

# *The Centrality of Christ in Human History*

## **1 Peter 1:10-12**

### **Introduction**

#### **“The Three-fold Purpose of GBF”**

##### **1. *The Glory of God***

##### **2. *The Centrality of Christ***

##### **3. *The Supremacy of Scripture***

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross” (Colossians 1:16-20).

“We recognize that the totality of the Bible is primarily a story about Jesus Christ, the Son of God; not about man. That means that Christ should emerge from all we do as we point others to Him for salvation and sanctification. He is our central focus in all things whether in life or in ministries—'for in Him we live and move and exist'” (gbfmj.com).

**Our lifelong obligation in Christ is to joyfully and confidently proclaim Him.**

“Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day” (1 Chronicles 16:23).

“Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised” (Ps. 96:2-4).

**The Gospel is an *historic declaration*, a *proclamation* of real people and actual events that have taken place on this earth to reveal God and redeem a humanity.**

**It is the irrefutable *historicity* of the Gospel that assures its veracity.**

**“the sufferings of Christ” shows us that the very center of the Gospel itself is the *cross*.**

**The cross of Jesus Christ is the wisdom and power of God.**

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

“For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:22-25).

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

“I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation” (Psalm 40:9-10).

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

## I. Jesus Christ – *The Substance of OT Prophecy*

“Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories” (vv10-11).

**The prophets proclaim God alone is Savior.**

"Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:20-22).

**The prophets proclaim the future salvation of the LORD**

**Jacob:** “I wait for your salvation, O Lord” (Genesis 49:18).

**Moses:** “The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him” (Exodus 15:2).

**David:** “my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior” (2 Samuel 22:2-3).

"The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation" (2 Samuel 22:47)

**The Psalmists:** “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. (Psalm 25:5).

“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation” (Psalm 62:1).

**Isaiah:** "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2).

"I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay" (Isaiah 46:13).

"Thus says the Lord: 'Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed'" (Isaiah 56:1).

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels" (Isaiah 61:10).

**The prophets proclaim the coming of a *Suffering Sacrifice*: "pierced," "lifted up" for our salvation.**

**Isaiah 52:13-53; cp Psalm 22**

"So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live" (Numbers 21:7-9).

"But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me" (Micah 7:7).

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn" (Zechariah 12:10).

"By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas" (Psalm 65:5).

**The prophets proclaim the most gracious divine offer to every person, every tribe, and every nation!**

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! .... Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me.... Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.... Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.... For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:1-7, 12).

**The Coming Savior King**

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9).