

How Great a Salvation **I Peter 1:10-12**

INTRODUCTION:

What is the most interesting subject to you? What do you most like to talk about or read about? If you could take one course on any subject of your choice, purely for enjoyment, what would it be?

I suspect that if each of us were asked that question, our response would **not** be that our theme for study would be in the cross. It would not be in salvation.

As we have been studying these first verses in I Peter, Peter has been explaining to us in so many different ways the magnificence of God's salvation of us. He has been explaining how He has done it. He tells us how our salvation provided a hope, an eternal inheritance, and joy even in the midst of great suffering.

Then we come to verses 10 through 12 which ends Peter's introduction to his letter. He again turns our attention to the greatness of our salvation. Sometimes the best way to make it through times of great trouble is to focus on the good things that God has done for us. Even at the point of death Christians can rejoice because of the great salvation they possess.

All Stand and Read Scripture

1 Peter 1:10-12 (NASB)

¹⁰ As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

Prayer

Salvation... there is no greater word in the English language! The subject of salvation is so deep that the greatest theologians cannot fully explain it. And at the same time it is simple enough for a young child to understand. Salvation is defined as "**the rescue of the human soul from sin and death and eternal punishment separated from God**".

The Bible tells us that man is guilty of sin. As a result of his guilt he is headed for judgment. Without salvation, man is destined spend an eternity in the Lake of Fire. Because of this fact, man desperately needs to be rescued. He cannot attain this deliverance on his own... he cannot save himself. The message of salvation is that while man cannot save himself from eternal torment as a punishment for his sin, God **can** and **will** save him. This is the consistent message of the Bible that was **prophesized** by His prophets, who **pondered** the exact details of their prophecy, and ultimately was **revealed** to

us through His Son, Jesus Christ, the awaited Messiah and Savior of mankind and through His Apostles who wrote the New Testament scriptures for us.

The promised salvation has been revealed and has come to mankind!

God has always had a way of delivering the message of salvation to lost man. And this message is indescribable. While studying for this message I tried to find the words to describe Salvation. I thought of words such as Marvelous, Amazing, Fantastic, Awesome, Wonderful, Spectacular and Incredible. None of these words are sufficient, there simply are no words to describe the salvation that we receive through Jesus Christ. So for lack of a better word we will just say that it is **GREAT!!!**

Peter's goal in these 3 verses is to describe just how great our salvation is. I would like to look at the description he gives and preach on the thought "How Great A Salvation". Keep in mind that Peter is writing to Christians who were suffering immense trials and difficulties. He has already encouraged them to have joy, to rejoice and to persevere. In verses 10-12 he reminds them of how great their salvation is.

1) As Stephen was being stoned because of his faith in Christ, he was able to rejoice and proclaim "I see Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father" because of his position in Christ.

2) Paul and Silas were imprisoned for their ministry and at midnight they sang praises in the prison.

We have an amazing privilege as members of the Bride of Christ. We know things that the prophets did not know. We have seen things that the Apostles did not even see. And we have experienced something that the Angels cannot enjoy. I want to compare our privilege to each of these different groups in order to see "How Great A Salvation" we enjoy.

BODY:

I. Salvation Prophesied.

1 Peter 1:10 (NASB)

*10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful searches and inquiries,*

God chose certain men throughout history to tell of the sufferings and glories of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The Prophets received visions from God that revealed to them the things that would occur at a later date. God revealed the coming Messiah to them. They knew of His birth, His life, His ministry, His suffering, His death, His resurrection and His second coming. With all that was revealed to them, even Zechariah, Jeremiah, Isaiah and all the others were not as privileged as you and I. But what they knew was so amazing they wanted more! And what was revealed to them, they had to share!!

I would encourage you to read Isaiah, chapter 53 said that the Messiah would be:

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

Jeremiah told us that:

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

Zechariah told us that:

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

What is so amazing about the Bible is the consistent theme throughout the scripture. That theme is how mankind had fallen in sin and God was going to send His Son for our salvation. These were prophecies given 100's even 1000's of years before Christ came to earth.

Jesus, Himself, appeared before two men on the road to Emmaus after His resurrection who were discussing the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross and the missing body.

How I **wish** that I could have a recording of that conversation! Maybe we will be able to ask ourselves someday.

Luke 24:25-27 (NASB)

²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Jesus said, "Alright Guys, let's go back to Genesis and start with Moses. We will work our way through **all** the prophets and I am going to tell you again that they are about **ME!** They are speaking of **ME!**

How can it be that these prophets wrote these scriptures hundreds and even thousands of years prior to Christ? How could it be?

Peter tells us how it could be. God chose certain men throughout history to tell of the coming Messiah through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Peter says that even though they were chosen to prophesize of the salvation that God had planned for His people.... they wanted to know more!

II. Salvation Pondered.

1 Peter 1:11 (NASB)

¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

These men were so amazed by the idea of salvation that they "searched diligently" They did not know exactly who this Messiah would be. They did not know the exact time of His arrival. Salvation was the object of their prophecy but they could not fully understand what was involved in the life and death of Jesus Christ.

Jesus spoke of this in

Matthew 13:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷ For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

In verse 11: Notice the phrase "**Within them**" ...this signifies that they were indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Though they did not know all of the details, they knew enough!! God revealed to them that the Messiah was indeed coming. God told them that the One who would deliver them was on His way! These men were saved the same way we are...BY FAITH IN THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS! All of the prophets were told similar things concerning the Promised One. They knew that He would come, and they longed for His coming, but He did not come in their lifetimes.

Not only did the prophets ponder salvation we also read that the angels desire to understand salvation.

1 Peter 1:12b (NASB)

¹²—things into which angels long to look.

The Angels of God desired to know more about the salvation that the Prophets prophesied. They wanted to know more about the salvation that was preached about by the Apostles.

They saw the ministry of the Prophets. They saw Jesus fulfill each and every one of the prophecies concerning his birth, life, death and resurrection. But now they have an intense desire to see what is next!

What you and I possess, sparks curiosity in even the Angels of God. And we have another privilege the Angels will never experience, this great salvation. There is no greater privilege in history than to be a part of the Kingdom of God! **Oh How Great A Salvation!!**

III. Salvation Revealed.

1 Peter 1:12 (NASB)

¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

Peter shifts his focus from the Old Testament prophets to the New Testament Apostles.

The Apostles continued the work of the Old Testament prophets. Their task was the same, tell people that there is a way of salvation.

Though their task was the same, their viewpoint was different. The Apostles saw the Messiah with their own eyes. They heard His teaching. They witnessed the miracles. Peter says that he was a personal "witness of the sufferings of Christ" in **I Peter 5:1**. Not only did they see all of these things with their own eyes, they experienced firsthand this great salvation.

From the time of Christ's ascension until they gave their life for His cause, these men shared the good news. Jesus commissioned them in...

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

And Peter received a personal message from Jesus.

John 21:15-17 (NASB)

¹⁵ So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus *said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me more than these?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Tend My lambs." ¹⁶ He *said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" He *said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He *said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." ¹⁷ He *said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus *said to him, "Tend My sheep."

Jesus did not have to make these men share the message of salvation. It was so real to them that they had to share it! Even when the religious rulers and governmental authorities threatened them...Even when trouble, suffering and persecution came...Even in the face of death...Salvation was so great the Apostles had to share it!

Jesus Christ is salvation. Without Him it is not possible for man to be delivered from the penalty of his sins. There was and is no other process of redemption. Jesus told Thomas...

John 14:6 (NASB)

⁶ ... "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Jesus supplied this great salvation. Because of our salvation in Him we are made Righteous, Accepted by God, and Filled with the Holy Spirit. We are victorious over Death, Eternal Punishment, and The Grave! All of this and much... much more is possible because of Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary! Salvation is possible ...IN CHRIST ALONE!!

We know that Jesus went to the Cross, but the reason is so amazing.

Jesus went to the cross because He loved you and me!

Romans 5:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Jesus knew us, and He loved us anyway! He knew our faults and failures, He knew our deepest darkest sins. Knowing every aspect of our lives, He loved us enough to lay down His life for us. Salvation is great because of the Savior Who secured it! **And Oh How Great A Salvation!!!**

CONCLUSION:

With all that we have seen today you would think that it could not get any better. BUT IT CAN!! You may be here today and you do not possess this "Great Salvation"! The good news is that this Salvation Is Great Because We Can Possess It!

Everything we have seen today is for you! God gave the message of salvation to the Prophets for you. He continued this work with the Apostles for you. Jesus came and secured this salvation for you. But, like always Satan would still like to prevent this salvation from coming to you! Don't let him succeed! You have the opportunity to partake in something that AMAZES **EVEN** THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN!!

John 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

That is the process...That is God's plan and That is the way to salvation. And **oh What a Great Salvation it is!!!**

You cannot offer yourself to the Father as a perfect sinless person, therefore, you accept the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made on your behalf." When you do, God washes away your sins with the blood of Jesus Christ.

God Be with You till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet...Till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet...Till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.