**1 Peter: Those who Preached the Gospel to You**

*1 Peter 1:10-12*

**Context**

***1 Peter 1:10-12****—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.*

The greatness of the salvation that the Lord has given to His elect is to be enjoyed and celebrated. Regardless of the temporary circumstances that may be difficult in this life, we are reminded that nothing can steal our joy and blessing of the inheritance that is ours through Christ.

The nature of our salvation cannot be undervalued or diminished. It provides our hope, our comfort, our eager expectation and resolve when we would otherwise be done.

“*I think we sometimes forget that the gospel is not merely a message about being saved from God’s wrath and freed from sin’s bondage. It is also good news about God’s disposition of patience, mercy and expansive, infinite love toward undeserving sinners.”* – John MacArthur

**Agents used by God**

1. **The Prophets who Prophesied**

**1 Peter 1:10***—As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries*

1. Peter is referencing the glorious salvation reserved for them

**1:9**—*obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*

1. God has chosen them for salvation, v**1**
2. God has granted them an inheritance, v**4**
3. The prophets of old spoke of this glorious grace to come; they only had a shadowy foreview[[1]](#footnote-1)
   1. The OT prophets received revelation from God

**Hos 12:10**—*I have also spoken to the prophets, And I gave numerous visions, And through the prophets I gave parables.*

**Amos 3:7**—*Surely the Lord God does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.*

**Hebrews 1:1-2**—*God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,****2****in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.*

* 1. They did not fully understand it—from Moses to Malachi

**Hebrews 11:39-40**—*And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised*

* + 1. *They did not understand the necessity of the suffering Savior*

**Luke 24:25-27***—**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.*

* + 1. *However, salvation was not illusive to them, they obtained it even without knowing its full accomplishment*
  1. They were desirous of knowing who and when the Messiah would appear
  2. Salvation would come (the act of saving sinners) through the means of God’s infinite grace

**Acts 20:32**—*And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

**Romans 5:15***—But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.*

* 1. They sought to understand the God of all mercy, compassion and grace

1. They should have understood that God’s mercy would extend beyond the nation of Israel to all people, but struggled greatly with the application

**Isa 45:22***—“Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.”*

**49:6***—He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”*

**John 10:16***—I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.*

ie. **Jonah 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.*

1. God has always been a God of mercy and grace seen throughout the OT as well as the NT

**Ex 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;*

**Ps 102:26-27**—“Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of *them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.* ***27****“But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.*

**James 1:17***—Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

* 1. He is by nature a saving God
  2. He is immutable and does not change

1. The prophets made careful searches and inquiries into what had to be their own writings (the scriptures)

**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.*

1. JTB, like the rest of the prophets, sought to identify the Messiah

**Matthew 11:2-6***—Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples****3****and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”****4****Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see:****5****the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.****6****And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”*

1. For us, in contrast, we have the fullness of knowing the historical events of the incarnation
2. *“What a comfort this reminder must have been to the suffering believers of Asia Minor! The sacrifice on Calvary had been accomplished; the tomb was empty; the disciples had seen Christ ascend; and they had heard His promise of return!”[[2]](#footnote-2)*
3. **The Spirit who Works**

**1 Peter 1:11b-12a**—*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,*

1. Of course any prophecy that comes from the prophets (or any other advocate of the gospel) must be illuminated and empowered by the Spirit of Christ

**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.*

1. The Spirit of Christ indwells His representatives

**Romans 8:9***—However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

1. OT examples of men speaking for God

**Jeremiah 1:9**—*Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.*

**Ezek 2:7**—*But you shall speak My words to them whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.*

**Amos 3:7-8***—Surely the Lord God does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets.*

1. He predicted 2 things, **v11**:
   1. The sufferings of Christ

(**Psalm 22:1-31; Is 52:13-53:12; Daniel 9:24-26; Zech 12:10; 13:7**)

* 1. The glories to follow

**Is 9:6-7**—*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

**Daniel 2:44**—*In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.*

(Cf. **Daniel 7:13-14, Zech 2:0-12; 14:16-17**)

1. The Spirit was indicating, or “making plain” to them as He predicted what was to come
   1. *Predicted* means “witnessed beforehand”
   2. All that God wanted us to know about the reincarnate Christ, He revealed through the prophets through the predictions of the Spirit
   3. Those would be fulfilled completely in the ministry of Christ
2. *It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves*

**Hebrews 11:13, 39-40**—*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…****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.*

* 1. Although the prophecies were of significant worth; they were not to be fulfilled during their lifetime
  2. They would be for those who later experience the new covenant blessings
  3. They lived in hope of the first coming of the Messiah; we live in hope of the second coming of the messiah
  4. They were saved in the future grace of the atonement; we live in the past grace of the atonement
  5. The Cross is the pinnacle of redemption.[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. **The Apostles who Peached**

**1 Peter 1:12b***—…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…*

1. Again, Peter references salvation by referencing “in these things”
2. They have been announced to you
   1. Peter started the apostolic preaching with the first sermon following Pentecost in Acts 2

**Acts 2:14-15**—*But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words.*

* 1. Peter wasn’t the only messenger of that gospel truth
  2. The other 11 Apostles and preachers (Stephen, Philip, Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Timothy, James, Jude, etc.)
  3. *The gospel*—the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as the only substitutionary atonement for the sin of man
  4. That message was sent from the Father communicated through the persona and work of the Son
  5. And here, is *by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven*

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5***—And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.****2****For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.****3****I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,****4****and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,****5****so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.*

**Romans 1:16-17***—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.****17****For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”*

1. **The Angels who Gaze**

**1 Peter 1:12c***—…things into which angels long to look.*

1. *Things*—matters of salvation
2. *Long to look* (*epithume)—“t*o lust” in a negative sense; a strong desire; an overpowering impulse that isn’t easily satisfied[[4]](#footnote-4)
3. *To look*—literally: “to stretch forward your head, or to bend down.”

**Luke 24:12**—*But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he \*saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.*

1. Angels
   1. The language here is metaphorical—angels don’t have necks
   2. Angels have taken human form (**Gen 18 &19** with Lot; **Gen 32** with Jacob) and often speaking like people and having human names
   3. The holy angels never need to be saved; the fallen angels have no capacity to be saved
   4. Redemption for them is not an option for fallen angels
   5. The angels holy and fallen have been around the work of salvation; however, none of them will ever experience it
   6. That does not mean that the angels have not been part of the redemptive narrative

* Announce the birth of the Messiah, **Luke 1:26-27**—Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was *sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,****27****to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.*
* **Luke 2:10-12***—But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;****11****for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*
* Minister to Jesus, **Matthew 4:11**—*Then the devil \*left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.*
* After Jesus death, **Matthew 28:5-7**—*The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.****6****He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.****7****Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”*
* At the ascension of Jesus, **Acts 1:10-11**—*And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.****11****They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”*
* Are subjected to Jesus, **1 Peter 3:22***—[Jesus Christ]**who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.*
* Ministering spirits sent by Jesus, **Hebrews 1:14**—Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits, *sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*
  1. Although they will never personally experience salvation, they long to understand it better
  2. The aim of angels is to glorify God. If God is putting His majesty on display through the salvation of sinners, they’re interested!

**1 Corinthians 4:9**—*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.*

[*Spectacle*, Strong’s [G2300](https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/G2300/kjv/tr/0-1/)]—a place for public show

**Revelation 5:11-13**—*Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,****12****saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”* ***13****And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”*

**Conclusion**

The greatness of the expression of God’s love for us in salvation will forever be on our lips throughout eternity. Let’s make it the expression of our lips today and every day!

*“To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”*

**Homework:** Memorize **1 Peter 1:1-14**

**Sources**

Most of the message and notes come from:

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1. Richard De Haan, 26. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Richard W. De Haan, 27. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. MacArthur, 56. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. MacArthur, p57 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)