

Good News of Salvation

1Peter 1:10-12

9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **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. **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.

After Peter began his letter with a greeting to the elect exiles, he immediately gave a word of praise. We don't want to overlook it. (see v.3) ³ ***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!***

After this opening praise and doxology, there comes the reason for it: *"According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"* We are born again to a living hope. Peter went on to describe this "living hope" as an inheritance *that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, reserved in heaven for you.* This is our salvation. Peter calls this living hope, and this inheritance -- SALVATION. In the last part of v.5 as ***"a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."***

v.9 it says.... The **salvation** of your souls.

Look at v.10 Peter continues speaking of salvation... *"Concerning **this salvation**..."*

Salvation is the theme of Peter's letter. He makes it clear - the only way to be saved and go to heaven is through the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross, paid for our sins, and because of that we can be saved and stand one day in the holy presence of God in glory. Let's fast forward just a bit and see what Peter has written about this.

1Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we **might die to sin** and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God,...

No wonder Peter began his letter with the words - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!* Something had to be done about our SINS. Jesus took our sins to His cross. He suffered for our sins, that he might bring us to God. This is GOOD NEWS for the sinner. In v.12 Peter called it good news that was preached to you by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven.

- For sinful hearts, there's good news. You don't have to carry the weight and guilt of your sins. Our salvation in Christ means we are forgiven. We are forever pardon and never to come into condemnation. This is Good news for the sinner. By his wounds you have been healed

from a SINFUL heart. When we sin we look to the cross....we confess our sins and take delight in the provisions Christ has made. Thank God for the salvation that forgives us.

- For doubtful hearts, there's good news. Oh, how we have been assaulted with doubt and uncertainty has oppressed our minds. The good news is this--- you can put your doubts away. We don't see how things will turn out. We have times of doubtings, but Peter assures us *"though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*
- For troubled hearts, there's good news. *"though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials"....take courage.* We have reasons to rejoice because the Lord Jesus has the remedy for all who suffer. Our faith is tested and will result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The world is full of problems. . In recent days our attention has been drawn toward the Middle East where war has broken out between Israel and Hamas. The number killed has been over a thousand Jews and twenty-seven Americans. Many say we are on the brink of WW3. It's a troubling time for sure. Here's something for sure.... We have the only GOOD NEWS for a troubled world. This is the message we preach - It's the same as the prophets of old preached.

Should NOT be neglected - **Hebrews 2:1-3** **"....how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation..."**

Let's look at what the Old Testament Prophets preached.

1. It's Good News received by God's saving grace.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully... (v.10)

The prophets in the Old Testament prophesied about the grace that was to be yours. In their own day they did prophesy of judgment, but they also spoke of God's salvation. You have the writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel who are called the major prophets. They spoke of God's saving grace that was to come. Yet, this future grace was theirs to enjoy.

YOU can't EARN salvation.... it's a free gift of grace!

Isaiah 55:1-3

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

There's the minor prophet Zechariah with his message of grace.

Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰ "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem **a spirit of grace** and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Grace in Noah's Time

It's true we have the judgment of God seen very clearly in the Old Testament. When God saw the wickedness of man to be so great, He decided to destroy man. Even in judgment God extended a gracious hand to sinners.

Genesis 6:5-8

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." ⁸ But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of the LORD. (NKJV)

WE see the Judgment of God in the Old Testament. We also see – God's grace.

Grace in Jonah's Time

God sent Jonah to preach to Nineveh. God had plans to destroy Nineveh if they failed to repent of their wickedness. Jonah didn't like the Ninevites. He wanted God to destroy them. That's why he took a ship to Tarshish, and you know the story how God prepared a storm, and then a great fish to swallow up Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of that huge fish for 3 days and 3 nights. Jonah repented...and the Lord had the great fish to spit Jonah out. Jonah got himself down to Nineveh and did the preaching God required of him. Jonah entered the city and began proclaiming everywhere "in 40 days God will overthrow Nineveh" The people of Nineveh listened and repented in sackcloth and ashes. God withheld pouring out His judgment on the city.

Jonah was angry. Listen to Jonah 4:1-2

Jonah 4:1-2

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ² So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a **gracious** and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

God didn't have to send Jonah to Nineveh with a Word from God. God would have been just in destroying wicked sinners, but God was gracious. **He's not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

The Old Testament believers were able to experience God's saving grace. The prophets foretold of a future Messiah, a future outpouring of God's grace. They put faith in a future grace, and today we put faith in a past grace that flows from the Cross of Christ. At the cross our sins were judged, and at the cross God's grace was poured out on sinners.

2. It's Good News given by the Holy Spirit

The prophets were not left to themselves in proclaiming God's message. They were directed by the Holy Spirit. Notice in 10-11

*"... 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.*

The Old Testament prophets got their message straight from God through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They did not know all the details as to what they were writing about. There was some mystery there. They searched and inquired carefully. They inquired as to WHAT PERSON would be the Messiah....they inquired as to WHAT TIME all the events of His coming would be.

They gave prediction of the sufferings of Christ. Time won't allow us to look at all the passages, but for example, there's Psalm 22

Psalm 22:6-8

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
⁷ All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
⁸ "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

There's Isaiah 53

Isaiah 53:1-5

Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
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 pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

The prediction of Christ's sufferings and the Glory that should follow was not something the prophets made up.....it was given to them by Christ Himself. **The Spirit of Christ was IN THEM.**

The Spirit of Christ is the same as the Holy Spirit. Jesus was in the Old Testament Prophets giving them the message to preach, and to write down for future generations to read.

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.

This is why the salvation we have is GOOD NEWS. This is why it should encourage us, and strengthen our faith. It's been given to us from God through the Holy Spirit. God's Word is a miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit.

Notice v.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.....

Later on in 2 Peter...

2Peter 1:20-21

²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 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.**

2Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God..... We have confidence that what we have as a copy of God's Word is authoritative. Every word is the very word God wanted the biblical writers to pen down and become part of the Holy Scriptures.

- That's what makes it GOOD NEWS.....It all came from a Good Good. And the Good Holy Spirit who gave the Word to the prophets and to the Apostles. How amazing it is to think how Christ was present in the Old Testament. The Spirit of Christ was present in the Old Testament writers to ensure that their prophecies would accurately tell of the sufferings of Christ...and the glories to follow.
- So much of their writing was a mystery to them. One thing was made clear to them...

see in v.12... here is what was revealed to them....

v.12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the thing that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you...

Much of what the Prophets wrote about was not even for their own day.....it was for the early New Testament Saints and beyond.

The Prophets wrote about future Promises.... Future events... They saw things that were coming in the future. It is said of these prophets in Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11:13

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Another part to consider in v.12....

3. It is Good News Preached by the Apostles

v.12 ".....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...

That which the Prophets in the Old Testament wrote about.....the New Testament Apostle took as their text...and they preached from the Old Testament the GOOD NEWS to us....

LET's Look at the Apostle Peter.....

The prophet Joel may not have known what his prophecy was all about, but the Apostle Peter took Joel's prophecy and gave this announcement:

Acts 2:14-21

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: (from Joel 2:28-32)

¹⁷ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Then we have the Apostle Paul...

When the Apostle Paul preached that the just shall live by faith, he quoted - Habbakuk 2:4

When the Apostle Paul preached that there is none righteous, no not one.. he quoted - Psalms 14:1

When he preached-----And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" he quoted Isaiah 52:7 and Nahum 1:15

The **Old Testament** and the **New Testament** go together. Together they make the Good News.

The Gospel, which means "Good News" is incomplete when we leave out the writings of the prophets.

As someone once said:

The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed;

The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

What about the Lord Jesus Christ? Did he ever refer to the Old Testament writings of the prophets? You know the answer to that if you've read the Gospels.

One example - Jesus gave his first public sermon in a synagogue where he grew up.

Luke 4:16-20

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim **good news** to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Jesus took his text from **Isaiah 61:1-2**

“.....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

- The Apostles preached from the Old Testament.
- Jesus Christ our Lord preached from the Old Testament.

There are those who say we need to put aside the Old Testament because there are some things in it that is offensive to people. **Ken Ham of Answer in Genesis** said this a few years ago. It’s remarks made about Andy Stanley, the son of the famous preacher Charles Stanley. I quote from Ken Ham,

“Andy Stanley, the pastor of North Point Community Church in Georgia, recently announced that Christians need to “unhitch” the Old Testament from their understanding of the faith. By this he means to instruct people to ignore the Old Testament and focus solely on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, especially in evangelism. This statement was part of a sermon series encouraging those who’ve left the church to reconsider Christianity.”¹

Listen, We are NOT going to “unhitch” from the Old Testament. We are NOT going to start tearing out parts of the Bible that is offensive to us. Our purpose is not to reshape, reconstruct the Bible to fit our mode of thinking. Rather, we are to allow the Holy Spirit to take God’s Word and reshape our mind to the mind of Christ.

Our faith rest upon the full text of God’s Word which is the text given to the Apostles. All together it is the Good News of Salvation. That’s what we need! I pray we will all develop a taste for God’s Word. If you don’t have an appetite for the Bible, get to feeding on it....allow the Lord to help you in getting a taste for its sweetness.

Psalms 119:103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

A. W. Tozer wrote in *The Pursuit of God*, “The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.”

This SALVATION...

4. It is Good News looked upon by Angels

*Things into which angels long to **look***

This is not a casual looking on, but a earnest looking. The Greek word (*parakupsai*) used means *to stretch one’s head forward or to bend down*. It’s the same word used to describe the Apostle John at the Tomb of Jesus, “stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there” (John 20:5)²

¹ [Andy Stanley Says We Need to “Unhitch” the Old Testament from Our Faith | Answers in Genesis](#)

² John Macarthur, 1Peter commentary, page 58

Why would they have great interest in salvation? They don't need saving. There are the fallen angels, and they can never be redeemed. The angels who did not follow after Satan are God's messengers. They serve around the throne of God. They are actively worshipping God. They never sinned, and the salvation experience is unknown to them personally.

The Angels were participants in announcing the Birth of Christ. The Angels ministered to Christ during his time on earth. The Angels announced His resurrection and were there at the time of His ascension back to Heaven.

Also, there is rejoicing in the **presence of the angels of God** over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

The subject of Salvation is not a BORING subject to the angels. They have great interest because the outpouring of God's grace to redeem sinners adds to the worship of God. God's glory is on display every time a sinner repents.

This should motivate us to have more and more interest in the matters of salvation. CONCERNING THIS SALVATION....the angels long to look. It has no personal benefit to them because they are holy angels with no need of salvation. Their interest is tied to how SALVATION glorifies the God they worship.

How much more should we have great interest in salvation because we ARE SINNERS in need of saving. This is Peter's purpose to help us have greater appreciation concerning Salvation which is Good news!

- Good News received by God's saving grace
- Good News given by the Holy Spirit
- Good News preached by the Apostles
- Good News looked upon by the Angels