

## UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE

### Session 14: Not of This World

29 January 2023

#### Objectives

- Describe how Christians serve as 'sacred space' for God's Spirit.
- Explain what Jesus did in hell, and what he does in heaven.
- Pledge allegiance to Jesus Christ in baptism, renewing that commitment in the Eucharist.

**Theme:** We Christians are the temple in which God's Spirit resides. Thus, dark powers watch our behaviour, to know where our loyalty lies.

**Jesus:** "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world." John 8.23

"You do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." John 15:19

**Cosmic geography:** Domains ruled either by Yahweh or by lesser gods.

**Sacred space:** Wherever God chooses to meet with human beings.

- First Testament: National Israel, temporary tabernacle, physical temple.
- New Testament: Individuals, Churches, Ministry teams.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?  
1 Corinthians 3:16

In [Christ Jesus] you [Gentiles] too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:22

Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

#### Maintain sacred space

##### Churches

The goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat. Leviticus 16:10

Hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 5:5

##### Individuals

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit Galatians 5:24-25

##### At the Lord's table

If we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:31-32

### **In the world**

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16

### **At baptism**

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. Romans 6:6

This water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. 1 Peter 3:21

Pledge: ἐπερώτημα eperōtéma: 1 the content of asking, question; 2 a formal request, appeal.

Conscience: συνείδησις syneidésis: 1 consciousness, 2 conscience, 3 conscientiousness.

Tentative interpretation: In contrast with the evil conscience of the fallen watchers in the Book of Enoch, for whom there is no sacrifice, human beings, by their baptism, appeal to God to have their conscience cleansed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, thereby renouncing Satan and his angels.

### **Descent into Hades/hell**

Descent traditions include Attis (Phrygian god of vegetation), Dionysos (=Bacchus, god of wine), Enoch (seventh from Adam), Herakles (son of Zeus), Ishtar (Akkadian goddess), Krishna (Hindu god), Orpheus (legendary musician), and Persephone (wife of Hades, king of the underworld).

### **Book of Enoch**

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” Hebrews 11:5

- One of many then current Jewish writings
- Provides details surrounding Genesis 6.
- New Testament writers quote from or allude to it.
- Is not ‘inspired’, was never in the ‘canon’.
- Evil church leaders did not try to hide it.

### Coming of the Lord

“The LORD came from Sinai ... He came with myriads of holy ones.” Deuteronomy 33:2

Enoch 1:9 And behold! He cometh with ten thousands of [His] holy ones To execute judgement upon all, And to destroy [all] the ungodly: And to convict all flesh Of all the works [of their ungodliness] which they have ungodly committed, And of all the hard things which ungodly sinners [have spoken] against Him.

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 1:14-15

#### Message to angels in prison

Enoch 14.4 And I wrote out your petition, but in my vision, thus it appeared, that your petition would not be granted to you, for all the days of eternity; and complete judgment has been decreed against you, and you will not have peace.

14.5 And from now on, you will not ascend into Heaven, for all eternity, and it has been decreed that you will be bound on Earth for all the days of eternity.

The angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. Jude 1:6

#### **Jesus’ descent into Hades, resurrection and victory**

He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit, [in which] he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits — to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. 1 Peter 3:18-20

Baptism ... now saves you ... not the removal of dirt from the body but the [appeal] of a clear conscience toward God. 1 Peter 3:21

#### Summary of Jesus’ career

1. Angels became disobedient to Yahweh, long ago.
2. Eight human souls were saved in Noah’s ark.
3. The Son appeared to humans as the Angel of Yahweh
4. The Son became incarnate in flesh as the Messiah Jesus.
5. Jesus suffered, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God.
6. Jesus was ‘made dead’ in his flesh (by crucifixion).
7. The Son was ‘made alive’ in his spirit.
8. The Son accompanied a repentant thief to Paradise.
9. The Son descended into the underworld prison.
10. The Son made a proclamation to disobedient spirits.
11. Jesus has risen from death back to life.
12. Jesus has gone into heaven, to the right side of God.
13. Angels, authorities and powers have been subjected to Jesus.
14. Jesus brings us to God through Baptism which now saves us.

#### **Importance**

Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Exodus 19:5-6

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Revelation 1:18

**Extracts from the Ethiopic Book of Enoch**

6.1 And it came to pass, when the sons of men had increased, that in those days there were born to them fair and beautiful daughters.

6.2 And the Angels, the sons of Heaven, saw them and desired them. And they said to one another: "Come, let us choose for ourselves wives, from the children of men, and let us beget, for ourselves, children."

6.3 And Semyaza, who was their leader, said to them: "I fear that you may not wish this deed to be done and that I alone will pay for this great sin."

6.4 And they all answered him, and said: "Let us all swear an oath, and bind one-another, with curses, so not to alter this plan, but to carry out this plan effectively."

6.5 Then they all swore together, and all bound one another with curses to it.

7.1 And they took wives for themselves and everyone chose for himself one each. And they began to go into them and were promiscuous with them. And they taught them charms and spells, and they showed them the cutting of roots and trees.

7.2 And they became pregnant and bore large giants. And their height was three thousand cubits.

7.3 These devoured all the toil of men; until men were unable to sustain them.

7.4 And the giants turned against them in order to devour men.

7.5 And they began to sin against birds, and against animals, and against reptiles, and against fish, and they devoured one another's flesh, and drank the blood from it.

7.6 Then the Earth complained about the lawless ones.

10.4 And further the Lord said to Raphael: "Bind Azazel by his hands and his feet and throw him into the darkness. And split open the desert, which is in Dudael, and throw him there.

10.5 And throw on him jagged and sharp stones and cover him with darkness. And let him stay there forever. And cover his face so that he may not see the light.

10.6 And so that, on the Great Day of Judgment, he may be hurled into the fire.

10.7 And restore the Earth which the Angels have ruined.

10.11 And the Lord said to Michael: "Go, inform Semyaza, and the others with him, who have associated with the women to corrupt themselves with them in all their uncleanness.

10.12 When all their sons kill each other, and when they see the destruction of their loved ones, bind them for seventy generations, under the hills of the earth, until the day of their judgment and of their consummation, until the judgment, which is for all eternity, is accomplished.

10.13 And in those days, they will lead them to the Abyss of Fire; in torment, and in prison they will be shut up for all eternity.

13.1 And Enoch went and said to Azazel: "You will not have peace. A severe sentence has come out against you that you should be bound.

13.2 And you will have neither rest nor mercy, nor the granting of any petitions, because of the wrong which you have taught, and because of all the works of blasphemy and wrong and sin which you have shown to the sons of men."

13.3 And then I went and spoke to them all together, and they were all afraid; fear and trembling seized them.

13.4 And they asked me to write out for them the record of a petition, so that they might receive forgiveness, and to take a record of their petition up to the Lord in Heaven.

13.5 For they were not able, from then on, to speak, and they did not raise their eyes to Heaven, out of shame for the sins, for which they had been condemned.

13.6 And then I wrote out the record of their petition, and their supplication in regard to their spirits, and the deeds of each one of them, and in regard to what they asked; that they should obtain absolution and forbearance.

13.7 And I went and sat down by the waters of Dan, in Dan, which is southwest of Hennon; and I read out the record of their petition, until I fell asleep.

13.8 And behold a dream came to me, and visions fell upon me, and I saw a vision of wrath; that I should speak to the sons of Heaven and reprove them.

13.9 And I woke up and went to them, and they were all sitting gathered together as they mourned, in Ubelseyael, which is between Lebanon and Senir, with their faces covered.

13.10 And I spoke in front of them all; the visions that I had seen in my sleep, and I began to speak these words to reprove the Watchers of Heaven.

14.4 And I wrote out your petition, but in my vision, thus it appeared, that your petition would not be granted to you, for all the days of eternity; and complete judgment has been decreed against you, and you will not have peace.

14.5 And from now on, you will not ascend into Heaven, for all eternity, and it has been decreed that you will be bound on Earth for all the days of eternity.