

Have you heard the cliché 'lose the battle but win the war'? We lost battles...war is won
[Love victory stories: Miracle on Ice \(1980\) – Rocky – Rudy \(3 plays\)](#) | Bible is story of victory
The Lord talking to the Serpent, Satan - [Genesis 3:15](#) "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will bruise his heel."

What would you rather have...a bruised heel or a crushed head? [Explain through crucifixion](#)

Peter was writing to those facing real opposition | Suffering – Mistreated - Marginalized

- May have wondered, "Is following Christ worth it? Has evil won? Is God still in control?"

One most remarkable passages - Peter lifts eyes above present suffering...conquering Savior
[He reminds them that Jesus Christ suffered, but His suffering was not defeat—it was victory](#)
Death paid sin - Resurrection defeated death - Proclamation declared triumph – Ascension

- When the world looked at Calvary, it appeared that Christ had been conquered
- Three days later it became clear that Christ was not the victim—He was the Victor

[How would your life change if you knew that Christ has already won the ultimate victory?](#)

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him. – Simple at first...others cause us to slow down

[Easy Connect the dots](#) | [Rom 10:13](#) 'Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'
[1000 Point Connect the dots](#) | [1 Peter 3:18-22](#) - Death, Proclamation to the spirits in prison
Noah and the flood, baptism, resurrection, and Christ's exaltation—all in just a few verses

[I want to step back for a minute before we get into all that and tell you the big idea](#)

Big Idea - Christ's triumph transforms our lives

Remember Peter's readers...were suffering believers facing opposition because their faith
Needed confidence - Needed assurance that their suffering was not the end of the story

- Peter points them to Jesus. Reminds them Christ suffered – died - Christ was rejected
- w/ Suffering came victory - Cross came resurrection - Apparent defeat / eternal triumph

[Message Peter gives to those first-century believers is the same message we need today:](#)

[When life is difficult, when following Christ is costly, and when evil seems to be winning, remember that Jesus Christ is not defeated. He is risen, reigning, and victorious](#)

[I am going to give you three truths about Christ that will bolster hope...solidify confidence](#)

1. What Jesus has done: Died for our Redemption (18)

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Every religion in world is built upon people must do reach God | [Islam – No Assurance](#)

Muslims maintain balance between **fear Allah's justice** and **hope in His mercy...Righteous**

- Christianity stands alone...it built upon what Christ has done to bring sinners to God
- [Not a story of man climbing up to heaven; story of heaven coming down to rescue man](#)

Peter reminds suffering believers their hope is found in the finished work of Jesus Christ

[Christ suffered in our place so that we could be brought into God's presence](#)

a. **The Sufficiency of Christ's Sacrifice** - [For Christ also suffered once for sins – Once Powerful](#)

- OT sacrifices had to be repeated continually, Jesus offered Himself once for all

- The word "once" emphasizes that Christ's sacrifice was complete and final

Cross was sufficient – Payment was Satisfied – Nothing can, or needs to be, added

[Stop trying to earn what Christ has already purchased – Add to Gordon Ramsay's Dish](#)

b. **The Substitution of Christ's Suffering** - [the righteous for the unrighteous](#) | Clearest verse
[Substitutionary Atonement = Jesus Christ died on the cross in place the of humanity, taking the punishment that sinners deserved in order to reconcile them with God](#)

Christ was the Just One – We are Unjust ones – He took our place and bore our punishment
[Never lose your wonder at the cross...never let wonder grow dim...look with astonishment](#)

c. **The Purpose of Christ's Salvation** - [that he might bring us to God](#)

[The goal of salvation is not merely forgiveness; It is reconciliation with God](#)

Sin separated us | Christ: Removed the barrier – Christ grants us access into God's presence

[Best heaven...gold as glass...gems...loved ones ...united with God](#) | [Child separated parents](#)

[Takeaway - Remember the price he paid](#)

[Consider His Suffering – Contemplate His Substitution – Celebrate His Salvation](#)

2. **What Jesus has done: Declared His victory (19-20)** - Strangest verses in the NT

¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

[2 Peter 3:15-16...Peter says that Paul is hard to understand...and then Peter writes this gem](#)
[Martin Luther 'a wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so I do not know for certain just what Peter means.'](#)

[Who was Christ Preaching to? When did He Preach? What did He preach? Why preach?](#)

[There are 3 ways this text is interpreted and one is garbage while the other two hold weight](#)

a. **Grace Beyond the Flood** – Jesus preached gospel to those who died flood – 2nd chance
Purgatory = intermediate state after death where the souls of those who die in God's grace undergo a process of purification to cleanse them of sins before entering heaven

- Who = Died in flood | When = After flood | What = Gospel | Why = 2nd chance

[Heb. 9:27 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment..."](#)
[You have this life, and this life only, to accept the offer of grace by faith before judgment](#)

b. **Speaking through Noah** – Through the Holy Spirit Jesus was speaking through Noah
⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

120 years Noah was preaching repentance to people and NO ONE listened...blotted out

- Who = People time Noah | When = Leading arc | What = Repentance | Why = Not killed

c. **Proclaiming to Demons** – Jesus proclaimed a victory sermon to demons incarcerated
[Genesis 6:4 – 'The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them.'](#)

Demons took on human form & had children with the daughters of man = Corrupt Lineage

⇒ So wicked the Lord imprisoned them awaiting final judgment...Christ went to preach

- Who = Imprisoned Demons | When = After Crucifixion | What = Thwarted | Why = Victory

[This makes the most sense to me because right before it says 'being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,'](#)

[Would mean...omnipresent Jesus was Paradise with thief – Preaching to imprisoned demons](#)

- **The Declaration of Christ's Victory** - [went and preached unto the spirits in prison](#)

- **The Disobedience of Christ's Enemies** - [because they formerly did not obey](#)

- **The Deliverance of God's People** - [eight persons, were brought safely through water](#)

[Takeaway - Remember the failure of evil](#)

[Recall Its Defeat – Recognize Its Deception – Remember Its Doom](#) | [Imagine three is correct](#)

[Christ's victory over every enemy assures believers of ultimate triumph](#)

3. **What Jesus has done: Delivered our assurance (21-22)**

²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

The world often measures victory by power, popularity, or position

Celebrate champions stand on podiums, politicians win elections, businesses that dominate

Greatest victory in history was won not by conqueror on battlefield, but a Savior on a cross

Because Christ triumphed, believers can live with confidence, commitment, and courage

I'm going to give you three ways, from this text, that Jesus has delivered your assurance

a. **Christ Has Secured Our Salvation** - Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you,

Peter is not teaching that the act of baptism washes away sin. He immediately clarifies

not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience,

• Just as Noah and his family were saved through the floodwaters – **God doesn't throw**

• Baptism symbolizes our identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection

Water did not save Noah; God saved Noah - Water of baptism does not save; Christ saves us

Imagine if water could save you...we wouldn't buy tracks...we'd buy buckets

Baptism: Died with Christ – Buried with Christ – Raised with Christ – Belong to Christ

TIME - Wedding Ring doesn't make someone married – Baptism doesn't make you saved

b. **Christ Has Ascended in His Sovereignty** - who has gone into heaven & is at right hand of God

After resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven and took His place at the Father's right hand

• **It Meant Jesus Shared the Highest Position of Honor** – Place next to the king

• **It Meant Jesus Had Finished His Saving Work** – Priests never sat down

• **It Meant Jesus Possessed Divine Authority** – Old Testament promises of the Savior

Jesus reigns in authority over all powers and dominions

c. **Christ Has Subdued Every Enemy** - angels, authorities, & powers having been subjected to him.

• Peter concludes with a sweeping declaration of Christ's absolute victory

• Every angelic being, every authority, every spiritual power is subject to Jesus Christ

○ Rome was Powerful – Hardship is Intimidating – Demonic Forces are Threatening

The cross looked like defeat, but it became the greatest victory ever won

June 1945 – New York – Eisenhower – 4 Million People – 5000 pounds of confetti

Jesus is gonna throw a party that makes that look like a quiet Tuesday afternoon

If you have given your life to the Lordship of Christ...assuredly...you will be at that party

Takeaway - Remember the salvation you've received

Recall the Rescue – Reflect on the Redemption – Rejoice in the Relationship

How would your life change if you knew that Christ has already won the ultimate victory?

The Bible is a story of victory - **Big Idea - Christ's triumph transforms our trials**