

# The Promise of the Prophets in This Age of Grace

## 1 Peter 1:10-12

**Introduction** – The inheritance is reserved for us in heaven; this is true. But Peter wants to make sure you understand that the glories of that final inheritance, while waiting for you in heaven, are surely being granted to the Church Triumphant in growing measure in this age. For the Dispersion then, and for us as well now, this takes eyes of faith in the promises of the prophets to see.

**The Inquiry of the Prophets** – The prophets saw the salvation of our souls and prophesied of it. This was a salvation that went far beyond the boundaries of the nation of Israel (Gen 12:3, Dan 2:31-35, Is 2:1-2, 66:18, Zech 9:9-10). In other words, the prophets of the Old Testament never expected the grace of God to be limited to the work of those residing in Palestine or only to the Jewish race. God not only revealed the coming of the Messiah and the end of all things, but this age of grace *‘that would come to you’* as well.

**Searching What Manner of Time** – The prophets did not know clearly all that was up, but through searching the Scriptures, they knew much about this time. Simeon did (Luke 2:25-32), and Jesus rebuked His disciples for not seeing more (Luke 24:25-27).

**The Sufferings and Glories in Christ** – This was the testimony of the Spirit of Christ, and both are found throughout the Old Testament. Clearly Isaiah 53 speaks of the Savior’s suffering. Jesus Himself quotes Psalm 22, which declares the sufferings (vv 1-21), immediately followed by a declaration of the glories to follow. These glories include the expansion of His grace to the nations of the world, and the families of the nations, and the posterity of the families. His name is declared in the great assembly (Ps 22:22, quoted in Heb 2:12). That great assembly, which is the church today (Heb 12:22-24), proclaims His victory over all the earth (Psalm 22:28).

*“To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you...”* (1 Pet 1:12). The prophets knew they were speaking of these days – the days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There is not simply glory in heaven. There is the promise of glories that follow the sufferings of Christ in this age of grace.

**The Ministry of the Holy Spirit** – The gospel was preached ‘by the Holy Spirit’, Peter says in verse 12. This is the Peter who preached on the day of the Spirit’s outpouring at Pentecost, when he quoted Joel (Acts 2:16-17). Peter is giving testimony to the effectual calling of the Holy Spirit, and this is the promise of the New Covenant. The living waters are pouring out of the New Temple upon the whole earth.

**Jesus is the True Temple** – John 2:19-21.

**Jesus Promises Living Waters** (John 7:38) – Whoever is in this temple, out of him flows living waters.

**Ezekiel Promised a Temple-River** – (Ezekiel 47:1-7). Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit (John 7:39). So here we have another picture of the gradual increase of the work of the Spirit in this age of grace.

**The Old and New Testament** – Contrary to many mistaken views of the Bible, the Old and New Testament are one story. We often draw contrasts where the scriptures draw parallels.

**Salvation is the Same in Both** – Abraham believes God as we are commanded to believe God. All of those saved in the old economy were saved through the blood of Christ, the mediator of the Covenant of Grace (Heb 9:15).

**The Old is not Obsolete** – Paul tells Timothy to study the Old Testament (2 Tim 3:16-17) because it is all profitable. The words of the New Testament time and again presuppose a knowledge of and belief in the teachings of the Old Testament. You cannot understand the New Testament if you do not have a thorough understanding of the Old. The old sacrificial practices, *as practices*, were made obsolete by the coming of the True Temple and the True Sacrifice (Heb 8:13). But Jesus Himself said He did not come to abolish the teachings of the Old Testament (Matt 5:17).

**Let Scripture Interpret Scripture** – We must get our hermeneutic, our understanding of how to interpret the scriptures, from the scriptures. Time and again we see the New Testament acting as our inspired commentary of the Old. What Peter is teaching us is that the Old proclaims glories for this age. “This salvation” is not only in heaven, but has legs down here upon the earth. That is why Jesus gave us His marching orders (Matt 28:18-20).

**Results** – Peter is not simply rambling in these two verses. He is connecting the inexpressible joy of our salvation to the day in which we live. There is not only hope in heaven, but hope here upon the earth.

**Angels Desire to Look Into** – The angels, as well as the prophets, understand that these things are worth studying and searching. Do you?

**Joy Full of Glory** – God is delighting over His plan of redemption. The angels are witness to this (Luke 15:10). We are invited to party with them.

**Our View of Evangelism** – We believe in the efficacious work of the Holy Spirit in the preaching of the Word of God. This affects our gathering here, and our proclamation to you now.