

The Centrality of Jesus Christ in Human History

1 Peter 1:10-12

PART TWO

- I. Jesus Christ – The Substance of OT Prophecy
- II. Jesus Christ – The Subject of NT Preaching
- III. Jesus Christ – The Study of Angels
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Introduction

The OT prophets, from Moses to Malachi, proclaimed the doctrine of salvation.

“the outcome of your faith, [is] the salvation of your souls” (v9).

“The whole New Testament gospel rests on the Spirit’s Old Testament testimony that was made through the OT prophets. Cancel that testimony, and you remove the basis of the gospel of Christ” (Lenski).

“the Spirit of Christ in them” (v11).

“knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20-21).

“Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you’” (Matthew 16:22).

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit” (3:18).

“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God” (4:1-2).

“But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed” (4:13).

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed” (5:1).

“the prophets...searched and inquired carefully...*the sufferings of Christ* and the subsequent glories” (v11).

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14).

Can that be said of you, or me?

The crucifixion is central to the *sufferings* of Christ. Therefore, the cross is central to the Christian life.

I. Jesus Christ – *The Subject of NT Preaching*

“It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven” (v12a)

In the Synagogue: “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.’ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing’” (Luke 4:16-21).

To Nicodemus: “No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:13-17).

“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:40).

John the Baptist: “Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’ And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame

walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me" (Matthew 11:2-6).

Jesus declares that He must suffer, die, and be raised as fulfillment of OT prophecy:

"And taking the twelve, he said to them, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.' But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said" (Luke 18:31-34).

Jesus knew He would die because that is precisely what was written of Messiah in the Scriptures:

At the Last Supper: "And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.... For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him'" (Mark 14:18-21).

Jesus reproves the Pharisees *before* the crucifixion:

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39).

Jesus reproves the disciples *after* the crucifixion:

"And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:25-27).

"Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem'" (Luke 24:44-47).

The apostle Paul connects OT prophecy to NT reality:

"For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:11-13).

"For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.' And again it is said, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.' And again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.' And again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the

Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope"(Romans 15:8-13)

Balaam's Final Oracle:

"The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel" (Numbers 24:15-17).

"These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar.... And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect" (Hebrews 11:13, 39-40).

II. Jesus Christ – *The Study of Angels*

"...things into which angels long to look" (v12b)

"And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in" (John 20:5).

Jesus Christ "was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels" (1 Timothy 3:16).

† The angels were there at the *birth* of Jesus (Luke 2:13-14).

† The angels were there at the *temptation* of Jesus (Matthew 4:11).

† The angels were there at the *resurrection* of Jesus (Luke 24:23).

† The angels will be with Him when He returns in all His *glory* (Matthew 25:31).

"Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

III. Jesus Christ – *The Savior of Mankind*

"They [the prophets] had only the dark moonlight of nature, and that is not sufficient. Only the sun of righteousness shining in the sphere of the Gospel helps here" (Leighton, 46).

Who is He to you and who is He to me?