

L98 | Ephesians | "Christ Led Captivity Captive" | Eph. 4:7-16

I. Intro/Review:

1. Ephesians 4:7-16 Outline

1. :7 - Every one given grace
2. :8-10 - Gave gifts by ascension
3. :11 - Gave some
4. :12 - Gave for
5. :13 - Gave till and unto
6. :14 - Henceforth
 1. Be no more children
 2. Speak the truth in love - grow up
 3. Increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love

2. Every One of Us is Given Grace - spiritual gifts

1. The Measure of the Gift of Christ
 - Depth and Height of the love of Christ

3. When Christ Ascended Up on High

- Quote from Ps. 68
 - David recounting the Ark being set in place
 - Recounting Mt. Sinai

1. Led Captivity Captive
2. Gave Gifts unto Men

II. Preview:

1. When Christ Ascended Up on High

2. Christ Led Captivity Captive

3. What Is It?

1. That He Might Fill All Things

4. First Christ's Descent, The Same Christ's Ascent

1. Christ's Descent First
 - 1.1 - Lowers Parts of the Earth
 - 1.2 - Lowers Parts of the Earth in Connection with Captivity
 1. Captors
 2. Captives
2. Also Christ's Ascent
 - 2.1 - Far Above All Heavens

III. Sermon:

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he 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? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) {Ephesians 4:8-10}

1. When Christ Ascended Up on High - "when He ascended up on high"

1. Quote of Ps. 68:18 - David recounts the ark of God setting in its place in Jerusalem
2. Recalls similarity with Mt. Sinai
3. Fulfilled in Christ
4. (1) Led Captivity Captive
5. (2) Gave Gifts unto Men

2. Christ Led Captivity Captive - "He led captivity captive"

1. Paul's quote of Psalm 68 and connecting it in fulfillment with the Lord Jesus Christ he pauses to take some time to detail "led captivity captive".
2. General Use of "led captivity captive"
 1. Three parties
 - 1) One that "leads"
 - 2) Captors
 - 3) Captives
 2. Action of "led captivity captive"
 - 1) Toward captors - take captive
 - 2) Toward captives - liberate
 3. Description of "led captivity captive"
 - 1) The leader takes enemies into captivity - conquest, battle, fight, warfare
 - "took...captives"
 - "taken captives"
 - "carried them captives"
 - 2) Goes further - reversal of captivity
 - Those that were once held captive now become the captives
 - **Isa. 14:2** - "And the people shall take them, and bring them to their place: and the house of Israel shall possess them in the land of the LORD for servants and handmaids: and they shall take them captives, whose captives they were; and they shall rule over their oppressors."
 - Isa. 61:1-2
 - Luke 4:16-21
 - Jn. 11:18-27 (Jn. 8:33-36) - proclaiming, teaching

3. What Is It? - "what is it...that He might fill all things."

1. That He Might Fill All Things
 - Jn. 1:14, 17
 - **Col. 1:18-19**, 2:9-15, 3:11

- Eph. 1:19-23
- Death, sin, darkness, and hell

4. First Christ's Descent, The Same Christ's Ascent

- Gesture of possession, ownership, and authority over enemies their territories and powers
 - Principality, power, might, throne, and dominion
 - Gen. 13:14-17
 - Job 1:6-7, 2:1-2
- Height & Depth
 - Romans 8:38-39 - Nor height, nor depth

1. Christ's Descent First

1.1 - Lowers Parts of the Earth

- Expressions - actual place
 1. **Heart of the Earth**
 - Matt. 12:40 - "...in the heart of the earth."
 2. **Under the Earth**
 - Php. 2:10 - "...and things under the earth;"
 - Rev. 5:3 - "And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon."
 - Rev. 5:13 - "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth"
 3. **Hell**
 - Luk. 16:23 - "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."
 - Isa. 14:15 - "...down to hell, to the sides of the pit"
 - **Bottomless Pit**
 - Rev. 9:1-2, 11, 11:7, 17:8, 20:1, 3
 - Key, smoke, furnance, darkness, shut up, seal
 - **Under Darkness**
 - Jud. 1:6 (2 Pet. 2:4)
- Death & Hell (torments) - They go together
 - (Psalm 55:15) Let death seize upon them, [and] let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness [is] in their dwellings, [and] among them.
 - (Psalm 116:3) The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat

hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

- (Isaiah 28:15) Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:
- (Isaiah 28:18) And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.
- (Revelation 1:18) 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.
- (Revelation 6:8) And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.
- (Revelation 20:13-14) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

1.2 - Lowers Parts of the Earth in Connection with Captivity

1. **Captors** - sin, death, hell, darkness (principalities and powers)

1. Principalities, powers, might, thrones, and dominions
 - Eph. 1:19-23
 - Col. 1:15-20
2. Enemies that our adversary and God's used against us - 1 Cor. 15 - enemies
 1. Sin & its wages - on the Cross
 - Rom. 3:20-21
 - The law - Col. 2; Rom. 7
 2. Death - in resurrection
 - Heb. 2:2-16 {14} - "that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"
 3. Hell - in death, resurrection, and ascension
 - Matt. 16:13-20 - gates of hell
 - Rev. 1:8, 6:8, 20:13-14 (nor depth) - keys of death and hell
 - 1 Pet. 3:18-22 - angels, authorities, powers made subject to Him
 - Even the spirits in prison
 - 2 Pet. 2:4-10 - "angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell"
 - Jud. 1:6 - "angels which kept not their first estate (principality), but left their own habitation"

2. **Captives** - Old Testament saints - those held captive

- Jude 1:14
- Heb. 12:23 (Heb. 12:1 - cloud of witness)
- Luke 16:19-31; Luke 23:43 (2 Cor. 12:4)
 - Rom. 3:23-26
- Body & spirit
 - Acts 2:29-35

- Ongoing
 - Acts 26:18

2. **Also Christ's Ascent**

2.1 - Far Above All Heavens

- Heb. 2:8; 1 Pet. 3:22, Eph. 6:12, 4:10, 1:21, Php. 2:9-11, Col. 1:16-20, 2:9-10, 15
1. Subject to Him - given all power and authority
 2. Subdue
 - 1 Cor. 15
 - Php. 3
 - Col. 2

IV. Conclusion:

- Ephesians 4:8-10 is Paul digressing to further authenticate the exceeding greatness of God's power wrought in Christ and His authority over all enemies on earth, under the earth and in the heavenly places.
 - Under His feet

 - As well as, the love of Christ for the church, His body, its degree and measure (the measure of the gift of Christ) concerning its depth and height to comprehend.

- From His power to work all things after the counsel of His own will to bring about His family, His church called out from His enemies, establish, and build them up - dwell in them forever and dwell among them forever.