

Why Do We Celebrate Christ's Descent into Hell?

When did Jesus endure the pains of hell?

He endured the pains of hell on the cross
(Matthew 27:46), not after He died.

When Jesus died, where did His soul go?

His soul went to paradise (Luke 23:43),
not to hell.

When did Jesus descend into hell?

Jesus descended into hell not when He died,
but the instant He was made alive again.

How did Jesus descend into hell?

He descended into hell not just in his soul
but in His soul and living body (as a man).

The glory of Christ's descent into hell lies in the fact that
no living man had ever gone to hell before,
no man had ever before entered hell as Lord and Victor,
no man had ever before bound Satan and crushed the serpent's head,
no man had ever before entered hell and walked out with the keys!

Where does God's Word teach this?

- Genesis 3:15* He shall crush [the Serpent's] head.
- 1 John 3:8* The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.
- Luke 11:21–22* When a strong man, fully armed, guards his house, his possessions are safe, but when a Stronger Man attacks him, and over-powers him, He takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his property!
- Colossians 2:14–15* Christ has utterly wiped out the damning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it over His own head on the cross. Then, having drawn the sting of all the powers ranged against us, He exposed them, shattered, empty, and defeated!
(Phillips translation)
- 1 Peter 3:19* He was made **alive** by the Spirit, by whom He went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison.
- Revelation 20:2* He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him.
- Revelation 12:10* The accuser of our brothers, who accuses them day and night before our God, has been thrown down.
- Revelation 1:17–18* Then He put His right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One. I was dead, and—look!—I am alive forever! **And I hold the keys of death and hell!**"

The instant He was made alive, even before He stood up again, risen on earth,

**Christ descended into hell!
He descended into hell indeed!**

Therefore, neither hell nor the Devil can take captive or injure us and all who believe in Christ.