

"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"

Part 5

1 Peter 1:1-2:10

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of 1 Peter we are going to consider just three verses and they are 10-12. It is in these verses that Peter is going to remind his readers of how privileged they are as believers.

Illustration:

A woman purchased what she thought was a fake diamond ring at the West Middlesex Hospital in London in the 1980s. She paid just \$13 for the large ring, and she wore it almost every day for 30 years. But, in 2017, the woman — who wished to remain anonymous — learned that the ring was actually a 26-carat diamond.

"It was only early on this year that she wanted to see if it had any value at all," Sotheby's Jessica Wyndham told BBC. "It was a total surprise to her when the jeweler said that looks like a diamond."

The ring was originally priced at over \$400,000, but it was actually sold for \$847,667 in an auction.

For almost 30 years she walked around wearing a ring that was worth more than \$800,000. She had no idea of its value.

This story reminded me of how we as believers do not fully understand the value of our salvation. This is what we are going to consider tonight.

➤ **So Great Salvation**

In the three verses before us tonight the Holy Spirit will use the pen of Peter to explain to us just how great our salvation is. Peter will do this in a rather unique way. He will use the Old Testament prophets, the Holy Spirit, and the angels to help his readers to see how great salvation is.

Notice 1 Peter 1:9-10

Here in verse 10 Peter stays on the subject of our salvation which the prophets of the Old Testament foretold.

The prophets in the Old Testament were the people whom God used to deliver His messages to the common people. God did not speak directly to the people but instead He spoke through the prophets. Now there were also false prophets and God instructed Israel about how to identify a false prophet.

Deuteronomy 18:18-22

¹⁸ *I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

¹⁹ *And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.*

²⁰ *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

²¹ *And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?*

²² *When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

False prophets were recognized by words that never came to pass. But True prophets always spoke the Truth for they were speaking the message of the Lord.

Now, the main subject which the True prophets spoke of was the subject of salvation and this was a subject of great desire for the prophets.

Notice 1 Peter 1:10 again.

Here we see that they enquired and searched diligently to understand more about the future salvation and the grace that was to come. Let me give you some examples of what they desired to understand more of.

Jeremiah 31:33-35

³³ *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

³⁴ *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

³⁵ Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

In the New Covenant God said that sin would be remembered no more. This was foreign to the prophets.

Hebrews 10:1-4

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

³ But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

⁴ For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Under the Old Covenant sin was never taken away and the conscience was never cleared. There was still guilt because sin was still on the believer's account. So, when the prophets heard of the New Covenant and the salvation connected with it they desired to know more.

Notice 1 Peter 1:10 again.

They longed to understand the grace that would be extended to not only the Jews but also the Gentiles.

Isaiah 49:6

⁶ And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Notice 1 Peter 1:11

Here we see there was two points which the prophets focused on.

1. They desired to know who the Messiah would be.
2. They desired to know when He would come.

They did their best to figure out when the Messiah would come and they watched diligently for Him to come on the scene.

They looked for the Messiah in a similar way that we watch the times and the events of our day wondering how close the coming of the Anti-Christ is. Just as they looked for Him we wonder if the Anti-Christ may possibly be a man who is in the political arena today. We study the Scriptures longing for a deeper knowledge to understand when the Rapture may happen. The Old Testament prophets studied their own writings longing for a deeper understanding of the Messiah.

Notice 1 Peter 1:11 again.

At the end of the verse we see something which they struggle to grasp but they were not able. They longed to know how the Messiah would suffer and then experience glory. Let me show you some verses that they would have studied. There were the verses that talked about the suffering of the Messiah.

Isaiah 53:3-10

³ He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with 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 hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

⁹ And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Then there were the verses that spoke of the reign of the Messiah.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The Old Testament prophets could not find a way to harmonize the suffering and the glory of Jesus Christ.

The reason was because the church age which we live in was unknown to them. They could see and understand the prophecies of the Day of the Lord and the Kingdom of the Messiah.

Daniel 2:44-45

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

⁴⁵ Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

They could see the Kingdom, but they could not see the age we live in today. They did not understand that God would allow Jesus Christ to suffer and die, be buried, and rise again on the third day, and then ascend back to heaven until a bride be gathered for Him.

Application:

Our knowledge of salvation should certainly cause us to live above the circumstances of this life. These Old Testament people did not know what we know but what they knew they believed and it caused them to rise above the difficulties of life.

Hebrews 11:32-39

³² And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

³³ Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

³⁴ Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance: that they might obtain a better resurrection:

³⁶ And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins: being destitute, afflicted, tormented:

³⁸ (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

Notice 1 Peter 1:12

God revealed to the prophets that what they were writing they were not writing for themselves but for the people who would come after them. The Apostles would then take their Words and with the understanding which God gave them they would put the complete picture together.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

Notice 1 Peter 1:12 again.

Our salvation is so great that even the angels desire to look into it. The word "look" means "to stoop over and to gaze upon something".

Conclusion:

Peter was reminding his readers that what they had was priceless. It was far more valuable than anything in the world. So, no matter what they lost in the persecution they always had their most valuable possession.