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The Journey of Jesus Between His Crucifixion and Subsequent Resurrection

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THE JOURNEY OF JESUS BETWEEN HIS CRUCIFIXION AND SUBSEQUENT RESURRECTION

“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matt. 12:40).

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 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.)” (Eph. 4:7-10).

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (1 Peter 3:18-20).

On the strength of these verses some have suggested Jesus descended during that time interval into the lower parts of the earth to perform a two-fold ministry:

- **To depopulate the saved compartment of Hades (a place for departed human spirits, called Sheol in the Old Testament, and Hades in the New Testament)**

Note Jesus’ parable of the rich man and Lazarus:

“And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom” (Luke 16:22, 23).

Did Jesus actually visit Abraham’s bosom? Some would say, yes, for He had just finished paying the full price for our redemption, thus allowing all Old Testament saved believers to now enjoy the fullness of their salvation as they enter the Third Heaven (2 Cor. 12:2).

- **To preach judgment upon the fallen angels who had attempted to corrupt human flesh during Noah’s Day and thus prevent the promised incarnation of Christ:**

“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose ... There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually ... But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (Gen. 6:1, 2, 4, 5, 8).

The theme of Christ’s message therefore would have been, **“It didn’t work.”** The following verses may support this view:

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into

chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment” (2 Peter 2:4).

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6).