I) V10-12 INTRO: Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently
Review: Peter said we are kept by God's power through faith for salvation (V5)
THE THOUGHT

II) Believers are under the watchful care of God, who secures our inheritance
God's keeping power is intended to bring us to His goal for us: Our final salvation
2 Co 1:21-22 He who establishes (makes us firm) us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

III) The word power speaks of the mighty miracle working power of God
It is this power that influences and strengthens us to overcome temptation
REMEMBER

IV) God's power is necessary to preserve us from the pollution that is in the world
Jude 24 (He is) able to keep (us) from stumbling and to present (us) faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy

V) V5 This keeping power of God is received and applied by faith
To believe is our part, the exertion of the almighty power is of God
Phil 2:13 it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good purpose

VI) There is no persevering without the power, and there is no power without faith.

VII) Our completed salvation has yet to be fully realized
This occurs when we are in heaven, with Jesus
Ro 8:22-24 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?
BEGIN STUDY

VIII) V10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently who
The OT prophets inquired and searched diligently about salvation
This includes Job, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, and Malachi

IX) Prophets proclaimed what they received through inspiration about salvation
They gave over 300 specific prophecies revealing future events concerning Jesus, His birth, His ministry, His death and resurrection and the kingdom of God

I) They received and gave the words of God, through speech and writing
2 Co 4:13 we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak

II) People heard what was being proclaimed, and were inspired to seek Messiah

III) Later others read the writings trusting that they were inspired by God
2 Pe 1:20-21 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION

IV) This is what we had done: we have heard and we have believed
Even thought we haven't physically seen Jesus, we love Him and seek Him
1 Th 2:13 we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

V) The prophets searched the word to find out the time of Messiah's appearance
Inquired: To scrutinize; to seek out or to investigate
Searched diligently: Thoroughly investigate

VI) The prophets intensely longed to know when Messiah would arrive on the scene

VII) They desired to know the prophecies concerning Messiah
With all of their prayerful searching, they were unable to be satisfied
Mt 13:17 Truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which you see and have not seen them; and to hear those things which you hear, and have not heard them

VIII) This shows the belief they had in God's word, its revelation and accuracy
The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years in times of war and in days of peace by 40 different writers including kings, physicians, tax collectors, farmers, fishermen, singers, scholars, and shepherds. It was written in three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, and was written on three continents: Asia, Africa, and Europe. It is a collection of 66 books, 39 OT and 27 NT that make up a single book, the bible. Its main theme is the kingdom of God, and the entire bible points of Jesus Christ as its main subject, and glory to God is what it is designed to produce.

I) The bible is the word of God and is not a book created by man's imagination
2 Ti 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof (conviction), for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work

II) The Bible is the only religious book that contains prophecy
Is 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose

PETER IS SAYING

III) The prophets made the study of God's word their highest priority
They longed for the Messiah, and knew the scriptures would *direct them to Him*

ILLUSTRATION

IV) Remember when the wise men came inquiring about the one born King of the Jews
Mt 2:2 They asked Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.

V) When this was told to King Herod, he was troubled
He then asked the chief priests and scribes where the Christ was to be born
Mt 2:5-6 So they said to him, In Beethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophets But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shal come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel (Micah 5:2)

VI) The priests knew where to search for the answer: the scriptures

APPLICATION

VII) The diligence of the prophets in seeking Jesus inspires us to know scripture
Read the bible, listen to teachings, and go to studies and put it into practice

WHAT DID THE PROPHETS DO?

VIII) V10 They prophesied of *the grace* that would come to you
Many had been under the law of Moses, which demanded strict obedience
Lev 18:5 Keep My statutes and My judgments, for the man *who does these things* will live by them

AS WE HAVE SEEN

IX) It also ultimately condemned because no one could keep the law perfectly
Ro 3:20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us *how sinful we are*.
Ro 7:10 So I discovered that the very commandment that was meant to bring life actually brought death.

I) The prophets prophesied *of the grace* that would be *revealed* through Jesus Christ
It is God's grace, when applied to our lives, that transforms us from the inside
APPLICATION

II) Some think that our society needs to be *reformed*
The society doesn't need to be reformed, it needs to be *transformed*
QUOTE

III) Reform is no answer for a culture like ours. Redemption is what is needed, and that occurs at the individual, not societal level. The church needs to get back to the real task to which we are called: evangelizing the lost. Only when multitudes of individuals in our society turn to Christ will society itself experience any significant transformation.

IV) It was revealed through the prophets *that grace* was better than the law
Gal. 3:10 All who rely on works of the law are under a curse. For it is written: Cursed is everyone who doesn't continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law

V) The *law* revealed our sinfulness, and grace *provided* the remedy
Jn 1:17 The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

VI) V11 *Searching* what or what manner of time the *Spirit of Christ* who was in them
This reveals the Spirit inspired the OT writers to record God's revelation

VII) The spirit of prophecy is a testimony of Jesus for *He is Whom Scripture points to*
Rev 19:10 The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy

VIII) V11 The Spirit of Christ testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories
The prophets revealed His incarnation, suffering, and redemption of humanity
INCARNATION

IX) Is 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
SUFFERING

X) Ps 22:14-15 I am poured out like water, and all My bondes are out of joint; My heart is like wax, it has melted within Me. My strength is ddried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death
REDEMPTION

XI) Is 53:5 He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisment for our peace was upon Him, and by His stsripes we are healed

I) This came in a ***general way***: they themselves did not know ***when*** it would occur
They simply knew in God's precise timing that He determined, it would happen
Gal 4:4-5 When the fulness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the aw, to redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons

II) All of this was prophetically given ***through inspiration***
Inspiration speaks of being God breathed, referring to authorship and authority

III) The Holy Spirit ***moved*** (lead; conducted) the writers, ensuring accuracy
This gives us confidence in the ***original manuscripts*** reliability and accuracy

IV) V12 To them it was revealed that not to themselves but to us they were ministering
Though inspired to write about Jesus, they didn't fully grasp what was revealed
They were not given the full understanding of their own writings

V) They did not know the precise meanings, but were still blessed with hope
Heb 11:39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised

VI) They looked forward to the future day when these things would be fulfilled

VII) V12 they were ministering the things which now have been reported ***to you***
Their writings were ministering (of service) to the new community, the Church
FACT

VIII) Often the prophets did not understand the meaning of their own predictions
They were writing of things that were yet to occur

IX) Some of those things are called a mystery
A mystery is something that is hidden but is later revealed

X) Paul spoke of this kind of thing to the Ephesians
Eph 3:4-6 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I) They didn't receive the fulfillment of the promises but lived in faithfilled expectation

II) V12 To them it was revealed that ***not to themselves*** but to us they were ministering
They knew that they were instruments God was using to bless ***future generations***

III) The apostles as well as those who came to Jesus were the ones who benefited
We, and the apostles, have the privilege of preaching a gospel once hidden
NOTICE

IV) V12 which now have been **reported** to you through those who have preached
Reported is speaking of announcing, or preaching and evangelizing
These things the prophets desired to know are now being openly shared

V) What once was a mystery is now openly declared and being preached
Mk 16:15 Jesus said Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation

VI) The gospel is preached **by the Holy Spirit** sent from Heaven (Ac 1:8)
POINT

VII) The Spirit who **inspired the prophets** also inspires **all preachers** of the gospel
Ac 2:17-18 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

VIII) V12 Things which angels desire (**overpowering curiosity**) to look into
The thought that God would **sacrifice His Son** is something they can't grasp
BRIEFLY

IX) Fallen angels can't be saved and do not understand grace in salvation
Once they have fallen, they are never returned to former positions
Mt 25:41 He will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into **the eternal fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.
IN CONTRAST

X) Faithful angels will sing songs of praise for the salvation God worked **for man**
Rev 5:11-12 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: "**Worthy is the Lamb**, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

I) The angels are taught of the grace of salvation *by seeing* God save the Church
Paul made this clear in his letter to the Ephesians
Eph 3:10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be *made known* to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms

CALL TO ACTION

II) V13 Therefore gird up the *loins of your mind*, be *sober* and rest your hope fully
In light of the fact that this salvation is so incredible, cling tightly to Jesus
Instead of trusting in works righteousness, hold fast to the *grace of God*

FIRST

III) Girding up your loins is the picture of gathering up a robe
It speaks of removing hindrances that will create obstacles as you run or fight

IV) This is a call to action: to be prepared and serious in the way you think
You are in spiritual battle, so be on the alert and be prepared
1 Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour

IN LIGHT OF THIS

V) Endure whatever is necessary as you live in and proclaim the grace of God

TWO APPLICATIONS

VI) *Be sober*: Be self-controlled, use sound judgment in all areas of your life
This includes the physical cares of this life
Ro 13:13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. (NLT)

SECOND

VII) Sober could speak of our understanding, thoughts and our will
We should be in a constant state of awareness of the traps set by the enemy
Eph 5:15-16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

THIRD

VIII) V13 Rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the
In faith, trust the Lord, rest in His grace, and wait expectantly to see Jesus

IX) Christians know grace is fully realized when Jesus is revealed at His 2nd Coming
Heb. 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

I) V14 As obedient children not conforming yourselves to the former lusts as in your
We are not to live like we did before we were saved, our flesh dominating us
Col 3:5-7 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

II) Now, ***by the power of God's Spirit***, we can be obedient children
Ro 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

III) V15-16 but as He who called you is holy you also be holy in all your conduct
As our Father in Heaven is Holy in purity and character, so are His children
Holy: Separated from profane, dedicated to God, conforming to God's command
QUOTE
IV) Edwin Lutzer: Within evangelicalism is a distressing drift toward accepting a Christianity that does not demand a life-changing walk with God. Many evangelicals (today) do not realize that the church has always been an island of righteousness in a sea of paganism, but as a result they turned the world upside-down.

V) Holiness is not some old-fashioned concept of being proud of what you do not do
It is a desire of the heart to please Him that motivates us to reject sin
Heb 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord
Eph 4:22-24 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

VI) This desire to please God is why you reject societal norms that accept sin
Living together is still fornication, and same sex marriage is still forbidden, men are still men and women are still women, he and she are the only pronouns we need

VII) Our understanding of what pleases God doesn't allow us to evolve, or compromise

I) Genuine believers live in a reverential fear of God, which purifies our lives

Our God is Holy and righteous: We glorify Him best when our lives are like His

Pr 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil