Questions for Reflection and Discussion
1 Peter 3:13-22
Let Us Live Out the Hope That Is in Us

Background

Who, when, what, where, and why.

Who was Peter? When was Peter writing this letter? Where was Peter and where were his recipients? Why was he writing this letter to these churches?

Digging In

I. Read 1 Peter 3:13-16

A. What is the main point of this section?
B. How is the apostle Peter telling the churches not to be afraid of man? (Hint: v.15)
   1. Why shouldn't the church fear man? (Proverbs 16:7, Romans 13:3)
   2. How does the apostle Peter inform the churches to respond to those that ask them about the gospel?
      a. Is the apostle Peter telling the churches to be gentle and respectful to those who may harm them?
      b. Why was it important for the first century church to respond to those who harmed them?
C. Summarize vv. 13-16 in your own words.

II. Read 1 Peter 3:17-18

A. How does living in the Spirit help one to overcome evil?
B. Think about the power of the Holy Spirit. In what ways was He instrumental in the New Testament?
C. What is the apostle Peter talking about when he says, "Jesus was made alive in the Spirit"? (Hint: Rom. 4:17; 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:22; 36 (so also Jn. 5:21)
   1. What are the characteristics for those who have the Spirit of God leading their lives?
      a. Characteristics of being filled with the Spirit (Ro 8:4-6, Gal 5:16,25).
      b. The Spirit produces fruit of Christlike character Ro 15:13; 2Co 6:6; Gal 5:22-23[1]
   2. How important is it for Christians to be filled with the Spirit?

      "Be filled with the Spirit"- an apostolic command, Eph 5:18. *The present tense of the verb implies the need to be regularly filled and re-filled with the Spirit.*[2]

D. Summarize vv.17-20 in your own words.

III. Read 1 Peter 3:19-22

A. Is the apostle Peter saying baptism is the means of salvation? (Hint: Read 1 Peter 1:3-5)
   1. How was Noah saved? Was it by faith in God's promise or the flood waters?
      a. The waters were a means to an end. They brought Noah from point a to point b. Noah believed God and acted out his faith, which produced the Ark that saved his whole family. These acts were a means to an end, not the end. The end was that God promised to deliver them physically,

[1] Martin H. Manser, *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies* (London: Martin Manser, 2009).
[2] Martin H. Manser, *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies* (London: Martin Manser, 2009).

but not just that; they were to carry on the promised line of the coming messiah, which was the ultimate end. Read Lamech's statement about Noah in Genesis 5:29. His statement shows that they were awaiting the promised messiah, which we now know to be the historical Jesus.

B. Where did Jesus "go" after he was made alive?

   1. Notice the word "went". What does this imply? (Hint: There are many beliefs about this passage. The apostle Peter's language is difficult to read in this section because he introduces liturgical scripts that were most likely already being used in the first century church. These liturgical scripts would have been clearer for the first century church to understand than for us today. We know Jesus went to the right hand of the father when He ascended into heaven. We will see this fact later when the apostle Peter uses the same word "went" at the end of this section. We also see that Luke, in the book of Acts, chapter 1 verse 10, uses the same word "went" when Jesus was seen ascending upwards into heaven. The word "went" does not give us direction, but through correlation, we can understand what the apostle Peter is talking about in this section.
   2. What did Jesus "proclaim" when he "went"? (Hint: notice what the apostle Peter says in v.22: He "went into heaven". And notice the imagery that is used: He became King. When a king sits down on his throne, it communicates that he is victorious. The apostle Peter confirms this by saying all authority is given to Him; "angels, authorities and powers in submission to Him.") Jesus proclaimed He was victorious over death. The curse is lifted (1 Kings 1:32-40; Proverbs 20:8; Genesis 49:8-10; John 5:22; Revelation 5:1-14).

C. Summarize vv. 21-22 in your own words.

IV. Getting Personal

A. How are you placing your confidence in Jesus?
B. Do you find yourself fearing (revering) man more than Jesus? Why?
C. When you are fearing man, do you think your confidence is in Jesus?
D. What is the best way that we can revere Jesus more than man? Does the filling of the Spirit have a part to play in revering Jesus more than man?
E. If Jesus is on the throne, how should we be living our lives today?

Ways to study your Bible:

F. Observe what Peter is communicating to these churches, e.g. observe the words he uses, how he says things, and the imagery he is using in this letter. Read this section two times and summarize what the apostle Peter is talking about.
G. Interpret what he is saying to his audience and answer the why question; why is he saying what he is saying?
H. Correlate the truths you find in these sections with other verses in 1 Peter and throughout the OT and NT. How do these truths relate to the overall picture of Christ's story?
I. Apply what he is communicating for us today. How can you apply these truths for us today?
J. Thank Dr. Howard Hendricks for this one😊