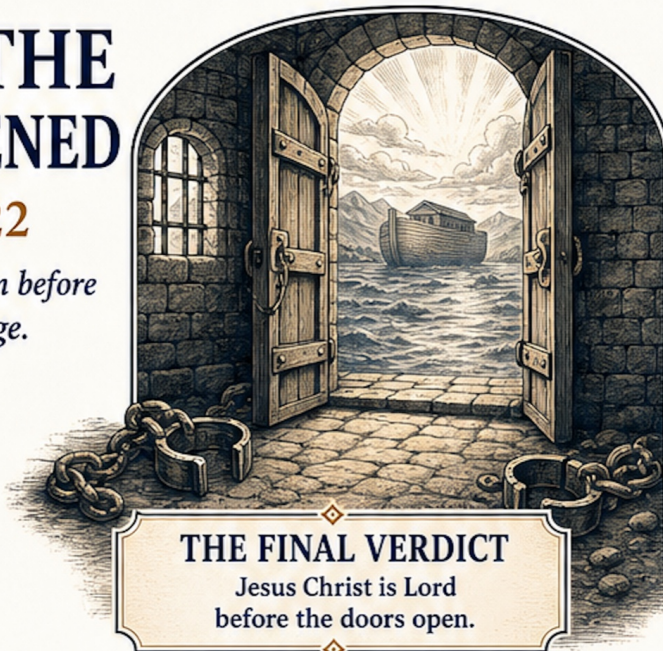




BEFORE THE DOORS OPENED

1 PETER 3:18–22

Christ's victory is certain before our circumstances change.



THE FINAL VERDICT

Jesus Christ is Lord
before the doors open.



KEY VERSES

1 Peter 3:18

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."

1 Peter 3:20

"...the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah..."

1 Peter 3:21

"...baptism doth also now save us... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 3:22

"...angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."

1 CHRIST SUFFERED TO BRING US TO GOD 3:18



- One complete sacrifice for sins.
- The Just One stood for the unjust.
- Christ did not merely relieve us; he brought us to God.
- Death did not render the final verdict.

"That he might bring us to God."

2 HIS VICTORY WAS PROCLAIMED 3:18–20



- God's proclamation cannot be silenced.
- God's judgment cannot be escaped.
- Christ's final victory cannot be overturned.
- Delay is not abandonment.

"The longsuffering of God waited."

3 BAPTISM AND THE RESURRECTION 3:20–21



- Water does not cleanse the conscience.
- Baptism is the believer's public answer to God.
- It announces union with the crucified and risen Christ.
- Salvation rests on Christ's resurrection.

"By the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

4 CHRIST IS ABOVE EVERY POWER 3:22



- Christ rose, ascended, and sat down.
- Every angel, authority, and power is subject to him.
- Hostile powers can cause suffering, but not render the final verdict.
- No prison is outside his authority.

"Being made subject unto him."



KEY TRUTHS

- Christ's suffering was substitution, not defeat.
- God's patience must not be mistaken for weakness.
- Rejection does not make God's message untrue.
- Baptism displays resurrection life; it does not create it.
- Suffering can become a witness before relief comes.

Σ GREEK WORD INSIGHTS

ἅπας (hapax) — "once"
Christ's sacrifice was complete and unrepeatable. (3:18)

μακροθυμία (makrothymia) — "longsuffering"
God's patient delay gives room for repentance. (3:20)

ἐπερώτημα (eperōtēma) — "answer, appeal"
Baptism is the believer's answer of a good conscience toward God. (3:21)

ὑποτάσσω (hypotassō) — "make subject"
Every authority and power has been placed beneath Christ. (3:22)



THE WORLD SAYS

- ☁ Relief proves God is with you.
- ⌚ Delay means abandonment.
- 👥 The majority determines truth.
- 👑 Power has the last word.
- 🏃 Escape is the measure of victory.



PETER SAYS

- ✝ Christ's suffering became triumph.
- ⌚ God is working while he waits.
- 🛡 God has never needed a majority.
- 🔔 Every power is subject to Christ.
- ♥ Faithfulness begins before the doors open.

HOW THIS CHANGES OUR LIVES



SUFFERING
Carry pain toward God.



WITNESS
Remember someone may be listening.



BAPTISM
Answer God publicly.



COURAGE
Fear Christ above every power.



PATIENCE
Do not mistake delay for absence.



HOPE
Trust the final verdict.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Because Christ suffered, rose, ascended, and reigns, the believer can remain faithful while the doors are still closed.



TEACHER NOTE

Peter does not promise that every prison door will open at midnight. He points suffering Christians to the enthroned Christ. Our circumstances may remain painful, but every opposing power is already beneath his feet.



APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Do I interpret delay as abandonment?
2. How does Christ's suffering reshape the way I carry pain?
3. What does my baptism publicly confess?
4. Would my response to suffering cause someone to ask about my hope?
5. Am I living as though Jesus Christ already reigns?