

1 Peter 1:10 - 12

Discussion Questions

- What are the prophets investigating? What does this tell us about them and their character?
- Who knows more about the Messiah, the prophets or us?
- Is it better to know a few select things revealed directly by God) as the prophets did or all of God's plan (as we do)?
- For what purpose did God reveal these things to the prophets?
- What are some Old Testament Scriptures which tell of the sufferings and glories of the Messiah?
- Who are the ones who have preached the gospel to you?
- What does the end of verse 12 tell us about angels?

Verses on the Messiah's Suffering

Zechariah 11:12-13 - I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter" — the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of the silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.

Isaiah 50:6 - I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

Zechariah 13:6 - If some asks, "What are these wounds on your body? They will answer, "The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.'

Verses on the Messiah's Glory

Jeremiah 23:5 - "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "which I will rise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Luke 1:31-33 - You will conceive and give birth to a son, and are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Zechariah 14:4 - On that day, his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountains moving north and half moving south,

Teaching Points

1. This salvation that is not yet completely fulfilled for us (since, for example, our bodies will only be glorified in the yet future) was even much more distant future for the prophets.

They had many parts of God's plan revealed to them, which they recorded in the Scriptures. We are saved by faith by looking back at the coming of Christ while they were saved by faith by looking to the future coming of Christ.

2. The prophets were diligent to study what had been written in the Scriptures, including their own writings, wanting to find out as much as possible about the Messiah. When would this happen? Who would fulfill this prophecy? Where would these things take place? What would be the sign? I'm sure many of them were looking and hoping for these promises to be fulfilled in their lifetimes.

We can learn important lessons from them:

A. If we don't know something or have questions, we should study as much as possible to try to have those questions answered. This is a method of God uses to encourage us to be diligent in order to draw closer to Him.

It is like a kid who has a problem. Sometimes he will ask his father to answer it for him. My father never would. Instead, he gave me some principles, but asked me to keep trying myself, no matter how long it took. This process helped me much more than him directly answering the question would have.

God wants us to be diligent spiritually. Sometimes the process of learning can be as important as the end.

B. Just as the prophets looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, so should we. Knowing that He could come at any time certainly would have affected their lives. They would have been motivated to godly living, so that they would be ready. What they didn't know was that Jesus would come twice. While we are looking and hoping for Jesus' second coming, we will also never know the time it will happen until it happens, but we should be ready.

C. Just as the prophets didn't understand everything God wanted them to do, we may not either.

3. There were Old Testament prophecies covering both Jesus'

sufferings and His glories. The sufferings are prophecies fulfilled the first time He returned to earth while prophecies about His reign, kingdom, etc. are still yet to be fulfilled.

4. The prophets were serving us. Some Christians might wish that God would speak directly to them like He did to the prophets.

Surely it would be better to hear God speak to us directly, instead of having to find the answers in the Bible, right? Wrong! The prophets' knowledge was very limited compared to ours. We are extremely privileged to have the complete, finished Bible with all of God's revelation to us in it, containing everything we need for our lives.

We know far more about Christ than the prophets did. What is the lesson for us? Well, we have no excuse. We know what we should do. The resources are right in front of us. The principles are right in front of us. We just need to dig into God's Word, root out the gold nuggets of truth, and then obey it. The key is to love God's Word (1 Peter 2:2). Then we will study it and obey it.

Notice also that the angels are not all-knowing . They too want to study to know more about God's plan. Never think it would be better to be a prophet and have God speak to you, or to be there when Jesus came on earth to see Him face to face or to be an angel in heaven. Actually, we have the best possible position as children of God, a position that angels will never have. This should motivate us to gratitude and obedience as well as study the Word which God has given to us.