

1 Peter 1:10-12
Spirit-Given Prophecies

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^[a] the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 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.

Prayer: Gracious Father, thank you for this revelation of your Word ministered to us through this first letter written by the Apostle Peter. We thank you for your divine wisdom in ordaining that your truth to your people would be ministered to us through prophets and apostles. Lord, we want to be enlightened in your truth today – guide us as we study this portion of your Word: guide the preacher and give us all ears to hear what the Spirit would say to us and instruct us in today. We pray in our Savior Jesus' precious name. Amen.

One of the great revelations of the NT is the rich teaching and information given to us about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not hidden in the OT but information about him is somewhat scarce, especially when compared to the NT. Jesus opened up to us a whole new vista, a view, of the Spirit of God – our knowledge of him was enriched ten-fold, I would say. John chapters 14, 15, and 16, for example, greatly expand our knowledge and understanding of his person and work. We read, for example, in John 14:26, his words to his apostles:

But the Helper, the Holy **Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he will *teach you all things* and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

We learn from this one verse alone that the Holy Spirit is the Helper of Jesus, that the Father will send him to the people of God in Jesus' name, and that he would teach the apostles all the things they needed to know about Jesus – and he would assist them in remembering all those things they had heard from the mouth of their Master for three years. That is why we cling with fierce loyalty and devotion to the writings of the apostles given to us in the NT, because what they wrote was guided and certified as true and reliable by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Without the Spirit of God, we could not understand the things of Christ, nor would we have the inclination or power to come to Jesus and be saved from our sins. *The Spirit of the living God joins us to Christ and joins Christ to us.*

Today's passage, 1 Peter 1:10-12, is holding true to form in what we have seen in our previous three studies in this letter – these three verses are chocked full of Biblical and theological truth which bid us to come and camp awhile, dig in and investigate, and meditate on the truths contained herein. As were the men of old, we are dependent on the Spirit of God to open up his Word to us today.

There are three great truths in this passage that I want to bring out today:

I. The predictions of the prophets were about Christ and his people. v. 10-12

II. The predictions of the prophets were not their own ideas but revelations of the Spirit. v. 11

III. The Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets also inspired the preachers of the Gospel. v. 12

So, let's begin...

I. The predictions of the prophets were about Christ and his people. v. 10-12

A. About "this salvation" v. 10

Notice how verse 10 begins, "**Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied...**"

What is "this salvation" that introduces the sentence? It is what Peter has been teaching us in the preceding verses:

- How it was God's mercy that was the underlying cause of our salvation.
- How our new birth, our spiritual birth, is based upon and connected to Christ's resurrection from the dead.
- How this salvation is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading
- It is kept in heaven for us, it is guarded by God's power, and it will be fully revealed in the last time.
- All of these truths are mind-boggling. How can God be so rich in mercy and so powerful to act to save us and keep us safe in his love? What a great God of love and mercy he is! Who would not want to serve and worship this God?
- Could there be any higher or greater blessing on earth that to be joined to him through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ?
- And then even our grievous trials and testings have a greater purpose – they are testing our faith and burning off the impurities of our lives that need to be tossed aside as we pilgrim toward the heavenly city, the city of God.
- All these realities are what Peter means in verse 10 by "**Concerning this salvation...**"

Such a rich salvation...the prophets of the OT were given glimpses of it and they treasured every morsel that God was pleased to make known to them.

They were like men who had only eaten beans and rice all their lives – it kept them alive – but then they were brought food one day from the king of the land's table – sample of all his rich fare – and they tasted of the meats and vegetables and breads and sauces

and desserts – and they were absolute blown away by the tastes and textures of such rich food – but they only got a taste – and were told they would have to wait a long time to get a full meal.

And so the prophets were tantalized by what the Spirit of God revealed to them, but they weren't given the full picture – but what they did receive they faithfully recorded it and preached it and let it be known what God had given them – there was Moses and Isaiah and Jeremiah and Daniel and all the others.

This is why we need to read the prophets – to learn redemptive history – to learn of the foundations of our faith – to better understand what they predicted of the Messiah so we can see how their predictions were fulfilled in Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the promised Redeemer of God's people. We need to read the prophets to learn what they predicted about Jesus, the coming Deliverer and Savior of God's people.

So the predictions of the prophets were about Christ and his salvation and specifically about his people also.

You cannot separate Christ from his people. This is the whole reason Christ came, to gain a people for himself – to be their God, and he their people.

When we are saved we are joined not only to Christ, but also to his people. That is why I need you and you need me, and we all need one another. We are the body of Christ. A hand cannot exist by itself unless it is connected to the body and the foot cannot exist by itself unless it is connected to the body. We need the church and the church needs us. To be a Christian means to be a vital member of a local church. The NT knows of no other type of Christian.

B. This salvation that Peter is talking about is About the coming grace for the people of God. v. 10. Peter says that the prophets prophesied **about the grace that was to be yours.**

This is how Peter describes this coming salvation for the people of God – calls it **grace that was to be yours.**

“Grace” means it is a gift - not something we can earn. It's not performance on our part but work on Christ's part – he did the work – he lived and died and rose and ascended and sends the Spirit and we receive all his gracious gifts. You can't buy Christ's salvation – you can only hear about it and believe it and receive it and give him praise all the days of your life.

What was it about Christ that the prophets wrote about? It was...

C. About Christ's sufferings v. 11
Examples: Psa. 22; Isa. 53

We read about his suffering in Isaiah 53 today in our scripture reading time:

***we esteemed him stricken,
(H) smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 (I) But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,***

Or we could go to Psalm 22 – someone said this was like it was written by someone who had been standing at the foot of the cross:

***they have (AG) pierced my hands and feet^(b)—
17 I can count all my bones—
they (AH) stare and gloat over me;
18 (AI) they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.***

D. And then the prophets about **Christ's subsequent glories** - v. 11

Examples: Psa. 2:

***The Lord said to me, (K) "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and (L) the ends of the earth your possession.***

Or we read in Daniel 7:13-14:

***and (A) behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the (B) Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.
14 (C) And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all (D) peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
(E) his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,
and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.***

So all these things that the various prophets wrote about the future Christ and his people were not just things for their own private knowledge and meditation – but this is amazing...

E. Look at verse 12: ***It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you...***

The prophets – Ezekiel, and David, and Micah and all the rest were shown by God that what they were writing about the Christ was something that was for the supreme benefit of the people of God who were to come, be born, in the

future. The prophets were serving not themselves but us. Can you imagine that? God ordained that these ancient prophets were serving us in our day and serving all the people of God in these previous generations who believed in Christ up to the present time. They were serving and prophesying for our benefit!

You see, God knows the end from the beginning. And he revealed some of those end things, specifically, things about the Christ, to the prophets hundreds of years before the Christ appeared on the stage of human history.

But then, when Christ did come, when he was born of the virgin Mary and suffered under Pontius Pilate, and rose from the dead on the third day, and appeared with many “irrefutable proofs” to his disciples over a 40 day period that he had been physically resurrected from the dead – then all the disciples looked back in the OT and they saw how these things had been predicted by prophets and they began to preach and point these things out in their preaching. “All the prophecies of the OT were fulfilled and consummated in the Lord Jesus Christ.” This is what Paul did when he when he went and visited the synagogues of the Jewish people living in the Roman empire. He would say: All the prophecies of the coming Messiah were fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth – so you must believe in him and receive him as your Lord and Savior. “ The time has come in history, the Messiah has arrived, “repent and believe the gospel.” Paul preached this message on Mars Hill in Athens and we must preach the same message today.

I. The predictions of the prophets were about Christ and his people. v. 10-12

II. The predictions of the prophets were not their own ideas but revelations of the Spirit. v. 11

A. *The Spirit of Christ was in them...*

1. He was in them for a special ministry.

They were anointed to give forth the prophecies that the Spirit was communicating to them.

Peter expands a bit on this reality in his 2nd letter:

2 Pet. 1:21 - 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.

It was not the will of man but the will of God that produced these prophecies. Isaiah did not just sit down one day and say, "I think I'll write prophecy about the coming Messiah. Let's see, what can I say about him?"

No, but the Spirit came on him at a time and place and manner of Yahweh's choosing. Maybe it was the middle of the night, or maybe when he was walking out in the hills, but we can imagine that the voice of the Spirit was unmistakable and he was filled and consumed by the Spirit of Prophecy. He wrote down one of that we read in Isa. 9: 6:

(A)For to us a child is born,
to us (B)a son is given;
(C)and the government shall be (D)upon^[a] his shoulder,
and his name shall be called^[b]
Wonderful (E)Counselor, (F)Mighty God,
(G)Everlasting (H)Father, Prince of (I)Peace.

- B. The Spirit of Christ was "indicating" certain things about the Christ. The text doesn't tell us how he indicated these prophecies, but that he did it.
- C. In verse 12 we read these prophecies about the Christ were "revealed" to them. Somehow the HS made it clear that these prophecies were about the Messiah and they wrote them down to preserve them.

Their prophecies were not wasted but received and pondered by the pious people of God. Examples: Mary, Simeon, Anna, apostles

- D. The Spirit of Christ is the third person of the triune God.

He communicates the things of God to the people of God. From example, by his invisible and indwelling presence in the prophets he gave them certain predictions about the Christ's coming and ministry.

The last half of v. 11 says of the HS, that "he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. "

Notice the HS is a "he" here – he is a person. And he is a person who communicates with people.

The HS communicates the presence, the will, the knowledge of God to human beings. He is the link, the bridge between divinity and humanity, between God and people.

How do we know about Jesus? How do we understand who Jesus is?

John 15:26 -

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the

Father, the **Spirit** of truth, who proceeds from the Father, *he will bear witness about me.*

Peter in verse 12 reminds us of the authority and divinity of the Holy Spirit when he says “***the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.***”

The HS came from heaven because that was his eternal dwelling place, along with the Father and the Son.

And the HS was “sent” – this indicates that he didn’t just come on his own – but other persons were involved in his mission on earth. The Father sent him and the Son sent him – he came from heaven because he was commissioned by God to do a work among people:

John 14:8 - **he will ^(G)convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:**

He came for several related reasons – the chief being to reveal the Son of God, Jesus Christ, to people, to convince them of their sins, to show them the beauty and glory and holiness of the Son of God, and then to regenerate them – to create spiritual life in their hearts where previously there was only the human heart full of sin and selfishness and moral corruption – the Spirit came so he could do something that no other power on earth could do- change human hearts – to enable them to grow in godliness and forsake more and more worldliness and ungodliness.

Oh, blessed Spirit of God, the eternal Spirit of God, inhabitant of eternity come to earth to change the hearts of sinners. How we need you! How we love you! How we worship you, Spirit who brings the Father and the Son to us!

AP - We should study the OT prophets to understand how the predictions about the Christ were fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth and thus strengthen our faith in Christ as the one in whom Biblical prophecy is supremely fulfilled. This is redemptive history.*

*(*Applications)*

III. The Holy Spirit who inspired the prophets also inspired the preachers of the Gospel. v. 12

- A. The Gospel is an announcement of what God has done in Christ to save his people. It is Good News. (the “best news”)
AP – We, too, must announce the Gospel to our generation.
- B. The gospel comes through men to other men.

1. This is God's predetermined way by which the message of salvation would come into the hearing of people throughout the earth.
- C. Thus Christ commanded the apostles (and all Christians) to go into all the world and preach the gospel.
- D. The announcement of the Gospel is a personal message.
 1. V. 10 "the grace that was to be *yours*...."
 2. V.12 "...they were serving not themselves but **you**..."
- E. Because the gospel is set forth by preachers who are sent by the Spirit from heaven, and the content of whose message is given by the Spirit from heaven...
 - a. It has Divine origin
 - b. It carries Divine Authority
 - c. It has the blessing of Divine Approval
 - d. It must be received with deep gratitude.
- F. It is the presence of the Spirit that gives the gospel its divine power for salvation.
Rom. 1:16 - ¹⁶ For ^(A)I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is ^(B)the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew ^(C)first and also to ^(D)the Greek

AP The Holy Spirit will only bless his revealed Word, and nothing extraneous to his Word. Therefore, we must be careful to present a Biblically accurate account of the Gospel.

We must be diligent students of his Word.

We must pray for the presence, guidance, and power of the Spirit as we and others proclaim the Gospel.

We must depend absolutely on God's spirit to reveal to gospel to sinners, to convict them of sin, and to draw them to Christ.

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Main Idea

The OT prophets predicted the coming grace for the people of God, and they strained to understand the Spirit's indications regarding the coming suffering and glory of the Christ. These prophets were not serving themselves, but the people of God in future generations as the Gospel was preached by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

AP – if they did this for us, we should take heed to them and read/study/embrace them.
The preaching of the Gospel is a Spirit-empowered phenomenon.

AP – Therefore, we should hear it carefully and receive it wholeheartedly.

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