

INTRODUCTION

1. We are looking again at 1 Peter this morning
2. Please take your Bibles and turn to 1 Peter chapter 1
3. Peter has been encouraging his persecuted congregation by reminding them of several things
4. First, he reminds them that they are "chosen by God"

5. So no matter what they suffer, God chose them for salvation and nothing can destroy that because verse 5 says we "are protected (kept, guarded) by the power of God."
6. Second, they are "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (v.3)
7. Their "hope" is "living"
8. It's real and not dead or shattered due to their suffering
9. And nothing can take their hope from them because it's from "God" (v.3)
10. Third, they have "an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not

fade away, reserved in heaven"

11. In this they "greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while" they have been "distressed by various trials" (v.6)
12. These "trials" are part of proving their faith is genuine (v.7)
13. Last time we saw in verses 8-9 that they "greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" because they "love" and "believe" in Christ
14. And now Peter wants "his believing audience to focus on that full, final rescue from sin, Satan, death, and hell that God so graciously chose to give them through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ."
(MacArthur)

15. So Peter "celebrates salvation's greatness by reminding his readers that no matter how difficult the circumstances or how severe the persecution, they can confidently hold to the hope of eternal salvation." (MacArthur)
16. Playing off the last phrase in verse 9, "the salvation of your souls," Peter begins in verse 10 with "As to this salvation"
17. That phrase triggered what he is about to say in verses 10-12
18. What is Peter going to say about "this salvation?"
19. He continues in verse 10, 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.

20. The greatest thing that can ever happen to anyone is the salvation of their soul
21. To be right with God is the highest calling and the greatest privilege and the greatest need
22. Because we inherited Adam's sin, we need Adam's cure

23. The cure came in the second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ
24. Because Adam could not remedy his sin problem, he needed God to do that for him
25. The same is true for you and me
26. We have a sin problem that we cannot cure apart from Jesus Christ
27. Salvation is of God
28. We cannot save ourselves
29. God has to do it
30. Psalm 3:8 says, "Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing be upon Your people!"

31. He has to save
32. He has to bless for anyone to be right with Him
33. He has to offer the cure
34. But we must take what He offers
35. Acts 4:12 says salvation is through Jesus Christ
36. "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
37. Hebrews 5:9 says Jesus is the source of salvation

38. "And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation."
39. To be right with God you must believe in the One whom God sent, the Lord Jesus Christ
40. Galatians 1:4 says that Jesus "gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father."
41. Both Old and New Testament point to Jesus
42. The Old Testament anticipated His arrival
43. The New Testament rejoiced saw Him suffer, die, rise from the dead, and

ascend back to the Father in heaven and soon He will return for His own and take vengeance on those who do not know Him according to 2 Thessalonians 1:6

- 44. According to Peter's text, the Old Testament prophets spoke of the Messiah and sought to understand who He was and when He would come and the sufferings and glories that would follow
- 45. Notice first...

LESSON

1. The Prophets Spoke (v.10a)

- 1. Prophets were commissioned by God to deliver His Word to individuals, kings and Israel

2. Preachers are commissioned too but it's clear from Ephesians 4:11 they are distinct offices

3. The word "prophets" (prophetes) was mostly used of OT prophets but sometimes for NT prophets

1. Abraham (Gen.20:7)
2. Aaron (Ex.7:1)
3. Moses (Deut.18:15)
4. Samuel (1 Sam.3:20)
5. Gad (1 Sam.22:5)
6. Nathan (1 Kings 1:10)
7. Elijah (1 Kings 18:22)
8. Elisha (2 Kings 3:11)
9. Isaiah (2 Kings 19:2)
10. Jeremiah (Mat.2:7)
11. Jesus (Jn.4:19)
12. John the Baptist (Mat.21:26)

13. Prophets in the church (Acts 15:32, Judas and Silas)

2. The Prophets Prophesied (v.10b)

There were 333 prophecies about Christ in the Old and New Testament
109 were fulfilled at His first coming, 224 will be fulfilled at His second

The word "prophesied" (propheteuo) refers to "the act of revealing something that is hidden, disclosing the will of God, or foretelling the future" (Lexham Theological Wordbook) (e.g. Agabus spoke of a coming famine in Acts 11:28)

What did the prophets reveal about the Messiah?

1. Isaiah said the Messiah would be:

1. Born of a virgin (7:14)
2. Rejected (53:1-3)
3. Bear our sins and sorrows (53:4-6)
4. Be spit on and struck (50:6)
5. Be disfigured by suffering (52:14)
6. Make a blood atonement (53:5)
7. Be our substitute (53:6)
8. Save those who believe in Him
(53:12)
9. Heal the broken hearted (61:1-2)

2. Jeremiah said the Messiah would be:

1. A descendant of David (23:5-6)
2. Both God and man (23:5-6)
3. Born of a virgin (31:22)

3. Zechariah said the Messiah would be:
 1. God's servant (3:8)
 2. Priest and King (6:12-13)
 3. Greeted with rejoicing in Jerusalem (9:9)
 4. Bring salvation (9:9)
 5. Come in Jerusalem riding on a donkey (9:9)
4. Peter says the prophets prophesied "of the grace that would come to you" (v.10a)
 1. They not only spoke of wrath and coming judgment (Mat.3:7) but also of God's grace
 2. By nature God has always been a gracious God

- a. Moses said in Exodus 34:6,
"Then the LORD passed by in
front of him and proclaimed,
"The LORD, the LORD God,
compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, and abounding in
lovingkindness and truth."
- b. The psalmist said in Psalm
116:5, "Gracious is the LORD,
and righteous; Yes, our God is
compassionate."
- 3. God was gracious to those who
believed in the OT before Christ
(Ps.84:11) and is gracious now to
all who believe in Christ (Jn.1:14)
- 4. Noah received grace (Gen.6:8,
"But Noah found favor in the eyes

of the LORD.")

5. Jonah acknowledged God's grace to the Ninevites (Jon.4:2, "He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity."
6. Grace came to them and to us...salvation has always been available to sinners
 - a. David said in Psalm 27:1, "The LORD is my light and my

salvation; Whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the defense of my
life; Whom shall I dread?"

b. Isaiah said in Isaiah 55:1-2, "(1)
Ho! Every one who thirsts,
come to the waters; And you
who have no money come, buy
and eat. Come, buy wine and
milk Without money and without
cost. (2) "Why do you spend
money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does
not satisfy? Listen carefully to
Me, and eat what is good, And
delight yourself in abundance."

7. Salvation has always been by
grace both then and now
(Eph.2:8-9)

8. The grace that "would come to you" would be the greatest manifestation because it would be in a Person, the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ

3. The Prophets Searched (vv.10c-12)

1. They considered the matter from every point of view (Hiebert)
 1. They "made careful searches"
 - a. This phrase is one word in Greek (ekzeteo)
 - b. It is an intensive word (Barnes)
 - c. It means "to seek out; search for, to search diligently or in an

exact manner"

- d. This was a "thoroughness of action" (Hiebert)
- e. "They sought out or scrutinized with care the revelations made to them, that they might understand exactly what was implied in that which they were appointed to record in respect to the salvation which was to be made known through the Messiah" (Barnes)

2. They made "inquiries" (exeraunao)

- a. That word means "to examine or consider in even greater detail or over a lengthier period of time" (Lexham Research

Lexicon of the Greet NT)

- b. This "indicates a search for something hidden, like 'miners engaged in digging for precious metals in the bowels of the earth'" (Fronmuller)
- c. D. Edmond Hiebert says, "The first term may picture an attitude of zealous consideration and reflection, and the second a careful investigation of the sources that might provide an answer" (1 Peter).
- d. Daniel 9:1-3 illustrates this: "(1) In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the

Chaldeans— (2) in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. (3) So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes."

2. They sought to know who the Messiah was and when He would appear (v.11a)

1. This was the purpose for their "careful searches and inquiries"

2. They were "seeking to know what person"
3. "The use of the present participle (eraunontes) pictures the prophets as returning repeatedly to the problem that their predictions created for this. They were concerned to understand the time and circumstances in which these prophecies would be fulfilled as well as the meaning of a suffering and then glorified Messiah" (Hiebert).
4. They were "seeking and searching, examining, investigating" (Lexham) and analyzing to know what person "would come as Savior, Judge, Prophet, Priest, and King"

(MacArthur)

5. They also wanted to know what season or era (time) the Messiah's coming would be
6. So their investigation was about who and where
7. Jesus said in Matthew 13:17, "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."
8. Jesus said to His disciples in Luke 10:23-24, "(23) 'Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, (24) for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see

the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them."

3. Their prophecies concerned His suffering and glory (v.11b)

1. "They saw clearly that the Messiah was to suffer" (Barnes)

a. This was the common doctrine of the prophets

b. Jesus said in Matthew 26:24, "The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he

had not been born.”

- c. He said in Luke 24:25-27, "(25) And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! (26) "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" (27) Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."
- d. He said in verse 44, "Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the

Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.

- e. Peter said in Acts 3:18, "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."
- f. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:3, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures."

2. "The glories to follow" was the results

- a. The "glories" is literally "the after these glories" (Hiebert)
- b. Philippians 2:6-11 says, "(6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (8) Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (9) For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of

those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

- c. The plural "glories" corresponds to the plural "sufferings"
- d. The plural apparently suggests the various steps in Messiah's glorification: His resurrection, His ascension, His resumption of glory on the Father's throne (John 17:5; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 3:21), His return and reign in glory (Col. 3:4; 2 Tim. 2:12), and His majestic glory as the Judge of all (Rev. 20:11–15). (Hiebert)

4. Their prophecies were not for themselves but for "you" (v.12)

Peter says, "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."

First, Peter says...

1. It was "revealed to them"
 - a. "Revealed" (apokalypto)
"disclosed, "made known"
 - b. This revelation was given by
"the Spirit of Christ," "the Holy

Spirit sent from heaven"

- c. Hiebert says, "This is an aorist passive and shows "that the realization came to them not simply as a conclusion drawn from their investigation, but as an answer given by the Spirit." (Hiebert)
- d. Albert Barnes says, "They were not permitted to know fully the import of the predictions...but they understood that they were intended for the benefit of future ages." (1 Peter)
- e. "They were not serving themselves, but you"

- f. “Serving” (cf. Acts 6:1–6) likens their work to “a spreading of the table, so that others might afterward feed on the food laid on it.” (Calvin)
- g. Albert Barnes says, "We are not to suppose that they derived *no* benefit from their own predictions; for, as far as they understood the truth, it was as much adapted to sanctify and comfort them as it is us now: but the meaning is, that their messages had reference mainly to future times, and that the full benefit of them would be experienced only in distant ages."

- h. Hebrews 11:13 says, "All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth."
- i. Verses 39-40 says, "(39) And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, (40) because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect."

2. It was "announced to you"

- a. "through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven"
- b. Salvation was the theme of the Apostle's preaching
- c. The Apostles "took the fully revealed gospel as the theme of their preaching" (MacArthur)
- d. Peter said in Acts 2:38-39, "(38) Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our

God will call to Himself.”

e. In addition to Peter, those who preached the gospel included the remainder of the Twelve, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Philip, James the half-brother of Jesus, Jude the half-brother of Jesus, Stephen, and others unnamed. Not all were apostles of Christ in the same sense as Paul and the Twelve (they had not all seen the risen Lord), but they were sent by the church as messengers of the gospel empowered by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. (MacArthur)

3. Angels long to look into these things (v.12)

- a. The angels have a holy curiosity to understand the kind of grace they will never experience
- b. They do not need to be saved
- c. Fallen angels cannot be saved
- d. The holy angels seek to understand salvation so they might glorify God more fully (MacArthur)
- e. “Long” (*epithumousin*) "denotes a strong interest or craving. The present tense portrays a present, continued inner yearning to comprehend. The term does not imply that the desire cannot or should not be fulfilled, but it does mark an

enduring angelic effort to
comprehend more of the
mystery of human salvation."
(Hiebert)

CONCLUSION

1. Our salvation is great!
2. We should spend our waking days studying and reminding ourselves of what God did in providing it for mankind
3. Have you experienced it?
4. Let me remind you again of what Peter said in Acts 2:38-39, "(38) Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the

Holy Spirit. (39) “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

5. Let's pray

6. Lunch and Business Meeting