

***“The Glory Of The Gospel!”***  
***1 Peter 1:10-12***

**Introduction:**

1. Just This Last Week, Many Lives Were Lost When Earthquakes Near The Islands Of Samoa & Indonesia Rocked & Shook Those Countries To The Core!
  - The Earthquakes, Both Which Measured Around 8 On The Richter Scale, Set Of Large Tsunami Waves, Which Also Devastated The Coastlines Of Many Countries!
    - Many Buildings Have Been Destroyed!
    - Entire Villages Have Been Wiped Out!
    - And Thousands Of Lives Have Been Lost!
  - Some Of The Pictures Show Us Why So Much Destruction Took Place!
    - The Homes & Buildings Of Many Of The Towns & Villages Were Nothing More Than Huts – Sitting On The Soft Sand & Soil – With Little To No Foundation!
2. - In San Francisco - Prone To Earthquakes - “Many building codes call for buildings to have solid foundations attached to bedrock, which provides strength at a structure's base, even if the soil around it becomes unstable!” (TeachersDomain.org)
  - Then, These Buildings Can Be Strong In Any Storm!
3. What Does This Have To Do With 1 Peter?
  - Remember: Peter Is Writing To Christians Who Are Going Through Or Will Be Going Through Some Storms In Their Lives!
    - He Wants Them To Know:
  - There Is Great Strength In The Gospel!
    - Read 1:10-12!
  - The Gospel Is The Bedrock Upon Which Your Faith Is Built!
    - The Gospel Is What Will Keep You Strong In The Storm!
  - So, When You Experience Any Kind Of Suffering:
    - Peter Points You Back To The Bedrock Of The Gospel!
    - 4 Things You Need To Remember About The Gospel:

**1. *The Reliability Of The Gospel!***

- 1:10 - “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you!”
  - Like The Bedrock On Which A Sky-Scraper Is Built, The Gospel You Believe Is Strong & Firm & Reliable!
    - “Of Which Salvation!”
    - It Is More Precious Than Gold!
    - It Is More Reliable Than Gold As Well! Never Fail!
    - Built On:
  - The Foundation Of The Prophets!
    - “Of Which Salvation The Prophets Have Enquired & Searched Diligently!”
    - The Gospel Is Not A New Or Novel Development!
      - It Is A Fulfilment Of What God Gave To His Prophets In The Past!
    - We Find In The Prophets:
      - The Nature / Birth / Life / Suffering / Death / Burial / Resurrection / Reign / Return Of Jesus!
    - Starting In Genesis 3:15 - About Jesus To The Serpent - “It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel!”
      - Very True: “The Old Testament Is The New Testament Concealed – The New Testament Is The Old Testament Revealed!” (Augustine)
    - But It Is The Same Message Throughout!
      - The Same Gospel! The Same Savior! The Same Christ!
      - “The Unity Of The OT & NT Writings Centers In Christ And His Salvation!” (EBC)
    - The Gospel In Which You Believe Is Reliable!
      - And Can Keep You Strong In Any Storm!

- The Fervency Of The Prophets!
  - “Enquired & Searched Diligently!”
  - As The Gospel Was Revealed To The Prophets, They Wanted To Know More!
  - So They “Sought Out & Searched Out” All They Could!
    - With Great Fervency & Thoroughness!
  - Good Example - Prophet Daniel - Babylon - Daniel 9:2 - “In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem!”
    - Why Would He Do This?
    - “Their Own Souls Were Stirred By The Grandeur And The Mystery Of The Theme!”  
(John Lillie)
  - So They Dug As Deeply As They Could! And Found Truth!
- The Faithfulness Of The Prophets!
  - What Did They Do With The Truth? “Who Prophesied Of The Grace That Should Come Unto You!”
  - Didn’t Keep It To Themselves – They Shared It!
    - With Us! For You!
  - Because The Gospel Is A Gift Of God’s Grace!
    - Reserved Especially It For You!
- The Gospel Is Reliable!
  - And Will Keep You Strong In Any Storm!

## 2. ***The Revelation Of The Gospel!***

- 1:11 - “Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow!”
  - The Gospel Is A Revelation From God To The World!
    - It Shows Us The Mind & Heart Of God Himself!
  - God Knew, That If He Left It Up To Us, We Would Have Never Found It!
    - Like Bedrock Is Covered Up With Layers Of Soil / We Would Have Never Started Digging!
    - Instead, Even Though The Gospel Was Hidden Under Layers Of Time, He Slowly But Surely Brought It Up To The Surface To Be Clearly Seen!
- The Revelation Of A Special Period!
  - “Searching What Or What Manner Of Time!”
  - God Was Very Specific – The Prophets Knew That There Would Come A Specific & Special “Time” When Christ Would Come!
    - So They “Searched” For It!
  - They Were Looking For Specific Dates (What Time) & For Specific Details (What Manner Of Time)! Daniel Did This!
- The Revelation By A Special Person!
  - “The Spirit Of Christ!”
  - Their Prophecies Were Not Made Up By Them!
  - Using 3 Different Words – Shows That: “The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost!” (2 Peter 1:21)
  - The Spirit Of Christ: (To Them)
    - “Signified” - Was Making Known To Them!
      - Illuminating Them! Opening Their Eyes!
    - “Testified” - Not Merely A Prediction!
      - But A “Pre-Witness” - An Eye-Witness Testimony Before It Actually Happened!
    - “Revealed” - To Uncover What Was Hidden!
  - The Gospel Is From God! Not From Man!
- The Revelation For A Special Purpose!
  - “The Sufferings Of Christ & The Glory (Glories) That Should Follow!”
  - These 2 Aspects Of The Gospel Were Not Understood By The Prophets – Or Even By The

Apostles!

- As They Are To Us Today!
- Remained A Mystery! A Paradox!
- Matthew 16:21-22 - "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. / Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee!"
- Peter Soon Learned That Both Are Necessary Parts Of The Gospel Message!
- The Gospel Is God's Own Special Revelation & Plan!
- And He Alone Can Keep You Strong In Any Storm Through His Gospel!

### 3. ***The Responsibility Of The Gospel!***

- 1:12a - "Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven!"
  - When A Builder In San Francisco Wants To Construct A Building – And Knows About The Earthquakes / About The Bedrock / About The Building Codes – Has A Responsibility To Build The Right Way!
  - This Is How We Received The Gospel!
    - The People Who Had The Gospel Realized That They Had A Responsibility To Share It!
- The Responsibility Of The Prophets Of God!
  - "Unto Whom It Was Revealed, That Not Unto Themselves, But Unto Us They Did Minister The Things!" (Gospel!)
    - "The Things" - The Time / Sufferings / Glories!
  - The Prophets Had A Responsibility With What God Gave Them!
    - Not To Keep The Gospel A Secret!
    - But To Give Out The Gospel In Service!
  - Even Though Hundreds Of Years Separated Peter From The Prophets / And Thousands Of Years Separate Us From The Prophets – They Knew That They Were Serving Us!
    - Peter: "Likens Their Work To A Spreading Of A Table, So That Others Might Afterward Feed On The Food Laid On It!" (Calvin)
- The Responsibility Of The Preachers Of God!
  - "Which Are Now Reported Unto You By Them That Have Preached The Gospel Unto You!"
  - As The New Christians Found In Acts 2:9 Went Home - From "Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia" (1:1) - They Knew That They Had A Responsibility Too!
    - And Through Them The Churches Peter Was Writing To Were Born!
  - We Have This Same Responsibility!
    - But, Like They, We Are Not Alone!
- The Responsibility Of The Power Of God!
  - "With (In) The Holy Ghost Sent Down From Heaven!"
  - With The Authority & Power Of God!
    - And When We Share The Gospel, We Need To Rely Upon The Heavenly Power Of The Holy Spirit!
  - 1 Thessalonians 1:5 - "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake!"
- The Gospel Can Keep Us Strong In Any Storm:
  - As We Remember Our Own Responsibility!

### 4. ***The Richness Of The Gospel!***

- 1:12b - "Which things the angels desire to look into!"
  - "Which Things" - Same As "The Things" - The Time / Sufferings / Glories Of Christ! The Gospel!
  - The Deeper A Foundation Goes Into Bedrock, The Stronger It Becomes!

- The Deeper We Look Into The Gospel, The More Beautiful & Amazing It Becomes!
- The Gospel Continues To Astound & Amaze Even The Angels!
- The Desire For The Gospel Is Rich!
  - "The Angels Desire!"
  - They Want To Know More About The Glory / Goodness / Grace Of God!
    - And They Live In Heaven!
- The Depth Of The Gospel Is Rich!
  - "Look Into!"
    - Used Of The Disciples When They "Stooped Down" To Look Into The Tomb Of Jesus!
  - "Even Angels, Those Strong, Pure, Wise, Ever-Living Spirits, Familiar As They Are With Heaven's Beauties And Grandeurs – Long To Gaze" At The Gospel! (Lillie)

**Conclusion:**

1. What Has Caused Many Christians To Continue On Through Their Suffering?
  - The Glory Of The Gospel!
2. **IE:** At The Age Of 86, A Pastor Of A Church In The City Of Smyrna, Named Polycarp, Was Condemned To Death. His Crime? He Refused To Say: "Caesar Is Lord!" After Being Beaten, And Suffering For His Faith In Jesus, He Said: "86 Years Have I Served Him & He Never Did Me Any Hurt: How Then Can I Blaspheme My King & My Savior?" He Was Burned To Death -- Without Even Being Secured To The Stake!
  - What Caused Polycarp To Remain Steadfast In Suffering?
    - The Glory Of The Gospel! The Bedrock Of His Faith!
  - Polycarp Knew That:
    - The Gospel Was Reliable!
    - The Gospel Was God's Revelation!
    - The Gospel Was His Responsibility!
    - The Gospel Was Rich!
  - And He Was Faithful To The End!
3. What Will Keep You Faithful & Steadfast Through Suffering?
  - The Glory Of The Gospel!
  - "And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood! Died he for me? who caused his pain! For me? who him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?"

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