

(Ephesians 4)

(7) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

(8) Therefore it says,

PSALM 68 "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH,
HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES,

*As a victorious king returning from battle,
he led a large number of captives
who were now his servants/slaves*

AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

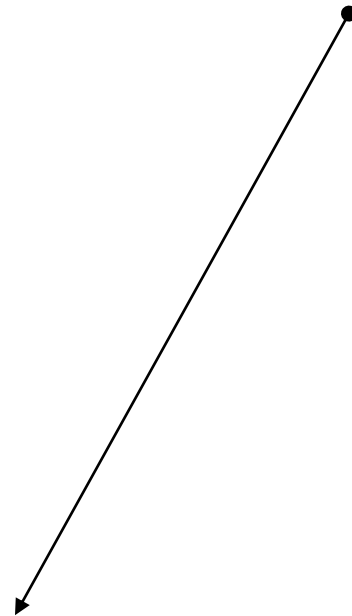
*and from the plunder he gave gifts to his people.
These gifts included those captives-now-servants*

(9) In saying, "He ascended,"
what does it mean but that he had also
descended into the lower parts of the earth?
(Jesus' incarnation)

(10) He who descended
is the one who also ascended
far above all the heavens,
that he might fill all things.
(Jesus' ascension)

(11) And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets,
and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,
(12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service,
to the building up of the body of Christ;

In other words as a victorious king, Jesus has taken people captive as his servants. Mixing the metaphor a bit, the second line points out that he has also **given** some of those servants (apostles, prophets, teachers) to his people (the Church) to serve them. This makes sense because the context is about God giving apostles-prophets-teachers as gifts to his people. No reason to see OT saints in view here.



It is similar to the Old Testament with how the Levites **were taken** or bound over to God as his servants but he then **gave them** back to Israel to serve Israel by teaching God's words.

This is why in Psalm 68 God **receives the gifts** but Paul quotes the verse as **God giving gifts**. In other words, **God receives gifts in order to give them**.

(Psalm 68:18)

You have ascended on high,

You have led captive *Your* captives;

[Either Israelites or Levites as God's servants / bound over to God]

You have **received gifts** among men,

Even *among* the rebellious also, that the LORD God may dwell *there*.

(Numbers 18:6)

Behold, I myself **have taken** your fellow Levites

from among the sons of Israel;

they are **a gift to you**,

dedicated to the LORD, to perform the service for the tent of meeting.