

## Winning the Battle of the Mind – Part 2

# Overcoming the Giants in Your Life - Week 6

Biblical principles for overcoming obstacles in our lives



“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose** the Son of God was manifested, that **He might destroy the works of the devil.**” *1 John 3:8*

Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, **He led captivity captive**, And gave gifts to men.” (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also **first descended into the lower parts of the earth**? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) *Ephesians 4:8-10*

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### Purpose of Christ's coming:

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.** 1 John 3:8

### Hebrews 2:14 (KJV)

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;**

### Revelation 1:18 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>18</sup> 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 1:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

When the apostle Paul mentions that Christ "***led captivity captive,***" the very next verse (in [Ephesians 4:9](#)) says he does so in conjunction with his "***descending into the lower part of the earth.***" Many take this as another statement of Christ going into Hades. And Christ, then takes the believers in paradise and releases them from that prison.

We know for sure that **Luke 23:43** refers to the paradise that was under the earth because Christ went there for three days and three nights and did not go to Heaven immediately. Christ told the man on the cross next to Him that he would be with Him in paradise **that same day**. Think about it, if they both went to paradise when they died and Christ did not go to Heaven immediately but was in the heart of the earth then it could not have been the paradise in Heaven.

Everyone (*including John the Baptist*) who believed the Old Testament prophets were waiting for the coming of the Messiah (**Luke 7:19-20**). Those who died before Christ first came, who were holding on to the promise of the coming of the Messiah according to the Law and the Prophets (*the Old Testament*), went to Abraham's Bosom or paradise when they died. They received salvation when Jesus was crucified, died, descended, preached to them and ascended taking them on high with Him.

**“Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.” (Matthew 27:50-53)**

This word translated ‘*slept*’ refers to death in this scripture. The bodies of the dead saints had been in their graves (*MNEMEION*) but their souls had been held in this place where

Abraham and Lazarus were. They had been held by the power of death. They were waiting expectantly for Jesus’ coming. He went and preached to them and they were resurrected after Him and appeared to many.

Abraham was also in ‘*Abraham’s Bosom*’ awaiting the Messiah. No spirits are there now because Jesus emptied that place when He rose from the dead. The scripture says He led captivity captive. He delivered them from the power of death. But Hell still contains the souls of the unrighteous dead. These are prevailing truths that not only tell of the magnificent act of Christ but show the situation of the saved person as a result of Jesus’ selfless act.

**“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” (*Hebrews 2:14-15*)**