

Open your bibles to a text that is both rich with information and challenging to understand

TREE - Have you ever stood in the morning light watching shadows get cast across ground

- Shadows tell you something real is there...the tree is what casts the shadow

But the shadow is not the substance...it is catching the light

The Old Testament Prophets were casting shadows of things to come...we stand in the light

- We need to remember that the Bible is thousands of years of salvation history
- A lot of times we read the Bible with a microscope...this word...that word...

Peter relaying through telescope...he's looking back annals history...we are blessed people

I want you to put yourself in the place of an Old Testament Prophet

- Call rarely voluntary – Considered outsiders – Psychological weight...to be continued
It's like the Star Wars movies...we got 4,5,6 and then had to wait 16 years for 1
- Prophets writing about things that would not see the conclusion...thousands of years

How blessed are we that now we have a fuller picture...we have the fullness of Gospel

whole thing together...prophets > Jesus > Apostles > Preachers > Us = God's great revelation

Big Idea - God announces gospel truth to us and through us

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 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.

This is complicated language...2 Peter 3:16 says Paul is hard to understand...then this

Nutshell = You are living in the 'Golden Age' of God's plan that history was waiting for

The Prophets were the searchers – Apostles were the messengers – Angels are Spectators

We...you and I...are the recipients of a great salvific message! 4 things about that message

1. **God salvific plan is: Mysterious until he reveals it (10)**

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, - Throughout history people have searched for valuable things

- Explorers = New lands | Scientists = New Discoverers | Treasure hunters = lost riches

Human history is marked by people looking for something valuable

Long before we were born...Prophets were searching for something valuable...Salvation

Concerning this Salvation: Living Hope – Imperishable inheritance – Guarded God's Power

- Salvation central theme...Genesis to Revelation = God redeeming sinners through Christ

The Prophets who Prophesized – Coming Messiah – Forgiveness Sins – Restoration – Grace

Wild – For thousands of years God was promising a Savior that would come | Jesus = +300

- Prophets were carrying message along, mystery was 'Who' & 'How' & 'When'

Much of what God does is a mystery until He reveals it...we live in a mystery now don't we?

- Does anyone here know when Jesus is coming back? No! It's a mystery till God reveals

Searched & Inquired Carefully - When messiah come? How salvation unfold? How God accomplish

They knew something glorious was coming, but the details were still unfolding

Progressive Revelation – God unfolds His Truth in stages over time

Have you ever been up too late or too early and you see the world go from black to blue?

- The sun steadily rises and provides more light until it is high above at noon

We live in an age where the sun is high in the sky...we no longer have salvific wonder

The mysterious plan of salvation has been revealed in Christ

Takeaway - Rely on God for the Truth | May not know the how, why, or when...trust

You have a book that reveals the mysteries of life...rely on that Truth daily | 3 Ways

- a. **Reclaim the "Value" of Your Salvation** – The prophets were obsessed with salvation
- b. **Cultivate "Prophetic Diligence" in Bible Study** – The prophets studied the prophets
- c. **Trust the 'Not Yet' Principle** – There are certain mysteries still to be unpacked

The salvation the prophets longed to understand is the salvation we now possess

2. **God's salvific plan is: Measured to his specific purpose (11)** | Baking a cake

¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

Peter – Divine timeline redemption | Link between Messiah's suffering and His eventual glory

3 Truths – Christ is the center – Spirit through them – Path to glory goes through suffering

Inquiring what person or time – They were inquiring what person would come to save

- King like David? Prophet like Moses? Didn't see coming...a carpenter from Bethlehem
- What time – Every generation thought the savior would come in their lifetime (Adam)

Article = **Predicted dates of the Second Coming of Jesus through history**

Christ now understood as center of all their inquisition...king...prophet...suffering servant

Spirit of Christ in them – The Spirit of God was speaking through the prophets

Holy Spirit was inspiring prophets, pointing forward to Christ long before His coming

- When Isaiah wrote about the suffering servant in Isaiah 53...Holy Spirit
- When David wrote Psalm 22 describing crucifixion...Holy Spirit
- When Micah predicted the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem...Holy Spirit

Do you know why Bible has fulfilled prophecies and no contradictions? **SUPERINTENDED**

Superintendence means the Bible has two authors for every book: one human & one divine

- **Human** = Writers used their own language, education, cultural background, and styles
 - **Spirit** = Holy Spirit ensured final product was exactly what God intended communicate
- when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories**

- The Old Testament repeatedly foretold that the Messiah would suffer:

Rejected (Isaiah 53:3) - Pierced (Psalm 22:16) - Bear the sins of many (Isaiah 53:5–6)

Cross was not an accident | It was part God's eternal plan | Christ came to suffer for sinners

- The Old Testament also repeatedly foretold the Suffering would be followed by Glory
After Cross: Resurrection – Ascension – Exalted to the right hand – Future return in glory
- Sufferings:** Psalm 22:1-21; Isaiah 52:13-14; Isaiah 53:1-10; Zechariah 13:7

Glories: Gen 49:10; Ps 22:22-31; Ps 110:1-6; Isa 9:6-7; Isa 53:11-12; Dan 2:34-35; Zech 8:18-21

The Old Testament is carpet bombed with promises of suffering and glory of Jesus

Plane delayed? You see three hours...pilot sees the storm – God's timing is perfect...sees all

Takeaway - Trust His timing

- a. **Shift from 'when' to 'who'** – Shift attention from the clock to the one holding the clock
- b. **Practice Active Waiting** – Waiting on God isn't bus | Move faith forward while waiting
The prophets saw it from afar; we see it through the lens of the Cross.

Christ has already endured the suffering, and He is already seated in glory

3. **God's salvific plan is: Made for us to receive (12a)**

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,

Many people work for results they will never personally see – Van Gogh | Dr. Gachet \$138M

The fullness of what the prophets proclaimed was not primarily for their own generation

that they were serving not themselves but you - Prophets Were Serving Future Believers

- Astonishing. - Prophets realized their ministry was ultimately for people centuries later
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, would only be understood after life, death, resurrection of Christ
- Their service was an act of faith - They labored knowing fulfillment would come later

We are the beneficiaries of centuries of faithful proclamation

in the things that have now been announced

- Powerful truth - What the prophets predicted the Apostles proclaimed

The gospel we receive is heaven's message proclaimed through Spirit-empowered preaching

- Peter says promises have **been announced** - long-awaited salvation no longer hidden
What was once prophecy has become proclamation - What was once shadow come into light
to you through those who preached the good news to you

- Peter says this message came through "those who preached the good news to you."
- God could have written the gospel across the sky, but instead He chose to use **people**
- The apostles, evangelists, and pastors carried the message of Christ to the world.
"preached the good news" comes from the word evangelize = announce glad tidings

Good News: Christ died for sins - Was buried - Rose again - Offers forgiveness & New Life

Gospel spreads person to person. Someone told Peter's readers - Someone told us

by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, - Power not human eloquence or persuasion - HS

Spirit was sent at Pentecost and continues to empower the proclamation of the gospel. He:

Convicts hearts of sin - Opens blind eyes to truth - Brings new birth to the soul

Takeaway: Embrace your privileged position

- a. **Embrace It** - Revel in the fact that you have the whole book in front of you
 - b. **Make use of it** - It's intended to drive us first to worship and second to mission (Baton)
Peter reminds us we live in a privileged moment in redemptive history...don't squander it
4. **God's salvific plan is: Marvelous to those who observe (12b)**

things into which angels long to look.

- *Long* means to intensely desire. It is a deep yearning to see and understand something
- *look* literally means to stoop down and peer closely - examine something carefully
Angels bending down, studying the unfolding drama of redemption with fascination

Why are angels so captivated? Redemption is something angels observe...never experience

- Angels were created but not created in God's image like humans
- Fallen angels receive no salvation - Holy angels have never needed redemption
People get angels wrong - Valentine's Day - Precious Memories Figurines

The word "angel" comes from the Greek word *angelos*, which literally means **messenger**

Aren't "people with wings"; powerful, supernatural beings...serve God as heavenly agents

Angels aren't just sitting on clouds playing harps - specific roles: **Angels Are:**

- **Messengers:** Delivering major news (Gabriel telling Mary she would give birth to Jesus)
- **Warriors:** Fighting spiritual battles against "fallen" angels or protecting nations (2 Kings 6)
- **Worshippers:** Their primary "home" job is the constant praise of God (Isaiah 6)
- **Ministers:** Providing physical or spiritual help to humans in distress (Acts 12:5-7)

Angels see the holiness of God, depth of human sin, astonishing grace displayed in Jesus
See the Son of God take on human flesh - Witness the cross where justice and mercy meet

They watch as sinners are forgiven and made children of God - And they marvel

Takeaway: Recognize the magnitude of the gift

Treat the Gospel as Extraordinary - Angels fascinated...how much more should we be

Realize Salvation is Precious - Angels observe redemption, do not personally experience it

We no longer have to stand in the shadow...we stand in the Light - **BIG IDEA**