"SALVATION: A Vitally Important And Extremely Interesting Matter"

I Peter 1:10-12

9-26-2021

INTRODUCTION:

God's plan of salvation is no boring topic to those who know its significance!

***Realize how important and interesting our salvation really is!**

3 evidences showing its importance and interest:

I. The Prophets <u>STUDIED</u> It (v. 10-12a)



II. The Spirit <u>PREACHES</u> It (v. 12b)



III. The Angels are <u>FASCINATED</u> by It (v. 12c)



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Spiritual boredom or disinterest is a curse upon many today!

To many, "salvation" is dry and uninteresting!

People have a "who cares" attitude about the most vitally important and extremely interesting matter in the world!

The suffering Christians to whom Peter writes would be very encouraged by the vital important and extremely interesting salvation they possessed.

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3 evidences showing its importance and interest:

I. The Prophets STUDIED It (v. 10-12a)

V. 10

"Of which salvation" = concerning the salvation mentioned in the preceding context (v. 5, 9), Peter now shows the tremendous interest that existed in God's marvelous salvation plan.

"The prophets" - These are the O.T. prophets (like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc.), men whom God used to write down His predicted prophetic revelation concerning the future.

These prophets did not write their own thoughts down, but God's words (SEE: II Pet. 1:21-21). Often, what they wrote (since it was God's Word) they didn't even comprehend themselves.

The Old Testament prophets often received revelation by visions and dreams, which contained a message that confused them and perplexed them, leaving them wondering as to its meaning (Dan. 7:28; 8:26, 27 - *"Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me; but I kept the matter in my heart. And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true; wherefore, shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. And I, Daniel, fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.")*

"Enquired" = lit. to search out; to be zealous about seeking out the meaning.

"Searched diligently" = to seriously study and examine.

The two words have the idea of to make an exhaustive search of the Scriptures and then to examine or scrutinize what they found. (The O.T. prophets wanted to find out the details [the specifics] of God's Word. . . Are you that hungry?)

As Jesus said to His disciples: *"Blessed are your eyes, for they see: For I tell you that many righteous men have desired to see the things that you have seen and have not seen them."*

The faithful example of the prophet's zeal to search and study God's Word should serve as an encouragement for us (who have more revelation than they did) to diligently seek to know the truth of each passage of Scripture. Be a Berean!
--Acts 17:11 -*"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."*

--John 5:39 -*"You search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."*

--II Tim. 2:15-*"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."*

"Prophesied" = to predict the future with precise accuracy. They foretold of God's gracious atonement for sin.

The O.T. Predicts the Messiah

A vast portion of the Bible is given to predictive prophecy. It is said that 333 distinct
prophecies were literally and exactly fulfilled at the <u>first</u> coming of Christ (the chances of this happening by accident have been computed as 1 in 87,000--plus 90 more zeros).

For <u>every</u> verse speaking of Jesus' <u>first</u> coming in Scripture, there are <u>eight</u> which speak of His second coming.

Did you know…

1. The O.T. tells us <u>where</u> the Messiah would be born:
Answer: **BETHLEHEM** (Micah 5:2)

Micah 5:2
But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

2. The O.T. tells us <u>when</u> the Messiah would be born:
Answer: **483 YEARS after Artaxerxes' degree to rebuild Jerusalem** (Dan.9:25; Neh.2:5)

Da 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

3. The O.T. tells us <u>how</u> the Messiah would be born:
Answer: **Of a VIRGIN** (Is.7:14; Mt.1:23)

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Mt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

4. The O.T. tells us <u>what</u> the Messiah would be like and <u>how</u> He

would be viewed and treated when He came into the world:

Answer: **Humble & Rejected** (Isaiah 53:1-3)

Isaiah 53:1-3

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? [2] For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. [3] He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

5. The O.T. tells us <u>why</u> the Messiah would be born:

Answer: **To Suffer & Die for the Sins of the World** (Isaiah 53:4-12)

Jesus stated His purpose for coming with these words:

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Paul stated the purpose for Christ's coming with these words:

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The writer of Hebrews stated the purpose for Christ's incarnation with these words: *Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

Hebrews 2:14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Precision in the Death of Christ

a. *Christ died at just the right* <u>TIME</u> (at Passover)

Daniel 9:26 - "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself…"

b. ***Christ died at just the right*** **PLACE** (at Mt. Moriah)

Mount Moriah – God's place of Sacrifice

1. Moriah was the mountain God told Abraham to offer His son, Isaac. (Genesis 22)

2. Moriah was the mountain God told David to Build an Altar to stop the Death Angel from destroying the Israelites (II Samuel 24:18-f)

3. Moriah was the mountain God chose to put His name there and to build the Temple for sacrifices (Deut.12:5,11,14,18; 16:6; II Chron 3:1; II Sam.24:16-24)

4. Moriah was the Mountain God chose to sacrifice His Son upon for the sin of the world
(John 19:17)

c. ***Christ died in just the right*** **WAY** (by Crucifixion)

- Pierced
  Zechariah 12:10 "…they shall look upon me whom they have pierced"

- Bloodshed
  Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

- No Broken Bone
  John 19:36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

The details of Christ's death are too coincidental to be accidental!

"Grace" **-** the unmerited, undeserved kindness and favor of God.

Grace refers to God giving us eternal life, which we do not deserve, nor could we earn.

Grace:

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

Though they lived under the Law, the prophets predicted grace. How did they predict "grace?" They predicted about Christ, who provided grace for the world.

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (Jn. 1:17).

V. 11

"Searching what" - i.e. what circumstances [the word "what" may be a neuter plural indefinite pronoun -- hence, *"circumstances"* (NIV); or it may be a masculine singular -- hence *"whom"* (NASV)].

"The spirit of Christ" = This significant phrase points out three truths -

1) Christ pre-existed in the Old Testament
(cp. Jn. 8:58; 1:1, 2; Col. 1:17; Mal. 3:1; Is. 40:3; I Cor. 10:4-9)

2) The Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ are one in essence

3) The Holy Spirit of Christ (or Christ's spirit) had an intimate, close, abiding ministry in the lives of God's Old Testament prophets.

(***"which was in them")***

--Christ's Spirit preached through the prophets, like Noah (I Pet. 3:18-19). Christ's Spirit guided God's prophets to write Scripture (II Pet. 1:21).

"Did signify" - was making clear or plain.

By diligent search of the Scriptures, they tried to clear the fog as to what and when the Holy Spirit was telling them Christ would come.

"When it [the Spirit] testified beforehand" - The Spirit of Christ witnessed in advance (or foretold the future) about:

--Christ's sufferings (Is. 53)
--Christ's glory that would come after His suffering (Is. 40:1-5)

Christ was throughout the Old Testament. He is the theme of the Bible.

Jesus Christ in every Book of the Bible

Old Testament

Genesis	--The Seed of the Woman	(3:16; Gal. 4:4)
	--The Seed of Abraham	(22:18; Gal. 3:16)
	--The Angel (messenger) of the Lord	(16:7-14; 21:17-21; 22:11, 18; 31:11-13)
	--Shiloh, who is to come	(49:10)
Exodus	--The Passover Lamb	(12:1-28; I Cor. 5:7)
	--The "I am"	(3:14; Jn. 8:58, 59; 18:6)
Leviticus	--The pre-figured bloody Sacrifice	(1-10, 16-17; Heb. 9-10)
Numbers	--One lifted up for salvation	(21:5-9; Jn. 3:14)
	--A star out of Jacob	(24:17; Lk. 3:34)
Deuteronomy	--Prophet like unto Moses	(18:18)
Joshua	--Captain of the Lord's Host	(5:13-15)
Judges	--The Angel of the LORD	(2:1-5, 6:11-24, 13:3-22)
Ruth	--Kinsman Redeemer (Boaz is a picture of Christ - chap. 3-4; I Pet. 1:18; Eph. 1:6,7; 5:25)	
	--The protective wings of the LORD	(2:12, Mt. 23:37)
I Samuel	--The Rock	(2:2; Mt. 16:18)
II Samuel	--The Seed of David	(7:12, 13; Lk. 1:32, 33)
I Kings	--The Wisdom of God	(3:5-15, 3:28, 4:29; I Cor.1:24; Col. 2:3)
II Kings	--The Angel of the LORD	(1:3-4, 15)
I Chronicles	--The eternal King	(17:11-14; Heb. 1:5)
II Chronicles	--The eyes of the LORD	(16:9; Zech. 3:9, 4:10; Rev. 5:6)
Ezra	--Restorer of the temple	(theme of Ezra)
Nehemiah	--Restorer of the nation	(theme of Nehemiah)
	--The only Creator	(9:6; cp. Col. 1:17)
Esther	--Our propitiation and advocate	(I Jn. 2:1-2)
Job	--Our Redeemer	(19:25)

Psalms	--The Son of God	(2:7, 12; Lk. 1:35)
	--Our Shepherd	(23:1; John 10)
	--Eternal God	(45:6; Heb. 1:8, 9)
	--The One sought by kings	(72:10-15; Mt.2:1,2)
	--The Cornerstone	(118:22; Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20)
Proverbs	--Our wise Counsellor	(8:14; cp. Is. 9:6; Col. 2:3)
Ecclesiastes	--Our Judge	(3:17, 12:14; II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:16)
Song of Solomon	--Rose of Sharon, lily of the valley	(2:1; Is. 35:1, 2)
	--The Bridegroom	(Mt. 9:15, 25:1ff; Rev. 21:2, 9)
Isaiah	--Holy, holy, holy	(6:1-3; Jn 12:41)
	--Immanuel	(7:14; Mt. 1:23)
	--Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the	
	--Everlasting Father, the Prince of peace	(9:6)
	--The root of David	(11:1; Rev. 55: Rom.15:12)
	--A precious Cornerstone	(28:16; I Pet. 2:8)
	--The One wounded for our transgressions	(53:5; I Pet. 2:24)
Jeremiah	--The Lord our righteousness	(Jer. 23:6; II Cor. 5:21)
Lamentations	--The One who weeps over Jerusalem	(Mt. 23:37-38)
	--The One who gave His cheek to the smiter	(3:30; Is. 50:6; Mt. 26:67; Lk. 22:63)
Ezekiel	--True Shepherd	(34:23; Heb. 13:20)
	--The Horn of the house of Israel	(29:21; Lk. 1:69)
Daniel	--Stone without hands	(2:34, 44-45)
	--The Son of man	(7:13-14)
	--Messiah the Prince	(9:25; Jn. 1:41; 4:25, 26)
Hosea	--The Ransom	(13:14; I Cor. 15:55)
	--The Son out of Egypt	(11:1; Mt. 2:15)
Joel	--The Judge in the Day of the LORD	(2-3; Rev. 16:14-19, 19:11-21)
Amos	--The Lord of hosts (armies)	(6:8; 9:5; Zech. 14:4; Rev. 19:14)
Obadiah	--The LORD of Retribution	(v. 15)
Jonah	--The Lover of men's souls	(4:10-11)
Micah	--The eternal Ruler	(5:2; Mt. 2:6)
Nahum	--The God of vengeance	(1:2; Heb. 10:30)
Habakkuk	--The God of justice	(the theme of Habakkuk)

Zephaniah	--The wrath of the LORD	(1:15, 18; Rev.6:16, 17)
Haggai	--"The Desire of all nations"	(2:7)
Zechariah	--The smitten Shepherd	(13:7, cp. Mt. 26:31)
	--The One "they have pierced"	(12:10; Jn.20:37)
Malachi	--The LORD (Jehovah) whom ye seek	(3:1; cp. Mk. 1:2, 3)
	--The Sun of Righteousness	(4:2)

New Testament

Matthew	--The King	(2:2, 21:5)
	--Jesus	(Mt.1:21)
Mark	--The Servant	(10:43-45)
Luke	--The Son of man	(6:5, 9:22-58, 21:27)
John	--The living Word	(1:1)
	--The Lamb of God	(1:14)
	--The Son of God	(1:34)
	--The Judge	(5:22, 27)
	--The Bread of life	(6:32, 35)
	--The Light of the world	(8:12)
	--I am	(8:58; 18:6)
	--The Door	(10:9)
	--The Good Shepherd	(10:11)
	--The Resurrection and Life	(11:25)
	--The Way, Truth, and Life	(14:6)
	--My Lord and my God	(John 20:28)
Acts	--Salvation unto the ends of the earth	(13:47)
Romans	--Our Propitiation and our Justifier	(3:24, 25)
I Corinthians	--The Foundation	(3:11)
	--The last Adam	(15:45)
II Corinthians	--Our grace all sufficient	(12:9)
Galatians	--Redeemer from the curse of the Law	(3:13)
Ephesians	--Head of the church	(1:20-23)

Philippians	--The Name above every name	(2:9-11)
Colossians	--Altogether preeminent	(1:16-18)
I Thessalonians	--The One coming	(4:16)
II Thessalonians	--The One who will judge in flaming fire (1:7-8, 2:8)	
I Timothy	--The Mediator	(2:5)
II Timothy	--The One who abolished death	(1:10) the Judge of the living and the dead (4:1, 8)
Titus	--Blessed hope --Great God and Savior	(2:13) (2:13)
Philemon	--Settler of the account	(the theme of Philemon)
Hebrews	--God --Our great high Priest --The final sacrifice --The Author and Finisher of our faith (12:2)	(1:8) (4:14) (9:26, 10:10)
James	--The LORD of glory	(2:1)
I Peter	--The suffering Savior	(3:18)
II Peter	--Day Star	(1:19; cp. Num. 24:17)
I John	--Our Advocate	(2:1)
II John	--The Son of the Father in truth and love (v.3 cp. Jn.5:18) --The One Who is come in the flesh (v.7)	
III John	--The truth	(v.1,3,4,12; cp.John 14:6)
Jude	--The One who is able to keep us from falling	(v.24)
Revelation	--The Amen --Alpha and Omega --King of kings and Lord of lords --The Root and Offspring of David, and the --Bright and morning Star (22:16)	(3:14) (1:8, 11; 21:6) (19:15,16)

Christ sufferings were fulfilled at His first coming; and His glory will be revealed at His second coming (Titus 2:13; Ro. 8:17-18).

"Glory" - lit. *glories* (plural), referring to Christ's glorious "resurrection, His ascension, His resumption of glory o the Father's throne (Jn. 17:5; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 3:21), His return and reign in glory (Col. 3:4; II Tim. 2:12), and His majesty glory as the Judge of all (Rev. 20:11-15)" (Hiebert, p. 78).

Often the O.T. would not distinguish the two comings of christ; but could blend those two comings together (Is. 61:1-2; cp. Lk. 4:18-19 - "Christ stopped reading in the middle of 61:2, since at His first coming He preached only the *"acceptable year of the Lord"* (Lk. 4:19). The *"day of vengeance of our God"* (Is. 61:2b) was reserved for His second coming" (Ryrie note).

The O.T. prophets could only see the "mountain tops" they did not see the valley (parenthesis) of the Church Age (Pentecost till Rapture).

"The O.T. believers looked ahead by faith and saw, as it were, two mountain peaks: Mount Calvary , where Messiah suffered and died (Is. 53), and Mount Olivet, where He will return in glory (Zech. 14:4). They could not see the "valley" in between, the present age of the church." (Wiersbe, p. 395).

Many, like Simeon and Anna, awaited, expected, and anticipated Christ's coming (SEE: Luke 2:25-38). Had all of Israel diligently studied the O.T. (particularly Daniel), they would have known *"the time of [Christ's] visitation."*

Daniel 9:24-26 gives the timing of Christ's coming!

V. 12

The *"revealing"* of unveiling of Biblical prophecy before the eyes of the Old Testament prophets was not for their benefit (since they did not live long enough to see the fulfillment) -- but God revealed truth about Christ to them for our benefit.

God often uses His people for the benefit of others.

The prophets were ministering for another generation. That is the generation to live between the suffering of the Messiah up to His return in glory. This generation "in between" is a hidden mystery in the Old Testament (Eph. 3:1-3).

"Which things" = Christ's sufferings and glory.

***"The angels"* ** Good spiritual creatures who are intrigued by God's marvelous plan of salvation.

***"Now reported"* -** That revelation which was given to the Old Testament prophets was finally now declared or announced again to you who believe!

***"By them that have preached"* -** everytime we preach (proclaim) the Gospel, we are obeying the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16) and are instruments the Holy Spirit uses to reveal the mystery of Christ's sufferings

II. The Spirit <u>PREACHES</u> It (v. 12b)

***"With the Holy Ghost"* -** by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit uses the Gospel message and opens the understanding of the hearers.

The very Holy Spirit who wrote the Bible wants to teach us it! (Jn. 16:12-15).

III. The Angels are <u>FASCINATED</u> by It (v. 12c)

The plan of salvation is such an amazing, marvelous, mysterious message that angels ***"desire***" (are presently eagerly longing) to ***"look into"*** (to bend over to stare intently, to stoop to glimpse at) God's salvation plan.

"Look into" **-** this word was used of a woman bending over to search for a lost coin (Lk. 15).

EX: The bodily posture of people at the open tomb of Jesus (Lk. 24:12; Jn. 20:5, 11).

God's salvation plan <u>fascinates</u> the angels; it is an "object of intense angelic interest". . . They have a holy curiosity.

If angels long to search out this matter, this should show believers how important and serious our salvation is!

I don't find that angels desire to stoop over and examine:

1. The Wall Street Journal
2. The TV Guide
3. The sports page of the newspaper

God's Word (they know) is where the action is!

The hymnwriter Johnson Oatman, Jr., said it best:

Holy, holy is what the angels sing,
And I expect to help them
Make the courts of Heaven ring.
But when I sing redemption's story,
They will fold their wings,
For angels never felt the joy
That our salvation brings.

CONCLUSION: