










- 1  How Great a Salvation
- 2  **How Great a Salvation**
 - I felt compelled to get to the next section, but firmly believe I need to cover every verse.
 - So we're going to focus on just 3 seemingly simple verses.
 - At first glance, I didn't see too much in 1 Peter 1:10-12.
 - But I am often like this couple dashing into the Louvre to see the *Mona Lisa*...
- 3  **New Yorker cartoon**
Which way to the Mona Lisa?
We're double-parked!
- 4  **Review**
 - We have a future inheritance with Christ
 - We have a present joy with Christ
 - The Lovingkindness of God
 - A Living Hope
 - A Lasting Inheritance
 - A Loving Protection
 - A Later Realization
 - A Lifting Joy
 - A Lucrative Suffering
 - A Longed-for Revelation
 - The LORD Himself!
- 5  **The Wonder of it All**
- 6  **1 Peter 1:10-12**
Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace meant for you sought and made careful inquiry, investigating for what person or which time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he testified beforehand to the sufferings with reference to Christ and the glories after these things, to whom it was revealed that they were serving not themselves but you with reference to the same things which now have been announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels desire to look.
- 7  **The simplest and most profound truth**
 - Karl Barth was one of the most brilliant and complex intellectuals of the 20th century.
 - He wrote many volumes on the meaning of life and faith.
 - On one occasion when Barth was visiting in America, a student at a theological seminary asked him this question "*Dr. Barth, what was the greatest thought that has ever crossed your mind?*"
 - After a long time, Barth lifted his head slowly and said, "*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.*"
- 8  **The stoning of Stephen**
- 9  **Paul and Silas singing in prison**

10  **Peter could sleep in prison**11 12  **Dwight L. Moody**

- In the last moments of his life, he caught a glimpse of the glory awaiting him.
- Awakening from a sleep, he said. *'Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go.*
- His son told him that he was dreaming.
- D.L. Moody replied: *'I am not dreaming: I have been within the gates: I have seen the children's faces.'*
- A short time elapsed and just before he died, he said, "This is my triumph; this my coronation day! It is glorious!"

13  **The prophets PROCLAIMED the Word**14  **Isaiah**

He said that the Messiah would be:

1. Born of a virgin (7:14)
2. He would be rejected (53:1-3)
3. He would bear our sins and sorrows (53:4-5)
4. Would be spat on and struck (50:6)
5. He would be disfigured by suffering (52:14)
6. He would make a blood atonement (53:5)
7. He would be our substitute (53:6)
8. He would save those who believe in Him (53:12)
9. He would heal the brokenhearted (61:1-2)

15  **Jeremiah told us that:**

1. The Messiah would be a descendant of David (23:5-6)
2. The Messiah would be both God and Man (23:5-6)
3. He too proclaimed that the Messiah would be born of a virgin (31:22)
4. He said that the Messiah would be the New Covenant (31:31)

16  **Zechariah told us that:**

1. The Messiah would be God's servant (3:8)
2. The Messiah would be Priest and King (6:12-13)
3. He would be greeted with rejoicing in Jerusalem (9:9)
4. He would bring salvation (9:9)
5. The Messiah would come into Jerusalem riding on a donkey (9:9)
6. The Messiah would be the cornerstone (10:4)

17  **The prophets searched intently**

- Prophets wrote GOD'S WORD, not their own
 - 2 Peter 1:20-21 -- *Recognizing this above all, that every prophecy of scripture does not come about from one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*
- Then they studied what they – and other prophets had written, trying to make sense

of it all.

- They searched intently.

18  **The prophets sought hopefully**

- The prophets wanted to participate in the blessings of the Messiah and His redemptive plans.
- They tried to determine when He would arrive in hopes that it might be during their lifetime.
- Matthew 13:17 -- *For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it!*

19  **The prophets served faithfully**

- God revealed to the prophets that they were recording His truth for people in a later time – even for us.
- Peter reminds his readers that Christ's glory followed His suffering. In the same way, Christians look to a future glory that more than makes up for our suffering now.
- In essence, the prophets were preparing sermons for preachers who would come long after them.

20  **1 Peter 5:10**

- *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a short time, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*
- We need encouragement and God knows that.

21  **The Apostles PREACHED the Word**

22  **Thank God for those who preached!**

- V. 12b --... *which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel [Apostles] unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*
- Preached
 - The Gospel (both sides)
 - By the Holy Spirit
 - Obeying the highest calling
 - On a heavenly mission

23  **The angels PONDER our salvation**

24  **The angels PONDER**

- The angels desire to understand salvation but they cannot experience it because they cannot be redeemed.
- The angels minister to the saints and are often involved in the spiritual warfare that takes place when someone accepts Christ.

25  **The pondering onlookers**

26  **What do angels do?**

- PROTECTING – Matthew 18:10 -- *See to it that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven constantly see the face of my Father who is in heaven.*

- ANNOUNCING – Luke 1:35 -- *And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the one to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."*

27  **What do angels do? (2)**

- PROCLAIMING and PRAISING – Luke 2:9-13 -- *And an angel of the Lord stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring good news to you of great joy which will be for all the people: that today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. And this will be the sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God ...*

28  **What do angels do? (3)**

- REVEALING – Matthew 28:2 -- *And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came up and rolled away the stone and sat down on it.*
- COMFORTING – Matthew 28:5 -- *But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified."*

29  **What do angels do? (4)**

- GLORIFYING -- Mark 8:38 -- *For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*
- CELEBRATING – Luke 15:10 -- *In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

30  **What do angels do? (5)**

- CARRYING – Luke 16:22 -- *Now it happened that the poor man died, and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. And the rich man also died and was buried.*
- LIBERATING – Acts 5:19 -- *But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison and led them out*
- DELIVERING – Acts 7:53 -- *Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.*

31  **What do angels do? (6)**

- DIRECTING – Acts 8:26 -- *And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.*
- WARNING – Acts 10:22 -- *And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.*

32  **What do angels do? (7)**

- PUNCHING – Acts 12:7 -- *And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.*
- SMITING or WORMING – Acts 12:23 -- *And immediately the angel of the Lord smote*

him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

33  **What do angels do? (8)**

- OBSERVING
 - 1 Corinthians 4:9 -- *For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.*
 - 1 Corinthians 11:10 -- *For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.*
- SPEAKING – Hebrews 2:2 -- *For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward...*

34  **What do angels do? (9)**

- MINISTERING – Hebrews 13:2 -- *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*
 - God makes His angels ministers to the saints.
 - They sometimes are involved in our lives without our knowing it.
- PUNCTUATING – Revelation 8 – A series of angels punctuate time with the blowing of trumpets as God's judgments are released upon mankind.

35  **What do angels do? (10)**

- FIGHTING -- *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

36  **What do angels do? (11)**

- PREACHING – Revelation 14:6-7 -- *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

37  **What do angels do? (12)**

- SEPARATING -- Matthew 13:49 -- *Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the evil from among the righteous.*
- GATHERING – Matthew 24:31 -- *And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect together from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other end of it. (See also Revelation 14:15-17)*

38  **But chiefly, they WONDER!**

- They wonder what it means to be redeemed.
- They wonder how we can ignore the One they worship and serve perfectly.
- They wonder how we can fear man when they tell us (Rev 14:6-7) to fear God.

39  **Jesus PROVIDED salvation**

40  **He paid the penalty for your sins**

- *Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did*

signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

41  **Christ's glory and resurrection**

- Romans 1: 4 -- *And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*
- Christ's resurrection in glory PROVES His payment was enough for all eternity!

42  **You MUST receive this!**

- You and I are guilty of sin.
- Our sin dooms us to judgment – an eternity in the lake of fire. We need rescuing.
- But a loving God knew we could not save ourselves from that torment, so He sent His own son to pay the penalty for our sins.
- This was the message of the prophets.
- This is the fascination of the angels.
- This is the message God has for you today.
- *But as many as RECEIVED Him (Christ), to them gave He the power to become the children of God."*

43  **Andrew Carnegie (1835 – 1919)**

- Andrew Carnegie was a Scottish-American industrialist who led the expansion of the American steel industry in the late 19th century. He was a great philanthropist.
- Quotes"
 - *People who are unable to motivate themselves must be content with mediocrity, no matter how impressive their other talents.*
 - *As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do.*
 - *Surplus wealth is a sacred trust which its possessor is bound to administer in his lifetime for the good of the community.*

44  **Carnegie's end-of-life offer**

- The phenomenal philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, desperately wanted more life. He felt he could make a lasting contribution to society if he had ten more years.
- He offered \$200 million for another decade! That was \$54,794 a day, thirty-eight dollars a minute. But no one could accommodate him.
- Are you living for Christ or wasting your life?

45  **The issue of time**

- Benjamin Franklin said, "Don't squander time, for that the stuff life's made of."
- Like the couple dashing in to see the *Mona Lisa*, we need to SLOW DOWN to truly wonder at our gift of salvation and to PONDER God's Word given by prophets and apostles, superintended by the Spirit, and at times delivered by angels.
- But we need to SPEED UP in telling people about Christ while we can!

46  **Some suggestions...**

- Read the rest of 1 Peter 1 this afternoon to see what God wants you to do in light of the:
 - The Past gift of justification
 - The Present gifts we have in Christ
 - The Promised future inheritance

- The Proclamation of the Prophets
- The Pondering of the Angels
- Quit taking Christ for granted – live in the RELATIONSHIP!
- Prepare for the day of reaping.