

FIRST PETER

The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 6

1:10-12— “Jesus—The Hope of Prophets and Christians”—April 12, 2015

“Not that the prophetic doctrine was useless to the ancient people, or unavailing to the prophets themselves, but that they did not obtain possession of the treasure which God has transmitted to us by their hands.” — John Calvin, Institutes

The Christian's Election and Exile—1 Peter 1:1-2

The Christian's Living Hope—1 Peter 1:3-5

Joy in the Midst of Suffering—1 Peter 1:6-9

The Reality, Purpose, and Result of Christian Suffering:

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials so that the tested genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” —1:6-7

- Jesus, our hope, is *eternal*. Trials are *temporary*.
- Our faith is *strengthened* through the trials we endure and is exceedingly more valuable than gold because it has eternal value.
- As Christians, we share in Jesus' *sufferings* as well as His *glory*.

The Object of the Christian's Faith is the Reason for Rejoicing:

“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.” —1:8

- For the Christian, there can be more *joy* in Christ than there is *sorrow* in the trials of life.

The Prophets' Witness to the Christian's Hope—1 Peter 1:10-12

This passage continues to build on all that Peter has been saying regarding the Christian's salvation. The trials and suffering these believers faced would have been discouraging to them and so Peter concludes the first part of his letter to them by discussing their privileged status in God's plans and purposes.

This Salvation:

Related to the previous verse —————→ “...the outcome of your faith, the *salvation* of your souls.” (1:9)

“...the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.” —(1:10-11)

The Old Testament Prophets:

- The Key Phrase of O.T. Prophecy: “Thus _____ the Lord...”

These men were sent to the nation of Israel to call them to remember the covenant with God. The prophets spoke the Word of the Lord to them and called them to repentance.

⇒ Some of their prophetic statements were fulfilled in their time.

Is. 36-37 —————→ Prophecy regarding the failure of the Assyrian attack on Judah.

⇒ Other prophecies they made were intended to be fulfilled in the future, specifically in the form of Messiah. Is. 11:1-5, 10

- “...the grace that was to be yours ...”

⇒ The term *χάρις*— ‘charis’— translated as grace certainly refers to God's unmerited favor, but is used here as an umbrella term for all that Peter has already said regarding salvation:

“Living Hope” (1:3) “An inheritance” (1:4) “Salvation” (1:5,9)

- The prophets “...searched and inquired carefully...”
⇒ This double emphasis is for rhetorical effect and in all likelihood included much _____ and meditation as well as study of the scripture that was available to them.
- The prophets were given revelation about “...the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.”

His Sufferings:

The cross: Ps. 22:1-2, 14-18; Is. 53:4-6

His Glories:

The Resurrection: Is. 53:8-11

The New Covenant: Jer. 31:31-34; 32:38-41; Ez. 36:22-27

The Kingdom: Is. 9:6-7; Amos 9:11, 14-15; Zech. 2:10-12

“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.” —(1:12)

- The prophets “...were serving not themselves but you...”
⇒ God revealed to the prophets that their message regarding Messiah would not be fulfilled in their lifetimes, but was intended for others who were to come after them.
- The fullness of what they predicted was now preached by the apostles:
The prophets were _____ by the “...Spirit of Christ in them...” (1:11)
The apostles preached the _____ by “...the Holy Spirit sent from heaven...” (1:12)

What is Peter doing in this passage?

1. He’s connecting Christian _____ to the message of the Old Testament Prophets.

2. He’s demonstrating the _____ status of being in Christ.

⇒ Christians have an understanding of God’s _____ through Christ that the prophets desperately longed for.

⇒ God’s grace demonstrated to Christians is something the Lord uses to instruct the _____ of heaven about Himself.