

Things into which Angles Long to Look

1 Peter 1:10-12

Series: Exiles in this World

1. Introduction:

- a. Peter, as we know, is writing to a people beset with sufferings because of their Christian faith.
 - i. Peter has reminded them of their position in Christ – Elect
 - ii. Their positions in this world – exiles
 - iii. The salvation that awaits
 1. The inheritance pure and secure
 - iv. Of their great faith, they do not see Christ and yet they love him.

2. Verse 10 – Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, (11) inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

- a. Four great truths taught by these verses:
- b. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours
 - i. **Truth 1** – The Old Testament prophets taught the doctrine of salvation.
 - ii. Salvation through Christ had been prophesied (from Moses to Malachi) and was part of God's plan from the beginning.
 - iii. Salvation was intended for a group of people whom God elected and foreordained.
 - iv. God gave glimpses and prophecies to what should be expected.
- c. They searched and inquired carefully
 - i. **Truth 2** – They researched and investigated this subject.
 - ii. The prophets received God's revelation but did not always understand what their prophecies meant. However, they did not shrug their shoulders when they failed to understand the significance of their words; instead they searched diligently and carefully to determine the meaning of God's Word
 - iii. Their prophecies excited their own hopes; they yearned for fuller and clearer revelation. The full meaning of their prophecies could not appear until Christ appeared.

- iv. We, the hearers of these things, are full heirs of the full message of the prophets. The least disciple of Christ is in a better position to understand Old Testament revelation than the greatest prophet before Christ came.
- d. inquiring what person or time
 - i. **Truth 3** – They tried to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit pointed.
 - 1. The prophets knew that the Messiah would be coming, but they had no knowledge when he would appear or what the circumstances of his appearance would be. Therefore, they inquired about the “when and how” of the Messiah's coming.
- e. the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories
 - i. **Truth 4** – The Spirit predicted Christ's sufferings and glory.
 - ii. The Spirit, then, revealed to them by means of predictions what the Christ had to endure. Note that in this passage, Peter unequivocally teaches the preexistence of Christ when he writes, “the Spirit of Christ in them ... predicted the sufferings of Christ.”
 - iii. There is a great truth in this passage of scripture –
 - 1. Sufferings now, glories to follow. Peter wants to encourage Christians who face the first to look for the second. He has pointed our hope to the glory of Christ, and his return.
 - 2. The Christ of glory is the Christ of the cross.
 - 3. The sequence of our lives follows the sequence of Christ's life. He suffered first, then entered into his glory. So must we.
 - iv. Remember that it was Peter
 - 1. That originally wanted the glory without the suffering when he rebuked Christ and received an incredible rebuke for it.
 - 2. Peter also unsheathed a sword in order to deliver Christ from Suffering.
 - 3. Peter would betray Christ in order not to suffer.
 - 4. It was Peter, after the resurrection, who rejoiced after being beaten because he was counted worthy to suffer reproach for the name of Christ.

- f. The purpose of the old and new testament is to deliver us to the glory of Christ but that goes through the road of suffering.
 - g. Remember:
 - i. Both Christ and the prophets suffered tremendously in order to receive their reward.
 - ii. Christ is not one example of suffering and glory among man; his is the suffering that brought salvation, his is the glory that brings the new creation.
 - h. Hence, suffering is not a sign that Christ has betrayed us, or that he is no longer Lord; rather it is a sign of our fellowship with the risen Lord who first suffered for us.
3. Verse 12 – 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, things into which angels long to look.
- a. **It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you,**
 - i. The prophets understood, somehow, that they were serving future generations.
 - b. **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,**
 - i. The preachers where also being moved by the divine third Person of the Trinity. The message belongs to God.
 - c. **things into which angels long to look.**
 - i. The very angels of heaven peer into mysteries of salvation that are revealed by the Spirit to those who are redeemed by Jesus Christ.
 - 1. They strain
4. Benediction –
- a. **2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.