

## This Great Salvation Prophets Longed to Know!

### 1 Peter 1:10-12

#### I. Introduction

##### A. **TURN TO Passage to read...1 Peter 1:1-12**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

8 ...you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

**10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,**

**11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.**

**12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.**

##### B. **Turn to Romans 9:25...**

##### C. **Look at a section of Scripture that gives us a packaged view of OT prophecy.**

##### D. **What OT prophecy looks like from our side of the Cross**

1. When the pieces fit
2. When God's revelation is complete

##### E. **Beginning in v.22**

22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

25 As He says also in Hosea,

"I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,' AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'"

26 "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,'

THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD."

→ Prophecy of Gentile salvation through Hosea (Hosea 2:23)

27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED;

28 FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY."

29 And just as Isaiah foretold,

“UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOth HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY,

WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH.”

30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith;

31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law.

32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,

33 just as it is written,

“BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE,

AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

→Prophecy of Isaiah of Israel's responsibility to believe

Romans 10:1-21

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

5 For **Moses** writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness.

6 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: “DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?’ (DEUT 30) (that is, to bring Christ down),

7 or ‘WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?’ (Deut30) (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”

8 But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”(DEUT30)—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.” (IS 28:16)

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

13 for “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” (JOEL 2:32 SPIRIT & DOL PASSAGE)

14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” (IS 52:7)

16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for **Isaiah** says, “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?” (IS 53:1)

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

18 But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have;

“THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH,

AND THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD.” (PS 19:4)

19 But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they? First Moses says,

“I WILL MAKE YOU JEALOUS BY THAT WHICH IS NOT A NATION,

BY A NATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU.” (DEUT 32:21)

20 And Isaiah is very bold and says,

“I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME,

I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME.” (IS 65:1)

21 But as for Israel He says, “ALL THE DAY LONG I HAVE STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE.” (IS 65:2)

...

Romans 15:1-12

1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME.” (PS 69:9)

4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

8 For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers,

9 and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written,

“THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES,  
AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME.” (GENTILE SALVATION PS 18:49)

10 Again he says,

“REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE.” (DEUT 32:43)

11 And again,

“PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES,  
AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM.” (PS117:1)

12 Again Isaiah says,

“THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE,  
AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES,  
IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE.” (IS 11:10)

#### **F. What is Paul doing?**

1. FIRST – He’s doing something NO OT Prophet could do! (Nor you or !!)
  - a) He’s taking OT Prophecies – all predicting a grace that would come
  - b) Surpassing everything they had experienced
  - c) And showing how those KEY OT prophecies and showing how they are now fulfilled in Jesus Christ!
  - d) OT prophets didn’t have complete picture AND
  - e) They didn’t have the book of Romans!

2. Second, - A preview of our study today
  - a) The OT prophets knew they were writing to a future generation – “to You”
  - b) They carefully studied their own writings to understand Salvation
  - c) They were trying to put together the passage of Romans I just read.

### **G. As Jesus Said (Matt 13:17)**

17 “For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

### **H. Or as Peter told us Last Sunday morning (2Pet 1:19) -We have the MORE SURE PROPHETIC WORD.**

#### **I. POINT we will see today: OT Prophets – writers of Scripture**

1. Studied their own writings to understand SALVATION
2. They greatly desired to know the story of Salvation they were prophesying.
3. Like the cloud of witnesses of Hebrews 11
  - a) Lived by faith – “for things not yet seen”
  - b) They lived by faith – NOT HAVING RECEIVED THE PROMISE (11:13,39)

#### **J. Review**

Mt 7:24 ...wise man who built his house on the rock...

1. 1 Pet = SPIRITUAL HOUSE BUILDING MANUAL
2. TELLS THESE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS HOW to BUILD A SPIRITUAL HOUSE
3. To LIVE VICTORIOUSLY in during TRIALS & PERSECUTIONS
4. 1 Peter 1 (=v.1-25) gives THE FOUNDATION. (SLIDE – Outline of 1 Peter)
5. Studying foundational aspects to understanding how Christians can live victoriously under persecution and in trials. –
6. THE FOUNDATION to put UNDER your SPIRITUAL HOUSE!
7. 4 walls just like a house’s foundation. (SLIDE- 4 walls)
  - a) Author & Chosen Audience (v.1-2)
  - b) FAITH in light of a future finished salvation (3-12)
  - c) HOPE in light of Christ’s coming revelation (13-21)
  - d) LOVE in light of God’s written revelation (22-25)
8. Studying the 2<sup>nd</sup> WALL of our FOUNDATION = (SLIDE v.3-12 detail)
9. Began 2<sup>nd</sup> Wall of our Foundation LAST TIME
  - a) FAITH – the Key to this wall –BINDING Agent from our side
  - b) Specifically, V.10-12 =

#### **K. Proposition**

1. **Today: Study Past and Present focus of others on this yet-to-be revealed salvation SO THAT WE can BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW & WHY We are TO FOCUS On our FUTURE SALVATION DURING PRESENT TRIALS.**

## 2. Look at Chiastic Structure (SLIDE)

### 3. Look at the emphasis on You!

- a) V.10 grace that would come TO YOU
- b) V.12 not serving themselves, BUT YOU
- c) V.12 things...announced TO YOU
- d) V.12 preached the gospel TO YOU
- e) All the time IN CONTRAST to
  - (1) Prophets who did not have the fullness of revelation YOU HAVE
  - (2) Angels who do not have the understanding of salvation YOU HAVE.

## II. Past Focus on our Yet-to-be-Revealed Salvation

### A. Past Prophetic Inquiry:

v.10-11 - As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

#### 1. V.10 "As to this salvation"

- a) Refers to v.3-9 -Specifically, the reference in v.9  
9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.
- b) =future completion of our salvation

#### 2. "the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you"

- a) Prophecies on Messiah
  - (1) Messiah would suffer
    - (a) Ps 22 – crucifixion
    - (b) Is 53 – suffering servant
  - (2) Messiah would succeed
    - (a) Ps 2 – Nations an inheritance to Jesus Christ – he would break them.
    - (b) Is 9 – government on shoulders, wonderful counselor, mighty God
  - (3) Messiah would save
    - (a) Is 61:1 – Messianic Prophecy
      - (i) Bind broken hearted
      - (ii) Salvation to ends of earth
- b) "concerning the grace which is for you"=salvation
  - (1) grace speaks of God's motive
  - (2) encompasses salvation
  - (3) does not imply there was no grace in OT
    - (a) – God's nature is "gracious"
    - (b) Ex 22:27 "I am gracious"
    - (c) Psalms – full of grace of God
    - (d) Is 55:1-7 – everyone can come to salvation!
    - (e) Jonah – knew grace of God – knew God would save Ninevites

3. “made careful searches and inquiries.” –
- a) can't split up two words
  - b) = intense research
  - c) Intense seeking
  - d) studied to understand SALVATION
  - e) Matt 13:17 –Jesus Christ: truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.
4. v.11a NAS: “seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow”
- a) Better xlation: “What or what manner of time”
    - (1) what time, or season, era, epic
    - (2) NOT what person.
    - (3) what time, or season, era, epic
    - (4) Doubles up words for emphasis
    - (5) Don't like NAS “what person” – allows for the possibility that the prophets didn't know if their prophecy was for the Messiah or another person.
    - (6) They were seeking to know the time and the nature / climate / season / - what that time will be like. – the character of the time.
    - (7) Peter's point: How great a salvation if the preoccupation of all the prophets is WHEN this salvation will come – WHEN they would have it.
    - (8) To His audience and Us: IF YOU UNDERSTAND THAT THIS SALVATION IS SO GLORIOUS THAT IT WAS THE PREOCCUPATION OF THE PROPHETS WHO WROTE ABOUT IT – THEN YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH A GLORY CAN BE YOUR FOCUS IN PRESENT TRIALS!
  - b) “the Spirit of Christ within them”- Holy Spirit – inspiration –
    - (1) great salvation written about is the theme of the Holy Spirit's inspiration – V 11b
    - (2) Everything was received from the Holy Spirit
    - (3) Holy Spirit indicated / predicted / testified through them the sufferings of Christ and the glory to follow
    - (4) Prophecies had those two elements (major themes of OT prophets)
      - (a) Sufferings to come
        - (i) Ps 22
        - (ii) Ps 69: 1-21
        - (iii) Is 52 – 53
        - (iv) Dan 9:24 ff
        - (v) Zech 12:10-13

## (b) Glories to follow

- (i) Resurrection
- (ii) Ascension
- (iii) Enthronement
- (iv) Dan 2, 7; Zech 2, 14

(5) Lk 24:26 – Road to Emmaus – was it now necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and enter into His glory? Then He began with Moses and with all the prophets ...

(6) PROPHETS HAD THIS AS A FOCUS OF THEIR STUDY BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD AS FOCUS OF HIS MINISTRY

(7) SO YOU TOO CAN HAVE THIS FOCUS BECAUSE THE HS HAS THIS FOCUS

c) “within them”

(1) 2 Peter 1:21 – for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

(2) A quick side-note on the inspiration of Scripture!

(3) Just remember – the writings were inspired NOT the men!

5. “was indicating” = The Holy Spirit continually kept making these indications even though the prophets didn’t clearly understand at the time.

a) These prophecies had value then too!

b) Just that fulfillment was future.

6. NAS: “as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow”

a) Literally: “when He testified to the sufferings of Christ and the alongside-it glories.”

b) Isaiah 3,52,53 – Clear indications of Christ’s suffering!

c) Peter puts glories side-by-side with suffering!

(1) Only NT use of glories in the plural

(2) Suggested it means the successive steps of resurrection, ascension, enthronement...

**B. Past Divine Revelation:**

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you

1. The prophets careful and serious inquiries were answered!

2. “It was revealed to them”

a) “was revealed” is passive = God revealed to them.

(1) Where were they searching? SCRIPTURES

(2) Where did they get their answer? SCRIPTURES

(3) CONTEXT!

(4) You can’t assume that they were searching their own prophecies and God spoke to them.

(5) With no other indication of communication, context says they found the answer in Scripture

- b) Verb – Very unique choice on Peter’s part
  - (1) ONLY use in NT with a purpose clause after it
  - (2) Verb EMPHASIZES the supreme importance of the future redemptive events to which they bore witness (Michaels).
- 3. What was revealed to them? “that they were not serving themselves, but you”
  - a) These prophets saw in their prophesies that this salvation was for a later time!
  - b) Christ was to come later NOT now.
    - (1) Num 24:17 – I see Him but not now...now near... Beginning to testify early in OT...
 

‡ **Numbers 24:17**  
 Balaam:  
 17 “I see him, but not now;  
 I behold him, but not near;  
 A star shall come forth from Jacob,  
 And a scepter shall rise from Israel,  
 And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.
    - (2) Heb 11:13 – without receiving but seeing and welcoming from a distance
    - (3) Heb 11:39-40 – didn’t receive promise...it was not for their time
- 4. What is Peter telling his readers? Telling us?
  - a) This salvation I just got through
    - (1) Describing to you
    - (2) Telling you to focus on in present trials
  - b) Has been not only the focus of the prophets before you
  - c) Has not only been the ministry of the Holy Spirit’s revelation to them and you
  - d) BUT also had its manifestation reserved for you!
    - (1) You can focus on a full understanding and knowledge of the work of Christ on the cross for you
    - (2) You can focus on a full understanding of the inheritance that is stored in heaven for you
    - (3) The saints of the OT had FAR LESS knowledge and understanding in which TO PUT THEIR FAITH!
    - (4) They understood the Messiah with great clarity and accuracy in broad outlines
    - (5) BUT until the “when” the revelation of the salvation that He brought was not filled out in the fullness of God’s plan of revelation!
- 5. And for us – we too have that full knowledge and understanding (this side of eternity) in which to put our faith in our present trials.

### C. Transition

1. So, we've seen the past focus
  - a) The Prophets inquiry
  - b) The Divine Revelation

### III. Present Focus on our Yet-to-be-Revealed Salvation

#### A. Present Divine Revelation

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

1. but you, in these things which now have been announced to you
  - a) “but you” =That's us!
  - b) “in these things” = Sufferings of Christ and the along-side-it glories of v.11
  - c) “which now have been announced to you”
    - (1) “now” = transition from past to present!
    - (2) Rich verb “announced”
    - (3) Includes announcement of the historical facts of the gospel
    - (4) AND a proclamation and preaching “SO AS to reveal the counsels of God and the hopes revealed for men” (Hort)
      - (a) SEEN by “PREACHED” in next phrase!
    - (5) Verb ties together with “prophecy” of v.10, “indicating,” and “predicting” of v.11, AND with “preached” in v.12 here.
      - (a) A LOT of persons USED by God to deliver His Salvation message!
2. “through those who preached the gospel to you”
  - a) Those who preached – apostles, disciples... = ANY Christian who shared the gospel
    - (1) THIS COULD BE YOU!
    - (2) You in that a future Christian may read this passage and remember that you were the one who shared the gospel with them!
  - b) “through those” indicates the working of the Holy Spirit through them(could've said “by those”)
    - (1) Seen by qualifying phrase:
 

“by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven”
    - (2) Grammatically, the following phrase has to re-establish gospel as the noun to be referred to through the reference back with “things”
  - c) Subtle contrast of the working of the Holy Spirit in the past (through the prophets inspiring them to write)
    - (1) AND the working of the Holy Spirit in the present THROUGH anyone / everyone who shares the gospel
    - (2) We're indwelt and they're not!

- d) ALSO – by using the Holy Spirit in both places, there is a guarantee of the equivalence of the message!
  - (1) SAME message!
  - (2) No changes, contradictions from our immutable God!
  - (3) Past and Present – we’re all talking about the same SALVATION!
- 3. What has Peter done here?
  - a) NOT ONLY brought us into the present
  - b) BUT ALSO introduced a new group who focus on this magnificent salvation – those who EVANGELIZE!
    - (1) It’s the focus of their ministry to!
  - c) AND by the use of the Holy Spirit in both places, we can take the focus of this Salvation ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE MESSAGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT!
  - d) THE SINGLE EVENT THAT THE OT PROPHETS FOCUSED ON IS THE SALVATION ANNOUNCED TO YOU BY THOSE WHO PREACHED THE GOSPEL TO YOU!

### **B. Present Angelic Inquiry**

v.12 end —things into which angels long to look.

- 1. Angels – interest
  - a) V. 12 – the things / these things– matters of salvation
  - b) “Long to Look”
    - (1) long = lust
      - (a) strong, overpowering desire – desire that is not fulfilled
      - (b) Greek word (p 60-9/8)
    - (2) to look
      - (a) to take a shy sidelong glance
      - (b) to stoop sideways
      - (c) Peter and John did at the tomb
  - c) Point: Angels long for an understanding of salvation that they do not have!
    - (1) 1 Cor 4:9 – spectacle to angels
 

9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.
    - (2) Eph 3:10 – heavenlies – grace in church
 

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,  
9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things;  
10 in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

**C. Practical Application**

1. What is Peter doing here by bringing the angels into this?
2. BY CONTRAST, we should appreciate the GRACE God has shown to us that He HAS NOT SHOWN to the angels!
  - a) NO PLAN OF SALVATION for Angels!
  - b) This adds to the magnificence of the SALVATION BROUGHT TO US by Jesus Christ!

**IV. CONCLUSION****A. What a rich passage!**

1. Past / Present
2. Prophets, Evangelists, the Holy Spirit, angels
3. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit: from Inspiration of Scripture to working through us
4. Prophecy through to its fulfillment in the gospel message!

**B. AND ALL FOR US!****C. Peter has been telling us to REJOICE in our future Salvation while in Present trials**

1. In v.1-5 he gave us a deep, full, theological picture of that Salvation – Salvation from God's Perspective alone!
2. In v.10-12 he's given us a full, rich picture past and present of HOW THAT GOSPEL HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF MEN, ANGELS, and the MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

**D. We can have faith because of God's revelation to us****E. AND because of the witness – past and present in His working through men****F. AND through the witness to the magnificence of this gospel that they would**

1. Carefully search the Scriptures to understand it
2. Evangelize it to us so that we could share in it too!

**G. ALL of this SO THAT we FOCUS on that SALVATION in PRESENT trials****H. AND when we do –**

1. Our faith will be APPROVED
2. Our faith will be REWARDED – with PRAISE, GLORY and HONOR from Jesus Christ!