

Concerning Our Salvation 1 Peter 1.10-12

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. 1 Peter 1.10-12

The prophets who predicted in the Old Testament the coming of the Messiah, his sufferings and subsequent glories, didn't fully understand all that they were predicting, but they were terribly interested in what was going on. They knew that God was working in their lives, saying something to their contemporaries, but they also recognized that he was speaking to succeeding generations.

What the prophets foretold is then identified as the message proclaimed to the readers by those who evangelized them in the power of the Holy Spirit. This tightly packed sentence contains a number of thoughts:

1. What the prophets foretold is now the content of the evangelistic message of the church.

1 Corinthians 15.3-5

2. The Holy Spirit sent from heaven enabled the evangelists to preach this message.

Acts 2.14-39; 3.11-26

3. It is probable, though less obvious, that Peter recognizes the prophecies about the coming of Jesus as being fulfilled, not just for the Jews but also for the Gentiles, because the you whom he addresses were, at least in part, a Gentile Christian audience.

4. He adds the interesting statement that *the angels long to look into these things*.

Mark 13.32; Romans 16.25; 1 Corinthians 2.6-9; Luke 15.10; Romans 8.19

In summary, then, Peter points out that the Holy Spirit has revealed that the readers are living in the time when the prophecies of salvation have been fulfilled. This confirms their Christian experience and gives a firm foundation for their future hope. He provides a rationale for the relevance of the prophetic writings to these Christians' situation, and thus emphasizes their privileged position.

What, then, has this passage to say to modern readers?

1. It reminds us that from a Christian point of view the Old Testament is not just a time-bound book, with prophetic messages meant purely for the original readers.
2. There is a continuity in revelation between the testaments.
3. If the prophets had to learn that some of God's messages were meant for others and not for themselves, perhaps we need to learn that not all of Scripture is meant to speak directly to us nor written with us in mind.

2 Timothy 3.16; 1 Peter 5.13

4. Peter's concern is that, while the prophets are so interested and the angels are so enthralled, so many today appear indifferent to the Word of God.

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 2 Peter 1.19

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