

50+ Ministry

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60+ *Legacies*
Sunday Class

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All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

Led by Rev. Craig Chapman
cchapman@allsaintsaustin.org

*****NAME TAGS, PLEASE*****

*****Sit UP FRONT & TOGETHER, PLEASE*****

Because You Asked

*Answering Your Questions,
According to Scripture*

All Saints Presbyterian Church

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Austin, TX

Spring 2026

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

50+ Special Events – 2026

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Because You Asked”

50+ Special Events

- **March 28 (Sat) – Indoor Pickleball Round Robin**
 - 2 – 4 pm – Hill Country Sport & Fitness – **Registration Now Open**
- April 17 (Fri) – Painted Churches Tour & Lunch
 - 8:30 am – 4:30 pm – Schulenberg, TX
- May 7 (Thu) – Texas Capitol & Governor’s Mansion Tour
 - 9:45 am – 3 pm – Lunch at Capitol Grill
- May 29 (Fri) – Summer Social
 - 6:30 – 9 pm – Betsy & Dave Willis’ home.
BYOB & Appetizer or Dessert.
- July 4 (Sat) – Patriotic Pool Party
 - 6 – 9 pm – Location TBD. BYOB & Appetizer or Dessert.
Burgers & Hot Dogs provided.

3/22/26

50+ Special Events – 2026

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Because You Asked”

Happy St. Patrick's Day !!!





LENT

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

COME THOU FOUNT

Robert Robinson



COME THOU FOUNT

Robert Robinson

*Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love.*

*Here I raise my **Ebenezer***, hither by Thy help I'm come,
And I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
Here to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood*

*O to grace, how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.*

* 1 Samuel 7:12

50+ Special Events – 2026

Songs of Praise

Prayer & Scripture

“Because You Asked”

Romans 8:26-27

*... the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
For we do not know what to pray for as we ought,
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us
with groanings too deep for words.
And he who searches hearts knows
what is the mind of the Spirit,
because the Spirit intercedes for the saints
according to the will of God.*

(ESV)

New City Catechism

(thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism)

Part 1—God, Creation & Fall, Law (Q1-Q20)

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Part 2—Christ, Redemption, Grace (Q21-Q35)

New City Catechism

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Part 2—Christ, Redemption, Grace (Q21-Q35)

Q22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

A22: *That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses..*

New City Catechism

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Part 2—Christ, Redemption, Grace (Q21-Q35)

Q22: Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

A22: *That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses..*

Hebrews 2:17

*Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make **propitiation** for the sins of the people.*

Athanasius of Alexandria

3/22/26

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Athanasius of Alexandria

For the Word, perceiving that no otherwise could the corruption of men be undone save by death as a necessary condition, while it was impossible for the Word to suffer death, being immortal, and Son of the Father; to this end He takes to Himself a body capable of death, that it, by partaking of the Word Who is above all, might be worthy to die in the stead of all, and might, because of the Word which was come to dwell in it, remain incorruptible, and that thenceforth corruption might be stayed from all by the Grace of the Resurrection. Whence, by offering unto death the body He Himself had taken, as an offering and sacrifice free from any stain, straightway He put away death from all His peers by the offering of an equivalent. For being over all, the Word of God naturally by offering His own temple and corporeal instrument for the life of all satisfied the debt by His death. And thus He, the incorruptible Son of God, being conjoined with all by a like nature, naturally clothed all with incorruption, by the promise of the resurrection.



Lesson Series

- 1/11/25 – *Because You Asked* – Infant Baptism
- 1/18 – Guest Teacher: Bill Laughlin—*Barnabas: Son of Encouragement*
- 1/25 – No Class (due to weather)

- 2/1 – *Because You Asked* – Angels & Their Abilities
- 2/8 – *Because You Asked* – Angels & Their Abilities – 2
- 2/15 – *Because You Asked* – Angels & Their Abilities – 3
- 2/22 – *Because You Asked* – Modern Israel

- 3/1 – *Because You Asked* – Modern Israel – 2
- 3/8– Guest Teacher: Bill Walker
- 3/15 – No Class (Spring Break)
- **3/22 – *Because You Asked – He Descended Into Hell***
- 3/29 – *Because You Asked* – Prayer

- 4/5 – No Class (Easter)
- 4/12 –
- 4/19 –
- 4/26 –

Lesson Series

- 5/3 – Guest Teacher:
- 5/10 – No Class (Mother’s Day)
- 5/17 –
- 5/24 – No Class (Memorial Day Weekend)
- 5/31 –

- 6/7 – Guest Teacher:
- 6/8 –
- 6/14 –
- 6/21 –
- 6/28–

- 7/5 - 8/16 – No Class (Summer Break)

- 8/23 – Guest Teacher:
- 8/30 – Guest Teacher:

Because You Asked – Modern Israel

- 1 - Have the Old Testament promises to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob been “transferred” to the Church?
- 2 – Are these covenant promises to the ethnic Jewish people and thus are yet to be fulfilled?
- 3 - How should we Christians view the modern nation-state of Israel?

Because You Asked – Modern Israel

1 - Have the Old Testament promises to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob been “transferred” to the Church?

- Gen 12.2-3—” I will make of you a **great nation**...so that you will be a blessing. ... in you **all the families** of the earth shall be **blessed**.”
- Gen 13.15-16—”...all the **land** that you see I will give to you and to your **offspring** forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring ... so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your **offspring** also can be counted.”
- Galatians 3:16—”...the promises were made to Abraham and to his **offspring**. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” **who is Christ**.”
- The Abrahamic promises terminate in Christ as the true Seed.
- Because Christ is the Seed, the promises to Abraham reach their goal *in him*, not apart from him
- **God’s covenant promises to Abraham and his seed are fulfilled in Christ. Thus, all united to Christ by faith—Jew and Gentile—inherit those promises.**

Because You Asked – Modern Israel

1 - Have the Old Testament promises to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob been “transferred” to the Church?

- 2 Corinthians 1:20—“*..all the promises of God find their Yes in him*”
- Luke 22.20—“*This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood*”
- Hebrews 8-10—Jesus is the mediator of this better covenant, which brings to God’s people forgiveness and his law written on their heart
- Christ is the true Seed of Abraham
- Believers united to him are Abraham’s offspring and heirs
- ... a Greater Land—globalized, transformed, renewed, heavenly
- Israel’s covenant titles and promises extend to Christ’s Church
- In **One Man** we have **one reconciled people of God**
- All God’s promises find their “yes” in Jesus
- **In Christ, God’s promises** are neither abolished nor merely transferred, but **fulfilled, deepened, intensified, and expanded**

Because You Asked – Modern Israel

2 – Are these covenant promises to the ethnic Jewish people and thus are yet to be fulfilled?

Romans 11

Aspect	Israel's Role	Gentiles' Role	Outcome for Promises
Olive Tree Root/Sap	Patriarchs & Covenants (e.g., land, seed, blessing)	Nourished by it	Continuity in Christ
Current Branches	Remnant believes, but many are hardened	Grafted in by faith	Shared inheritance (Gal 3:29 & Rom 11)
Future	Mass restoration	Provoke jealousy	Full Abrahamic blessing (Gen 12:3) in Christ

- Balances the Church as Heirs (Galatians 3 & Ephesians 2) with Hope for Israel's future ingathering (Romans 11), yet all in Christ

Because You Asked – Modern Israel

2 – Are these covenant promises to the ethnic Jewish people and thus are yet to be fulfilled?

Romans 11

Aspect	Covenantal/Reformed View	Dispensational View
Romans 11 Salvation	Mass ethnic Jewish conversion to Christ to join Church near history's end (Rom 11.25-26; Isa 59.20)	National repentance during and after Tribulation, with Christ's millennial kingdom on earth for restored Israel (Rom 11.25-27; Zech 13.1)
Land Promise	Spiritualized/fulfilled in Christ & new creation (Heb 11.10; Rev 21)	Literal, future possession by ethnic Israel (Gen 15.18-21; Deut 30.1-5)
Kingdom	Inaugurated spiritually now. Consummated (one people of God) at Christ's return	Future, literal 1000-year reign with Israel at the center (Rev 20.1-6; Isa 2.2-4)

- **Dispensational View—**
God's faithfulness requires a literal fulfillment of national Israel to avoid accusing him of breaking his covenant promises.

Because You Asked – Modern Israel

3 - How should we Christians view the modern nation-state of Israel?

Regardless of whether you tend toward a Covenantal or Dispensational perspective theologically, given the multitude of countries for Arab Muslims to live in a strong “majority population,” it is persuasive from a *humanitarian* viewpoint for the Jewish people to have a place where they can do the same, especially given the long history of persecution they’ve suffered and the large numbers today who publicly advocate for their genocide.

Because You Asked – Modern Israel

3 - How should we Christians view the modern nation-state of Israel?

Context

Population of Jews - **Worldwide**

- 1933: 15.3 M (9 M in Europe)
- 1939: 16.6 M
- 1945: 11 M
- 2026: 15.8 M

Population – in **Israel**

- 1950: 1.37 M
 - Jew: 1.2 M (87.8%). Muslim: 116K (8.5%). Christian: 36K (2.6%).
- 2026: 10.2 M
 - Jew: 7.6 M (~75%). Muslim: 2.1 M (~20%). Christian: 210 K (~2%)

Population of Jews – in **USA**

- 2026: 7.5 M (~2.5% of USA)

2025 World Populations

TOTAL: 7.9 B

Christian: 2.4 B (~31%)

Muslim: 2.0 B (~25%)

Hindu: 1.1 B (~15%)

None: 1.1 B (~15%)

Folk/Ethnic: 0.7 B (~9%)

Buddhist: 0.5 B (~6%)

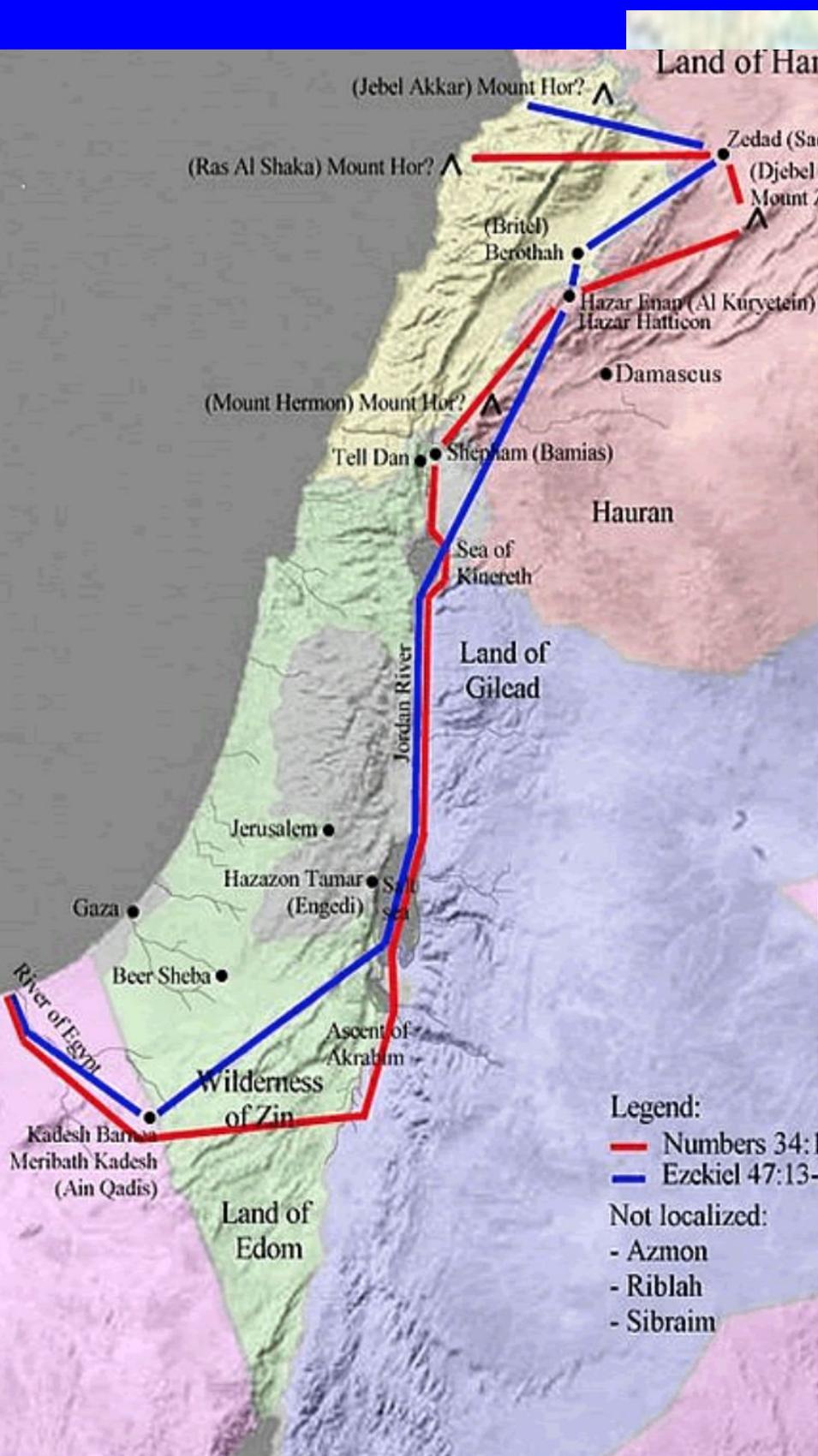
Other: 0.1 B (~1%)

Because You Asked – Modern Israel

Scripture – <i>Phrase</i>	Geographic Area Today
Gen. 15:18. Exod. 23.31. – <i>from the of river Egypt / Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the great river Euphrates</i>	Egypt's Sinai, up the Mediterranean coasts of Israel, Lebanon, Syria & Turkey; from the N Red Sea, across N Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Syria & W Turkey
Gen. 15:18. Deut. 11.24. Josh. 1.4. – <i>from the wilderness to the Lebanon, from the River Euphrates to the Great / western Sea</i>	From Egypt's Sinai to Israel to Lebanon. SW Syria. SW Turkey. W Iraq. Jordan. N Saudi Arabia.
Gen. 17.8. Num. 34.1-12. – <i>all the land of Canaan</i>	Israel. West Bank. Gaza. NW Jordan. Parts of Lebanon & SW Syria.
Deut. 1.7. Num. 34.7-9. Ezek. 47.15-17. – <i>this Lebanon ... "Lebo-hamath"</i>	Southern & Central Lebanon, into SW Syria.
Num. 32.33. Josh. 1.12-15. Josh. 13.8-12. – <i>land east of the Jordan</i> (Reuben, Gad, ½ of Manasseh)	NW Jordan. Gilead, parts of the Transjordan plateau.

- From the generation of Joshua, at least some descendants of Abraham-Israel have remained in the Holy Land

Because You Asked – Modern Israel



According to Genesis 15:18-21

1948 Jewish Population

265,000	MOROCCO
140,000	ALGERIA
150,000	TUNISIA
38,000	LIBYA
75,000	EGYPT
55,000	YEMEN
150,000	IRAQ
40,000	SYRIA
20,000	LEBANON
* * *	* * *
156,000	MUSLIMS in ISRAEL

2025 Muslim Population

2500	37 M (99+%)	JORDAN
1000	45 M (~99%)	0% Jews
1500	12 M (~99%)	98% Muslim
0	6.9 M (~99%)	2% Christian
< 10	105 M (~95%)	
< 10	32 M (~99%)	
< 5	44 M (~98%)	
< 10	21 M (~90+%)	
100	3.8 M (~65%)	
* * *		
2,178,000 (~20%)		

From 1948 to 2025, the population of—
-Jews in Arab Countries DECREASED by > 99%
-Arabs in Israel INCREASED by ~ 1,300%



Because You Asked – Modern Israel

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Regardless of whether you tend toward a Covenantal or Dispensational perspective theologically, given the multitude of countries for Arab Muslims to live in a strong “majority population,” it is persuasive from a *humanitarian* viewpoint for the Jewish people to have a place where they can do the same, especially given the long history of persecution they’ve suffered and the large numbers today who publicly advocate for their genocide.

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

In the apostles creed it says Jesus “descended into hell” but in the Nicene Creed it does not say that. Why not?

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Synopsis

- Remember our Church History “mini-series” where we learned that The Church’s ecumenical creeds were born of church leaders gathering to discuss, clarify, and affirm the veracity and heresy of various (even contradictory) teachings and theological disagreements of the day.

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Synopsis

- Remember our Church History “mini-series” where we learned that The Church’s ecumenical creeds were born of church leaders gathering to discuss, clarify, and affirm the veracity and heresy of various (even contradictory) teachings and theological disagreements of the day.
- The Apostles’ Creed and Nicene Creed were written for different purposes and stages in redemptive history.
- They emphasize different parts of the same faith.
- “he descended into hell” was a widely shared belief and never a big controversy; thus, it was not included in the Nicene Creed.
- The “Descent Clause”

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

The **Apostles' Creed** includes it because . . .

- It grew out of baptismal creeds of the early Church that sought to develop a full summary of the earthly ministry of God the Son: Jesus' life, passion, death, descent to the dead, and resurrection.
- As the creed expanded over time, the “descent clause” was added to highlight the completeness of Christ's death and scope of his saving work, reaching even those who died before his resurrection.
- (340 AD saw its earliest written version, which was eventually formalized liturgically by at least the 9th C. under Charlemagne.)

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The **Nicene Creed omits it because . . .**

- It was drafted at the councils of Nicaea (325) and Constantinople (381) primarily to resolve debates about the divinity of Christ and his relationship to the Father and the Spirit.
- The “descent doctrine” was not a major disputed issue in those controversies. Instead, the bishops focused on clarifying Christ’s incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, exaltation, and that the Son is “of one substance” with the Father.

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

Relationship Between the Two Creeds

- Both creeds are considered valid, orthodox summaries of the historic, biblical Christian faith.
- The “descent clause” in the Apostles’ Creed is fully compatible with what the Nicene Creed teaches about Jesus’ death and resurrection.
- Some churches prefer one creed over the other in worship, or for different occasions. For example, Nicene at Eucharist or Advent; Apostles’ at baptism or daily prayer.

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

Meaning of “descended into hell”

- The Latin phrase in the Apostles’ Creed is *descendit ad inferna*
 - “he descended to the realm of the dead” (Sheol or Hades)
 - Not: “he went to the place of eternal damnation” to suffer further
- Jesus truly died, entered the state or realm of the dead (Sheol or Hades), manifested his victory over death, and announced salvation to the righteous dead.
- For this understanding, proponents draw from and read together several biblical texts.

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

Scripture to Consider

- Psalm 16:10—“*you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption*”
 - Prophecy of Messiah’s temporary presence in the realm of the dead

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- Acts 2:27–31—Peter quotes Psalm 16, “*you will not abandon my soul to Hades,*” and then applies it to Christ’s death and resurrection
 - Affirms that Jesus went to Hades but he did not remain there

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 - Affirms that Jesus went to Hades but he did not remain there
- Ephesians 4:9–10—“*In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens...*”
 - Some: see this as simply his incarnation or burial
 - Some: see this as Jesus going to the underworld of the dead

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

Scripture to Harmonize

- Luke 23:43—“... *I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise*”
 - Some: “*paradise*” is part of the righteous side of Sheol/Hades
 - Others: “*Truly I say to you today, you will be with me in paradise*”
—the fulfillment is still future

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 - Others: “*Truly I say to you today, you will be with me in paradise*” —the fulfillment is still future
- John 20:17—“*Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father*”
 - Between death and resurrection he wasn't yet in the Father's immediate presence, but in the realm of the dead or dying

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

Scripture that Confounds

- 1 Pet 3:18–20—“*Christ...being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.*”

3 Views

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

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3 Views

- Pre-incarnate Christ preached thru Noah to those before the Flood, whom Noah called to repentance but who disobeyed and are now “spirits in prison” or under judgment
 - Just as God vindicated Noah, he vindicates Christians, or will.

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 - Just as God vindicated Noah, he vindicates Christians, or will.
- After Death & before Resurrection, Christ descended to the realm of the dead to preach his victory to ...
 - The spirits of Noah’s wicked contemporaries; or
 - Fallen angels, often identified with the ‘sons of God’ (Gen 6.2f)
 - Just as God vindicated Jesus, he vindicates Christians, or will.

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

Majority View on 1 Peter 3

- The Greek word for “*proclamation*” (of Christ’s victory) means an *announcement, declaration, or heralding*, not necessarily a new evangelistic offer after death to repent. (See Hebrews 9:27)
- Peter’s focus is not to give a travelogue of Jesus’ soul, but to encourage Christians that the risen Christ now has all “angels, authorities and powers” subject to him.

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Varying Overall Views from Scripture

- Some: these texts teach that Jesus truly died and was in the **grave**, not that he went to a separate realm to preach to or liberate souls.
- Some: see a real descent to the dead as a way of stressing that Christ’s saving work reaches into death itself and assures believers that there’s no place, not even the grave, beyond his victory.

Because You Asked – “He descended into hell”

Majority Overall Views from All Scripture

- After death, Christ truly entered the realm of the dead (Hades/Sheol), not just the grave.
- There, he “proclaimed” his victory—to imprisoned spirits and thus demonstrated that his lordship extends even into death itself.
- The “descent phrase” in the Apostles’ Creed is a short, confessional way of summarizing this theological reading: between his death and resurrection Jesus experienced real death, entered the place of the dead, and there manifested his triumph.

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Westminster Confession of Faith – Larger Catechism

- Q 50: Wherein consisted Christ’s humiliation after his death?
- A 50: *Christ’s humiliation after his death consisted in his being buried, and continuing in the state of the dead, and under the power of death till the third day; which hat been otherwise expressed in these words, He descended into hell.*
 - Cites: Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:24-27, 31

Next Class – March 29, 2026

Prayer