

"RANSOMED FROM THE PIT"**Introduction**

1. In all ages there has been one gospel.
2. Our first parents heard it (death/Christ/blood)
3. So here in the days of Job – Elihu

1. THE PIT

- 1) Elihu refers often here to it (v.18, 24, 28, 30)
- 2) The reference is to a place of punishment:
ILLUSTRATION: Those rebels who went down (Numbers 16)
- 3) So, often in Scripture: "they who go down to the pit".
In the Book of Revelation six references to "the bottomless pit"
- 4) It is God's description of hell:
 - (i) the place where sinners must go after death
 - (ii) a terrible chapter (Ezek. 32) refers to the old pagan nations there (Egypt, Assyria, Edom, etc.)
 - (iii) a place made by God for all who hate God.
APPLICATION: In the Bible is no Purgatory, but there is a Heaven and a Pit.

2. DELIVERANCE FROM THE PIT

- 1) The deliverance relates to this life only:
 - (i) 1st there must be "a messenger" (v.23)
 - (ii) the preacher must show him the gospel
 - (iii) So Paul explains: Romans 10:14-15
APPLICATION: Let us all be ready to explain to men the nature of salvation when we can.
- 2) The deliverance is a spiritual change:
 - (i) v.19-22: the sinner in his misery
 - (ii) v.25-26: conversion has occurred

(iii) v.27-28: repentance + pardon

- 3) Conversion is always the same:
 - (i) Christ: "except ye be converted..."
 - (ii) Paul: "repent and believe..."
DOCTRINE: This is the vital religious experience of all ages.
APPLICATION: There is, mercifully, a way of deliverance.

3. THE RANSOM

- 1) Elihu now explains how God can be gracious and say, "Deliver him!"
- 2) It is by means of a ransom:
 - (i) **Illustration:** buying back prisoners in war
 - (ii) payment must be made to justice
 - (iii) the soul is extremely costly (Ps. 49)
Illustration: "...in exchange for the soul"
- 3) **Q.** How will you pay God for your soul so as to avoid this Pit?
 - A.** (i) Baptism?
 - (ii) Good upbringing?
 - (iii) Church attendance?
APPLICATION: "Many" will say in that day..."
- 4) There is only one ransom good enough:
 - (i) the blood shed by God's dear Son
 - (ii) So: "...to give his life a ransom..."
APPLICATION: Has God pronounced yet on your soul?

CONCLUSION

1. If not, give your soul no rest
till you find this deliverance.
2. If so, rejoice: v.28.

PSALM**23: 1 – 6****49: 6 – 11****49: 12 - 15**