

## What did happen from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning?

Elaine McLachlan

Jesus gave up His spirit. Instantly His Spirit was in Sheol / Hades / the place of the dead. (Matthew 27:50)

Instantly the way to God's throne was opened, symbolised by the torn curtain. The Holy of Holies and the mercy seat were open to all. (27:51)

Instantly the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life and came out of the tombs. After Jesus' resurrection they appeared to many people. (27:52) In Hebrews 11:35, for example, women received back their dead, raised to life again.

Christ died once for all (past, present and future,) the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (God's passion and Jesus' death were for this reason.) He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18) through whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who disobeyed long ago. (3:19) What He said to the repentant thief on the cross (Luke 23: 43) indicates His consciousness of what He was suffering for. While we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Waiting in Sheol were those who had died before they had received what had been promised. (Hebrews 11:39) Jesus had dealt with the sin of the world once and for all so they went into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19) and the Light of the world moved through with the keys of the Kingdom, setting the prisoners free. Did He use words to preach or was it just the Glory and the Anointing that moved people to follow Him out of that place in the depths of the earth?

He descended to the depths of the earth (graves, waiting places) (Psalm 139:8) and then ascended on high... He led captives in His train... (Ephesians 4:9&8) His preaching might just have been "Come, follow Me." (Matthew 4:19) Pastor Paul Locke had a vision of people in cages, longing to be freed. When He who is the Light of the world passed by, many who realised they could be free would leap at the opportunity and tombs burst open.

Such is the redemptive desire and power of God who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4) and not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

If moving in the Anointing and power of God is how Jesus preached to those "in prison" then Apostle Paul's connection with Jesus descending and ascending to give gifts to men (Ephesians 4:8) means that we are to preach primarily through the Glory and the Anointing of Jesus on and in us. We are to continue His ministry – Holy Spirit anointing should produce (Luke 4:18&19):

- ... freedom for prisoners
- ... recovery of sight for the blind
- ...release for the oppressed
- ...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

This is what He has shown us and trusts us to do.