

Opening Remarks: “Open your Bibles to 1 Peter...”

THEME: Since the angels of God look so intently into the topic of salvation, we should be studying the reality of our salvation more often and more intensely than we do.

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INTRO STATEMENT: Ever since The Fall of humanity in Genesis 3, God has had a plan for redemption. He inspired prophets and kings to prophesy about the coming salvation to humanity, and those prophets then searched and inquired for a better, more thorough understanding about what all these things meant and when they would occur. And yet — for the most part — they were not given any real clarity as to the details of salvation. They longed to know more about this coming Messiah but were not granted such knowledge.

Then Jesus was born. The Son of God ministered, performed miracles, and taught the people about the Kingdom of Heaven. He eventually died on the cross, rose from the dead, ascended into the clouds, and was exalted to the right hand of the Father. Over the last two thousand years, preachers have been sent by God to people all around the world to proclaim these truths and to share the gospel of salvation, which is received by faith alone in Jesus Christ. This reality of grace and salvation and redemption is so marvelous and unique that even the angels of God are fascinated by it.

Think about that! The angels of God are fascinated by the reality of your salvation that they look intently — they stare and ponder and gaze into the truth of grace because it is an attribute and gift of God they personally know nothing about.

NOW ... since this is the case with the angels and their total fascination with the reality of our salvation, why don't we consider God's grace more often than we do? We do we — as believers in Christ — sometimes go days without praying or reading our Bibles, and months or even years without sharing our faith with an unbeliever? Why indeed?

READ: 1 Peter 1:1-12

10 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.

OUTLINE:

- I. The Prophet's Inquiry (1:10-12a)
 - A. Their careful search (1:10a)
 - B. Their prophetic ministry (1:10b)
 - C. Their personal perplexity (1:11)
 1. The Person or time (1:11a)
 2. The sufferings and the glories (1:11b)
 - D. Their restricted service (1:12a)
- II. The Spirit's Prediction (1:11-12a)
- III. The Preacher's Sermon (1:12b)
- IV. The Angel's Gaze (1:12c)

PREACHING NOTES:

“As to this salvation”

- c.f. verse 9 —> “*obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*”
- Psalm 3:8 “*Salvation belongs to the Lord*”
- 1 Timothy 2:3,4 “*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*”

“the prophets”

- from Moses to Malachi.
- God's spokesmen.

“who prophesied”

- 2 Peter 1:20,21 *“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”*
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*
- Matthew 11:13 *“For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John.”*

“of the grace”

- Grace is unmerited favor.
- Grace encompasses the entire motive behind God’s saving work.

“that would come to you”

- Isaiah 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. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.”*

“made careful”**“searches and inquiries”****“seeking to know”**

- Matthew 13:16-17 *“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 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.”*
- Matthew 11:2-3 *“Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”*

“what person”

- From Isaiah's prophecy they knew He would be born of a virgin (but they didn't know her name would be Mary).
- From Micah's prophecy they knew He would be born in Bethlehem (but not as the result of a required census from a pagan Caesar).
- They even knew He would be raised in the City of Nazareth.

“or time”

- era; as to when it would occur.
- The prophets didn't know what year the Savior would be born.
- They DEFINITELY did NOT understand that He would come TWICE.

“the Spirit of Christ”**“within them”****“was indicating”**

- 'indicating' —> 'making plain'

“as He predicted”

- 'witnessed beforehand'

“the sufferings”

- Isaiah 53:1-12 *“Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have*

gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors."

- **Psalm 22:1-18** *"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest. Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. In You our fathers trusted. They trusted and You delivered them. To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted and were not disappointed. But I am a worm and not a man. A reproach of men and despised by the people. All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, "Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him." Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb. Be not far from me, for trouble is near; For there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. They open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots."*

"of Christ"

"and"

“the glories”

- The resurrection, ascension, and enthronement of Christ.

“to follow.”**“It was revealed”**

- They received an answer to their searches and prayers —> just not the answer they expected.

“to them”**“that they were not serving themselves,”**

- Hebrews 11:13 *“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.”*

“but you,”

- Luke 10:23-24 *“Turning to the disciples, He said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them.”*

“in these things”**“which now have been announced”****“to you”**

- Acts 2:39-40 *“For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!”*

“through those who preached”

“the gospel”

- “gospel” means “good news”
- Luke 2:10-11 *“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; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

“to you”

“by the Holy Spirit”

- 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. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.”*

“sent from heaven — “

“things into which”

“angels”

- Angels oppose the demons, carry messages from God, and perform other divine service.
- Hebrews 1:14 *“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”*

“long to look.”

- ‘long’ —> having a strong desire or overpowering impulse that is not easily satisfied.
- John MacArthur: *“The term indicates that the angels’ interest in salvation is not merely whimsical or an incidental curiosity but a strong passion with them.”*
- ‘look’ —> literally means to stretch one’s head forward or to bend down.
- Ephesians 3:10 *“so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.”*
- 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.”*

Application:

1. Your salvation is so precious that God’s Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of other people to reach you and share the gospel with you.
2. Your salvation is so amazing that even the angels are still taking notice today!
3. Your salvation is so important that you must go and share it with as many people as you can.

CONCLUSION: Luke 15:8-10

8 “Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? **9** When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!’ **10** In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”