



“You have ascended on High, You have led captivity captive. You have received gifts for men, yes, for the rebellious also, that the LORD may dwell among them.” Psalm 68:18

Once again we see the Psalmist peering into the future and by the Spirit of God receiving a brief glimpse into the redemptive life and work of Jesus. This verse is not speaking about His ascension ten days before Pentecost, but rather His triumphant entry into heaven at His resurrection. It was during this processional that Jesus lead captivity captive – taking with Him all the saints who had died in faith awaiting the coming of Messiah! It is these redeemed of the Lord that Jesus has delivered from Sheol – the place of the dead – that He now leads in triumphant procession into heaven itself!

From this victorious position as the resurrected and glorious Saviour, Jesus now seated at the right hand of the Father in glory, begins to give gifts to men. “He gave some apostle, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers...” (Ephesians 4:8-16)

Amazingly His gifts are not only given to the righteous, but to the rebellious. “For God so loved the world...” The graciousness of the Lord also gives rain and provides for both the righteous and the rebel. “That you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45).

The question remains however ... are you one of the rebellious ones who continue to resist the goodness of God? Or have you submitted your life to God’s Christ? Have you surrendered your plans and dreams, your will and desires over to Him? The price for rebellion of heart is far greater than the sacrifices made of willing surrender – the rewards reaped create a satisfaction of inestimable worth.

I remember today, that the gifts God gives are not necessarily for my own personal benefit. They are given by Him so that I could be a channel of His blessing for others as well as be a reflection of His wondrous character and personality!

“Spirit of God, flow through me to the advantage and blessing of all of those around me! In Jesus’ name.”

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