

Studies in 1 Peter - Discussion Guide for Community Groups

Session 2: Prophets (1 Peter 1:10-12)

Background

It is said that hindsight is 20/20. We see the past with more clarity than the future. This explains much of the reason that most of the religious leaders of Jesus' time, did not recognize Him as their Messiah. They were looking for a Messiah that would defeat their enemies and restore David's Kingdom.

The Old Testament prophets had indeed prophesied the coming of a Messiah. However, the desire to see Israel's political restoration blinded the religious leaders to the true purpose of the Messiah. What was the true mission of the Christ? The Christ came to bring salvation to the world. Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Bible Text: 1 Peter 1:10-12 NKJV

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, [11] searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. [12] To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

Digging Deeper:

- Throughout the Old Testament are prophetic words that speak of the coming of Christ. Here are some examples.
 - 2 Samuel 7:12,13 "When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."
 - Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.
 - Psalm 118:21-24 I will praise You, For You have answered me, and have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Read Verses 10 and 11: Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, [11] searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

- Can you think of any Old Testament prophecies concerning the sufferings that Jesus would endure?
- Here is an excerpt from the Prophet Isaiah concerning the atoning work of Christ. Isaiah 53:3-6 NKJV He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. [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 wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. [6] All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- Notice how Isaiah ties the “work” of the Messiah to the salvation of people. Why do we consider the suffering of Christ a work of grace?
- What are some of the “glories” that have followed the sufferings of Christ?

Read Verse 12: [12] To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

- In the case of the Old Testament writers, the work of the Messiah was a future hope. The Messiah would appear sometime after they had passed away. Why was this “hope” important to the people of Israel?
- By the time Peter was writing this epistle, the hope that was foretold by the prophets was now being realized by the Church. Peter pointed to the fulfillment of prophecy on the Day of Pentecost when he preached to the people of Jerusalem. Peter quoted the Prophet Joel, and two prophecies from King David.
- Why do you think Peter tied both the work of Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit to Old Testament prophecies when he was preaching on the Day of Pentecost?

Wrap-up: *God is in control, and He has a plan. God is not “trapped” in time as we are; therefore, it may seem that the promises of God are not happening as quickly as we wish. We must remind ourselves that time does not diminish or define the promises of God. God will bring about His purposes in His time. 2 Peter 3:8-9 NKJV But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*