

Group Study Guide

First Baptist Church Merritt Island

Are You Amazed by Jesus?

I Peter 1:10-12

February 25th, 2018

Main Point

The salvation Jesus provides for us is so amazing that the prophets diligently sought to understand it and the angels longed to see it. May you be stirred to praise God today as you consider the gift of salvation God has given us in Christ Jesus His Son!

Getting Started

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What valuable things in your life do you tend to take for granted?

How would your life be different if you rightly valued these things?

What prevents you from rightly treasuring things of value?

Of all the things we take for granted, the salvation that is ours in Christ is paramount. Taking something for granted implies that the thing we are neglecting has value. Our relationship with Christ is our most valuable possession, and yet we often do not treasure Christ supremely. The believers in Asia Minor who received Peter's first letter were likely being pressured by the culture to compromise their faith. They could easily have let their circumstances crowd out Christ. Therefore, Peter reminded them of the immense value of Christ by demonstrating how Jesus fulfilled the redemption of which the Old Testament prophets spoke.

Observation

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Ask a volunteer to read 1 Peter 1:10-12.

What do we know about this salvation that Peter speaks of in verse 10 (see vv. 3-9)?

What does Peter say these prophets searched and inquired carefully for?

Why do you think Christians in Asia minor needed this reminder?

Why do we need this reminder?

Peter says that the “Spirit of Christ” was in the Old Testament prophets when they prophesied about Jesus. *What does this tell us about the relationship between the Old and New Testaments? What does this tell us about the message of the Bible as a whole?*

The focus of the prophecies of the Old Testament was the “grace” that is ours in Christ. The fact that the prophets were indwelt with the Spirit of Christ as they foretold the coming, suffering, and glory of Christ tells us something very important about the Old Testament and the Bible as a whole: All of Scripture tells one unified story of salvation by grace through faith in Christ. The Old Testament constantly points us forward to the coming Messiah who would forgive, cleanse, and restore sinners to a right relationship with God. The New Testament, demonstrates how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of these promises, a reality into which angels long to look.

What are some examples of Old Testament prophecies that have been fulfilled in Christ (see Ezekiel 36:24-38; Isaiah 53; Psalm 22)?

According to Peter, how have we been served by the Old Testament prophets? How might knowing this change the way you read the Old Testament?

What knowledge do we possess that the angels long for? What could we do to remind ourselves of this knowledge on a regular basis?

How has Christ’s suffering resulted in “subsequent glories”? Have you experienced this? How so?

The words of the prophets were inspired by the Holy Spirit and directed toward the coming, grace, suffering, and glory of Christ. Furthermore, these prophecies were designed to minister to us and point us to Christ. The first sermons of the early church were focused on demonstrating clearly from the Old Testament that Jesus is the messiah (Acts 2, 7). In fact, in Luke 24, Jesus spoke to two disciples after His resurrection demonstrating clearly that He is the Messiah and that His redeeming work is the focus of all of Scripture.

Application

What keeps you from acknowledging and rejoicing in the salvation you have received in Christ? What could you do this week to remind yourself of the salvation that is yours in Christ?

How should knowing that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament change the way we read the Bible? How does knowing what Christ has done help us follow His commands?

What are some practical ways we might deepen our appreciation for the salvation that is ours in Christ? How might doing so prepare us for future suffering?

Spend time praying for your five in your group meeting. Encourage members of your group to identify five people who appear to be far from God and near to them. You may want to pray for them silently or out loud, if appropriate.

Prayer

Thank God for revealing Christ to us in all of Scripture. Pray that studying His Word would deepen our affection for Christ and give us perspective on our present circumstances. Thank God for opening our eyes to the joy of the gospel and ask Him to use us to help others see and experience the joy we have in Christ. *Dear God, please help us experience the joy of our salvation in a way that draws other people to You!*

Commentary

1:10. The next three verses (vv. 10–12) attempt to increase our appreciation for the great salvation we enjoy in Jesus Christ. The spiritual blessings believers now experience is greater than anything the Old Testament prophets or even the angels imagined. The prophets longed to participate in this salvation and coming period of grace. They thought about it; they searched the subject out as best they could—all to comprehend more clearly what we seem to take for granted.

1:11. In their searching for more, they discovered that Jesus would first suffer and only then would glory follow. The pattern seen in the life of Christ is, in fact, the pattern of our lives. Our suffering is not a sign that Christ has betrayed us, or that he is no longer concerned about us, or that he has abdicated his throne. Our suffering is a sign of our fellowship with the resurrected Lord, who first suffered for us. Suffering, in some respects, becomes a sign of the glory that is to follow in our lives when we enter the presence of Christ in heaven.

1:12. Old Testament prophets did not understand the timing or calendar of dates surrounding the incarnation of Jesus Christ. They did understand that their words would have a dramatic impact on future generations. The prophets realized that what they wrote was not for themselves, but for those who would live later and who would hear the gospel and follow Christ (see also Heb. 11:32, 36–39). For generations, the prophets faithfully recorded their prophecies about the coming Messiah, but they did not know who this Messiah would be, or when he would come to earth. Even the angels were looking intently to see if they could get a glimpse of the grace of God at work. New Testament believers had already received the grace that the prophets would have liked to see, and the angels would have liked to be understood. We, too, in our day have received that same grace: it is Jesus Christ our Lord.

Believers in Christ are the heirs of the full message of the prophets. The least disciple of Jesus Christ is in a better position to understand Old Testament revelation than the greatest prophet before Christ came. Knowing Jesus gives us a clearer picture of salvation than the prophets ever knew. It reminds us that our pain and suffering do not diminish the living hope that has been given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

