 are as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. May Convention: 17th - 20th May, 2012. | 2. Nov. Convention: 15th - 18th Nov., 2012. |
| 3. May Convention: 16th - 19th May, 2013. | 4. Nov. Convention: 14th - 17th Nov., 2013. |

NOTE: Our email address has changed.

All are welcome to the meetings. If you need more information, or if you have any questions or any comments, please feel free to contact us. All correspondence should be addressed to:

pastorbft@yahoo.com

For those who prefer to write, our postal address is at the bottom of this page. We look forward to hearing from you.

DIRECTORY OF THE SCRIBE

1. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 1&2 (January 2007).
2. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Part 3: The Uniqueness Of The Ministry (January 2007).
3. The Foundation Of The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 4&5: Testing For Faithfulness (January 2007).
4. Locating God: The Visitation Of God, Parts 1&2 (February 2007).
5. Affinity With Evil (February 2007).
6. Where Are We? (February 2007).
7. The Way Forward (February 2007).
8. The Plot, Parts 1 - 4 (March 2007).
9. The Seven Thunders In Relation To The Five Fold Ministry, Parts 1&2 (March 2007).
10. The Jewish Connection, Parts 1 & 2 (April 2007).
11. The Third Pull (June 2007).
12. The Third Pull, And The Three Steps Into The Rapture (June 2007).
13. The Angel Of The Seventh Seal (June 2007).
14. They Came To Present Themselves, Parts 1&2 (July 2007).
15. The Invitation (July 2007).
16. The Promise To The Overcomer, Parts 1-3 (July 2007).
17. The Manifestation Of The Sons Of God (July 2007).
18. A Woman Rises In America (July 2007).
19. The Prophetic Ministry Of William Branham, Parts 1-4 (August 2007).
20. The Three Scribes (September 2007).
21. Ministerial Irresponsibility (September 2007).

Directory contd. in the inner cover.



*Stand by the Rock of revealed Truth.
It makes the difference!
Matt. 16:15-18*

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Our Website: www.bfchurch.org **Tel.:** +234-1-7754594, +234-8033320989 (Mobile)