

Christ's Message to the Spirits in Prison

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According to the apostle Peter, Jesus Christ preached to the angels who rebelled and chose Satan's way of living, which is contrary to Almighty God's will as defined by His spiritual law (Rom. 7:14; cf. 1Jn. 3:4),

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us (you) to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit (of Almighty God), ¹⁹by which **he** (Christ) **went and preached to the spirits in prison**, ²⁰who formerly were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited (patiently) in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is eight souls (living beings), were saved through water (1Pet. 3:18-20; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

These rebellious angels are in prison awaiting a future judgment because they have not repented of their sin (Isa. 1:18-20; cf. Ac. 2:38),

It shall come to pass in that day (of judgment) that the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones... (Isa. 24:21a; cf. Eph. 6:12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished (Isa. 24:22).

Due to Satan's ability to deceive those under his influence, it is unlikely that many fallen angels will repent prior to Christ's return. This reality is described in the following scripture,

(Satan) who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who **did not open the house of his prisoners** (Isa. 14:17; cf. Rev. 12:9; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Just as human beings can be forgiven and restored in their relationship with Almighty God when they repent and recognize that their sins necessitated the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ, so too can fallen angels. In both cases they will still die in accordance with God's law, and await a resurrection to eternal life (Eccl. 9:2-3),

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 6:23 cf. Eze. 18:4, 20).

The fallen angels are described as "the host of exalted ones" in Isaiah 24:21 and similar language is used in Ephesians 6:12. At some point, they will have the spirit of God removed and cease to exist,

He (God) shall cut off the spirit of princes... (Ps. 76:12a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

This same principle applies to human beings,

No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, and no one has power in the day of death (Eccl. 8:8a).

Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7).

Some religious organizations teach that fallen angels either won't repent or can't repent, while others have no opinion at all. Logically, if fallen angels won't repent or can't repent, then Christ was wasting his time by preaching to them. However, because his message resonated with these fallen angels some were aware of Christ's authority to judge their conduct at a future time,

When he (Christ) had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes (Gadarenes), there met him two demon-possessed men, coming out of tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way.²⁹ And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with you, Jesus, you Son of God? Have you come here to torment us **before the time** (of judgment)? (Mt. 8:28-29; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The key to understanding whether fallen angels can repent is found in the relationship between Gentiles in the physical realm, and sinners in the spirit-realm. In the physical realm, anyone who rejects God's law and commandments is regarded as a Gentile. The apostle Paul explained this fact to those in the early church who were Gentiles,

For as you (Gentiles) **were once disobedient to God**, yet have now obtained mercy through their (Israel's) disobedience (Rom. 11:30; cf. Eze. 39:23; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The apostle Peter confirmed the same truth,

For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing **the will of the Gentiles – when we walked in licentiousness** (law-breaking), lusts, drunkenness, and abominable idolatries (1Pet. 4:3; cf. Gal. 2:15, Eph. 4:17-19, 1Thes. 4:5; emphasis added).

Although anyone who is disobedient can be compared to a Gentile, it is not because they are uncircumcised. This is important because spirit-beings cannot be physically circumcised; so their state of disobedience is not related to whether they are circumcised or not,

Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but **keeping the commandments of God is what matters** (1Cor. 7:19; emphasis added).

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love (Gal. 5:6; cf. 6:15).

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh – who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision (Jews) made in the flesh by hands –¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ (Eph. 2:11-13; Ed. note in parenthesis).

According to the last scripture above, Gentiles are "far off" or separated from Almighty God because of their sins (Isa. 59:2). However, through the blood of Christ all sinners can be reconciled upon repentance (Ac. 2:38), and that includes angels who have

sinned because God is not a respecter of persons, and is not willing that any perish (Ac. 10:34; cf. 2Pet. 3:9),

(In the presence of Almighty God) where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all in all (Col. 3:11; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Therefore, it is likely that Jesus Christ preached the good news that salvation would be available to those fallen angels who willingly repented of their sins, based on his sacrifice to atone for them,

For he himself (Christ) is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us, ¹⁵ having abolished in his flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances (related to the animal sacrificial system that was fulfilled at Christ's death; cf. Mt. 5:17), so as to create in himself one new man from two, thus making peace. ¹⁶ and that he might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross (Gr. stauros – upright wooden stake or pole), thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And **he came and preached peace to you who were afar off** and to those who were near (Eph. 2:14-17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Fallen angels have been “afar off” for a very long time but, now that Christ has shed his blood for all sinners (Heb. 9:22), fallen angels who repent can be reconciled to Almighty God even though they will cease to exist at some point in the future as they wait for Christ's return or the second resurrection, depending on the timing of their repentance (Rev. 20:4-6). All fallen angels who refuse to repent of their sins will remain “afar off” from Almighty God and could be viewed as spiritual Gentiles, with Satan as their father, just as the rebellious Pharisees were,

You (Jewish religious leaders) are of **your father the devil**, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it (Jn. 8:44; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Physical Gentiles that repent of sin are grafted into the spiritual nation of Israel and no longer considered Gentiles (Rom. 11:11-20). Gentiles in the spirit realm who repent will also be grafted into the spiritual nation of Israel with Jesus Christ as their delegated leader, instead of Satan (Mic. 2:12-13). Therefore, Jesus Christ is a light to the Gentiles in both the physical and spiritual realms,

Indeed He (Almighty God) says, ‘It is too small a thing that you (Christ) should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give you as alight to the Gentiles**, that you should be My salvation to the ends of the earth’ (Isa. 49:6; cf. Lk. 2:29-32; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Therefore, when the term “Gentiles” is applied to those in the physical realm only, it limits Almighty God's plan of salvation and leaves many of His sinful “spirit-children” without any hope of forgiveness and reconciliation to Him. It also limits the reason for Christ's sacrifice to those in the physical realm, which is highly unlikely. As God's servants are to pray for their enemies, this should include praying that the Gentiles in the spirit realm will repent and be restored to the family of Almighty God (Mt. 5:44).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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