

20220911 1 Peter 1:10-12 THINGS WHICH ANGELS DESIRE TO LOOK INTO

¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into. (1 Peter 1:10-12, NKJV).

On Wednesday, we covered verses 3-9, and the big idea was that we have a LIVING HOPE. I mentioned 1 Thessalonians chapter four, which tells us that we are not hopeless as the heathen are. We are told that when our loved ones die, although we mourn, we DO NOT GRIEVE AS THOSE WHO HAVE NO HOPE. As human beings, we are affected by our emotions. We might be happy. We might become sad. We may feel a loss. We might get depressed. And we can even feel oppressed at times. But we have a LIVING HOPE that is in stark contrast to living a life without Jesus.

This living hope is based on our inheritance of eternal life. In verses four through five, Peter tells us that this inheritance of eternal life is not something we can lose. He continues in verses six through nine, explaining that the believer is not exempt from trials. We spoke about the fact that our faith not only saved us to eternal life but also sustains us in this life. Our faith becomes refined like gold in the fire, which is precious. It gives us a reason to keep on keeping on. When we get a genuine concept of the inheritance that awaits us, we respond by giving praise, honor, and glory to Jesus.

Paul explains that this is precious because we love Him even though we've never seen Him. And even though we've never seen Him, we believe in Him. I am sure that some have seen Him, but I have never had that privilege or joy. It is good to remember that when we believe without having ever seen Him, we are blessed. You'll remember that when Thomas wouldn't believe unless he put his finger into Jesus' hands and side, Jesus told him, "*Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*" (John 20:29, NKJV). Peter tells us that we can greatly rejoice in the fact that we will spend eternity in heaven with Christ. Those who have believed in Him, who read this sermon or hear this sermon, are blessed!

Verse 10 – Peter tells us that the prophets inquired and searched carefully. They did, indeed. There are so many foreshadowing events of the coming of Jesus in the Old Testament that it would be many sermons just reciting them. Peter says that they even

prophesied about grace coming to all. Where did the Prophets prophesy of the grace that would come to us? Several scriptures come to mind immediately. One is the Abrahamic Covenant, and another is God's choice of Israel as His people.

In Genesis chapter 15, we read about God's covenant with Abraham.

*¹² Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.....¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, **there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.** ¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying..." (Genesis 15:12, 17-18a, NKJV).*

A covenant was a promise made between two parties. In ancient times, the two parties would make promises to each other and then solemnize that promise by killing an animal or animals, and they BOTH would then walk through the dead animals. It was a way of saying, "I have promised you this, and you have promised me that, and if either of us breaks those promises, the same thing that happened to these animals will happen to the covenant breaker. The covenant cited above with Abraham is so interesting because God set forth the terms of the covenant. Still, ONLY GOD WALKED THROUGH THE ANIMALS SIGNIFYING THAT HE ALONE WAS MAKING THE PROMISE. Abraham was in a deep sleep during the making of the covenant. He witnessed the burning torch (God's presence) while fast asleep.

The covenant terms are outlined in the following verses, but it is significant that Abraham wasn't able to do anything to make the covenant. He was in a "deep sleep," and God alone walked between the animals that were cut in two to make a covenant. God did the promising. Abraham did nothing. That is a picture of grace. "**There appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.** ¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram..." (Genesis 15:17b-18a, NKJV). This should remind us of Paul's letter to the Romans in which he says, ⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" (Romans 5:8, KJV).

In another example of the prophets of old inquiring and searching diligently for grace, God tells us why He chose Israel *"The LORD did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But **it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath He swore to your ancestors that He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand***

generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments." (Deuteronomy 7:7-9, NIV). That is a beautiful picture of grace. Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus explains clearly that it was by grace that we are saved through faith, and it is not the result of any works of righteousness that we have done (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Verse 11 – In this verse, Peter says that through the power of the Holy Spirit, the prophets foretold the suffering Jesus was to endure and the glories that would follow that. Peter is saying that the prophets inquired and studied what certain scriptures meant. So, where do we find Old Testament writings about the suffering of Jesus? Let's turn over to Isaiah 53. This passage has led thousands and thousands of Jews to believe that Yehoshua (Jesus) was the Messiah, foretold by the prophets of old. Listen to the words of Isaiah. They make complete sense when you understand the mission of Jesus and what happened to Him. Otherwise, I am not sure anyone could begin to know what they speak of.

*¹ Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground.
He has no form or comeliness;
And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
³ He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
(Isaiah 53:1-3, NKJV).*

Isaiah did not know of whom he wrote. Yet he describes Jesus' life and death explicitly. He came up as a tender root. Peter was familiar with these scriptures, and I am sure he was thinking of them in the reality of Who and What he had seen in Jesus. With the knowledge of Jesus, all scriptures come into magnificent focus and are filled with meaning. As Peter wrestled with the agony and traumatic events of the resurrection, he remembered,

*⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions,*

*He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
(Isaiah 53:4-6, NKJV).*

As Peter looked back on the events of passion week, I am sure he thought of these and the many other verses that speak directly to the "Sufferings of Messiah and the glories that would follow." These passages are still proof today for those who can't find a reason to believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Verse 12 - *To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into. (1 Peter 1:12, NKJV).*

These prophets of old realized that they were not speaking to those in their own time. In the passage we just read, I am sure Isaiah wondered who this suffering servant was and how it would fit together. It is so cryptic and mysterious without Jesus. With Him, it all makes sense. The prophets knew that their words were not meant for their times. Even Daniel, who lived in the sixth century before Christ, had visions of the end of time.

*9 "I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire;
10 A fiery stream issued
And came forth from before Him.
A thousand thousands ministered to Him;
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.
The court was seated,
And the books were opened.
(Daniel 7:9-10, NKJV).*

I think the "Ancient of Days" is Jesus Himself. Daniel and the other prophets didn't understand all the details of how God would come as a man and die to save sinners. They didn't conceive of a Messiah like this, but God did this in the fullness of time. Peter

is telling us that all these unclear and veiled things are now clear and in the open. Salvation through Jesus is available to all. Peter understood early on that salvation was for Jew and Gentile. He had the vision on the roof of Simon, the Tanner, in which all that was unclean was made clean. He was in the boat when Andrew told him, "We have found the Messiah." Peter was there the night that Jesus was betrayed, and Peter's heart was broken when the answer to all of his questions was nailed to a cross. But it was Peter that raced John to the tomb, believing that Jesus had risen from the dead. Peter preached the sermon at Pentecost when the promised Holy Spirit came down on everyone there. Peter is telling us in these verses that all of those prophecies and this whole Gospel story are so fantastic that even the angels look on in wonder about the relationship that we enjoy with God.

We gathered around the bed of one of our saints near death on Friday night. Five or six of us sang great hymns of the faith and spoke of God's mercy and grace in our times of need. I reminded the group that angels were no doubt there ministering, and they were looking on in wonder at our relationship with God. We are so privileged to live at the time that we live. We can understand clearly what was veiled for so long. We can't understand it all, but we are the great beneficiaries of the Magnificence of The Messiah, Jesus the Christ, Son of the Living God.

When disciples began trailing away and leaving Jesus, He turned to His disciples and asked them, " Will you leave me also?" And it was precious Peter, The Rock, that gave the correct answer, and he gave it straight from His heart, *"⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also, we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (John 6:66-68, NKJV).*

There are two this morning who have made that same confession. They came to the point where what they had heard seemed right. It seemed to make perfect sense. It was the Holy Spirit that convicted them, and it was the Holy Spirit that called them. They responded by believing and accepting what Jesus had done for them on the cross. Listener or reader, have you done the same? It is a simple step of faith to believe. It only takes a mustard seed of faith.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17, NKJV).

Angels stoop down and do anything they can to understand God's grace and our salvation. Why would they do this? Well, there are no "saved" angels. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, but not for the angels. There are good angels and fallen angels, but no saved angels exist. We alone, of all creatures in the universe, can experience God's grace, salvation, and redemptive work of forgiveness. This fascinates the angels and causes them to study and marvel at the gift of salvation they do not share.

Let us pray.

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at uniongrove362@gmail.com or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.