

## The Book of I Peter Part 3 – I Peter 1:12-16

In I Peter, chapter 1, verses 10-12, we see inquiring prophets and preaching apostles. Notice in verse 10 it says, <sup>10</sup>*Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you.* We see the prophecy coming there of the prophets of the Old Testament. They told of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the grace that He would shed abroad on the people of this world. And they searched. They looked for the manner of time of the Spirit of Christ when He would come, and they saw beforehand, according to verse 11. They testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow.

And notice in verse 12 it says, <sup>12</sup>*Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things....* That's the apostles there to the people of God especially. We're reading in I Peter here how that he knew the Old Testament and how these Old Testament prophets had prophesied of the coming of the Lord. And of course, we know that Peter saw Christ personally. The apostles preached this. They preached Jesus Christ. It says, *Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves... Not to the prophets themselves... but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven....*

And this, I believe, reaches even further than the preaching of the apostles. It reaches into the day and time that we live in as to how the ministers of God preached the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let anyone ever try to tell you that the Old Testament has been done away with, that we should not look at the Old Testament, because in the Old Testament

we have spoken of there the things of God and especially we see Jesus Christ represented there, prophesied of there, and you can't take the New Testament without the Old Testament and vice versa. Both of these work together. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament, they are the Word of God. They do not contain... they are the Word of God, the Bible.

So in I Peter 1:10-12, we see the prophets of old, and we also see the preaching of the Gospel, of the things that the Old Testament prophets prophesied of. Then, the prophets inquired and searched diligently about the future, salvation that was to come, according to I Peter 1:10. And the prophets wondered what the Spirit of Christ in them was saying, because Christ Himself, the testimony of His sufferings, they saw this before the sufferings actually occurred. And we see this all through the Old Testament Scriptures... Isaiah 53. And if you go back and read Psalms 22, 23, and 24, you'll see a trilogy there of the crucifixion of the Lord. And it's the prophecy there, and Psalm 22 talks about how that He would go through all of these sufferings. In fact, it talks about, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" And then chapter 23 talks about the Shepherd. "He is my shepherd." And you keep reading and you see the glories of God in those three chapters, Psalm 22, Psalm 23, and Psalm 24. They go together. Read those if you would later on.

Well, we see that Christ Himself, in the Old Testament even, He testified of His own sufferings that would occur. You say, well, how did He do that? He wasn't born yet. Yes, but He is the Son of God. He is God, and we see that all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made, according to

the book of John. He is God. Jesus Christ has been forever and ever. He had no beginning and He'll have no end. So we see the testimony of the sufferings of Christ that took place there in the Old Testament. It hadn't happened yet, but it was prophesied of.

And then we see the glories to follow, the future salvation according to verse 11 of I Peter chapter 1. And the future salvation was revealed to the prophets, not for their benefit but for ours, according to I Peter 1:12. And the information from the prophets about the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is now confirmed by those who through the Holy Spirit preach the Gospel according to I Peter 1:12. Those who preach the inspired, the unadulterated Word of God, they give testimony of what the Old Testament prophets said, because they're telling exactly what has taken place. That is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, His sufferings and His glory and the future salvation of those who trust Him.

But notice the rest of that verse in verse 12, it says *which things the angels desire to look into*. We make a lot about angels, and I know angels are important. There's no doubt. But they're not who saves us and they're not the ones who actually protect us. It is God who protects us, but notice there, it says that the angels look into these things. The angels are interested. The angels also want to know about the Gospel, because they are ministering spirits. They minister unto our Lord. They're there and they can't be saved, as such, as we think of being saved. Now, of course, we know that those angels who are with God right now, they're not going to be cast into outer darkness into chains. They're not going to be chained up or anything like that, but they still wonder, because this has not happened to them. They will not experience what you and I experience as saved people. And they're interested and they want to know, and I'm sure that they also wonder why a sinful

human being would not turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and say, "Lord, come into my heart. I want you as my Savior. I admit I'm a sinner. I admit that I've been wrong and I am wrong, and I deserve death. I deserve to be punished, Lord, but thank You that You've taken my punishment for me and I receive that. I receive Your testimony, Lord. I receive the testimony of the Old Testament, of the New Testament, of how that You came into this world, You gave Your life, and You're living now for me, and I receive You, Lord, as my Savior right now."

And, you know, the angels wonder why sinful man doesn't do that. They wonder about salvation and they also wonder why sinful man does not take advantage of the fact that Jesus did die for them, shed His blood on the cross, and He's living, He's coming back, and they don't understand why people do not trust Jesus as Savior. Well, frankly, I don't either. I know that I went several years without trusting Him and then it suddenly dawned on me... *What's wrong with you? You need to be saved. You need to ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart.* And thank God, there was a day when I said, "Lord, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior."

Well, notice verse 13 of I Peter chapter 1. It says, *Wherefore...* Because of what we've just read in I Peter 1:10-12 there... *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

What he's saying here is have your mind prepared for the challenges ahead. Be prepared. You know, we need to be prepared at all times for the things that come into our lives, and there's only one way to do that and that's through the Lord. And it also talks about, you know, we are to be spiritually rational. We're not to go thinking things that are not rational. And I'm not talking about humanistic

rationality. I'm talking about spiritual rationality. It's being spiritually rational, being in the Word of God and understanding the things of the Spirit. Be rational. Make decisions based upon the Word of God.

And I believe that verse goes on to tell us that we're to be confidently looking to our future salvation, the grace that will be revealed at the coming of Christ, and thank God, He's coming soon. And some of us, I don't believe, will taste death as we understand death, but this body has to die. But I believe that the Lord is coming back soon for those who trusted Him as Savior. And He's going to say, "Come up hither," and we'll be forever with the Lord. This body is going to be changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, and we will be with the Lord forever.

And, of course, for those people who go before that time, I believe that they're changed, as well. This old body goes into the ground or is burned up, whatever happens to this old body... the body is not us. We are saved. The real person is saved and that real person will be with the Lord one day. This body doesn't go to be with the Lord, but thank God, the soul goes to be with the Lord forever once we've trusted Him as Savior.

First Peter 1:14-16 says, *<sup>14</sup>As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: <sup>15</sup>But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation... or behavior... <sup>16</sup>Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

And I believe what the Lord is telling us here. "Be children who obey. Listen to Me. Listen to what I have to say. Do what is right. Don't pattern your life after what you were before you became a Christian when you didn't know better." And I Peter 1:14 talks about that, and Romans 12:2 says, *And be not conformed to this*

*world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* God has called you to be holy in everything you do, Christian, because He is holy, according to I Peter 1:15. Why be holy? Because the Scriptures say so.

Leviticus 11:44-45 says this: *<sup>44</sup>For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. <sup>45</sup>For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

Someone would immediately say, "Oh, this is to the Jew. This is speaking to the Jew." Well, if you study the Scriptures, you'll find that Egypt is like unto the world. It's a type of the world, and I don't know about you, but I was brought out of the world in the sense of brought out, of being separate from the world. And I believe that the Lord is speaking to me here, as well, in Leviticus chapter 11. He's telling me to be holy, to live a holy life, to have a good testimony before this world that we live in.

You know the Lord loves each one of us, and the Lord has given us the Scriptures to help us to know, first of all, that we're lost, we can't save ourselves, and the Bible says the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And it's through Jesus Christ that all of us can say, I know that I'm on my way to Heaven because I've trusted Jesus as my Savior. And if you haven't done that, you need to ask Jesus to come into your heart right now.

And if you have trusted Him, you need to be living for Him right now. Tomorrow may be too late for you, as well. You could be home with the Lord for all you know, and I could, as well, and

that's the reason we need to be serving Him right now, doing what He wants us to do and that is proclaiming Him as the Savior of this world, helping other people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

May the Lord help you as you serve Him in the fullness of the Spirit.

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