

SOJOURNERS AND EXILES

A JOURNEY THROUGH FIRST PETER



WATCHED BY THE ANGELS

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1 Peter 1:10-12

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.

SUMMARY

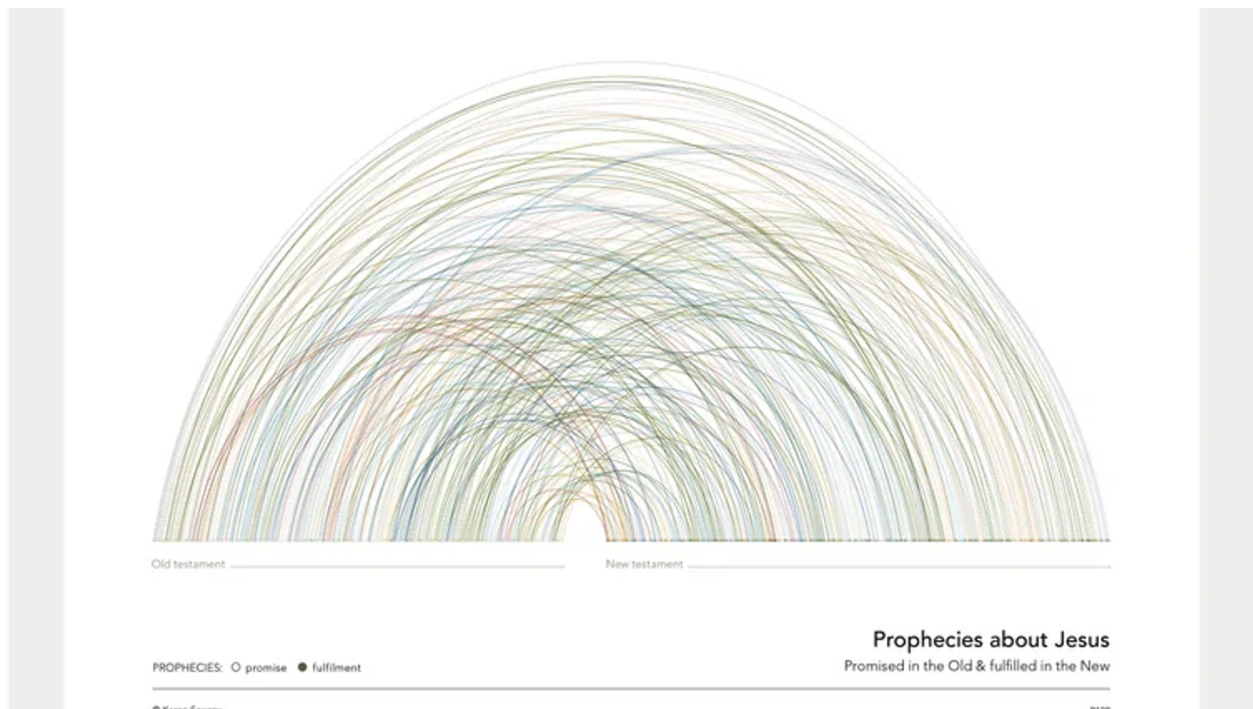
Our hope of salvation through Christ is marvelous; even the angels are swept up in wonder! In the past, God spoke through the prophets to indicate what the Messiah would do and what He would be like. Isaiah prophesied about a Suffering Servant who would also rule as Judge over all things. We now see fully what the prophets only saw in part. Yet, are we as mindful of our salvation and new life in Christ as they were!?

PASSAGE PRINCIPLE

Christ's suffering and glory are the two sides of our great salvation.

PROPHETS

- Spoke and wrote what the Holy Spirit revealed (2 Peter 1:21).
- Foretold coming events.
- Forthtold God's judgment and hope.
- Did not receive God's promise in their lifetime.



Isaiah 53:1-12

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Romans 11:1-5

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

CHRIST SUFFERED AND WAS GLORIFIED FOR OUR SAKE

Matthew 13:16-17

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Acts 7:51-53

⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Hebrews 11:32-40

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

OTHERS SUFFERED AND WERE GLORIFIED FOR OUR SAKE

- Prophets and Preachers

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT GOD HAS FULLY REVEALED TO YOU?

Walls, D., Anders, M. (1999). I & II, II & III John, Jude (Vol. 11, p. 11).

“The least disciple of Jesus Christ is in a better position to understand Old Testament revelation than the greatest prophet before Christ came.”

IS LIVING AND GIVING THE GOSPEL DRIVING YOUR PURPOSE?

Spurgeon, C. (2014). Spurgeon Commentary: 1 Peter. Lexham Press

“You and I live in the light of a finished salvation. God has appeared in human flesh; Christ has borne the guilt of man; His atonement is completed. Jesus has risen from the dead and gone into the glory, pleading for believers. Surely that which prophets thought it worth their while to study by night and by day, though they knew that they should never see it, ought to be thought worthy of the devout attention of those immediately concerned in it.”

Clowney, E. P. (1988). The message of 1 Peter: the way of the cross (p. 55).

“Sufferings now, glories to follow. Peter wants to encourage Christians who face the first to look for the second. He has pointed our hope to the glory of Christ, and to his return. Now he would have us remember that the Christ of glory is the Christ of the cross. The sequence of our lives follows the sequence of Christ’s life. He suffered first, then entered into his glory. So must we.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever worked on something mainly for the benefit of someone else —what was that like?
2. How do Isaiah 53:1-12 and Luke 24:25-27 clarify Peter's statement about the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow?
3. What does 2 Peter 1:20-21 teach us about the Holy Spirit's role in the prophetic messages described in this passage?
4. Why do you think Peter emphasizes that angels long to look into these truths?
5. How does Hebrews 11:32-40 deepen our understanding of Peter's statement that the prophets were serving not themselves but those who would come later?
6. What does this passage reveal about how intensely the Old Testament prophets sought to understand the salvation they were announcing?
7. What does verse 11 teach us about the connection between the sufferings of Christ and the glories that followed?
8. How does this passage deepen your appreciation for living on this side of Christ's death and resurrection?
9. What are the lessons you pull from 1 Peter 1:11-12 for the Church and for yourself?

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