

• *The glory to be experienced*

### 1. Old Testament prophets were enabled to predict the final glory of Jesus and His people

• *The grace that was to be yours'*

• *Old Testament prophets did not completely understand their own message*

• *Their ability to predict came from 'the Spirit of Christ within them'*

• *They must remember: it was always predicted that suffering precedes glory*

### 2. Old Testament prophets went through more than one stage in receiving revelations

Peter wants his friends in Roman Asia Minor to see the greatness of the glory they will experience if they lay up treasure in heaven. One way he has of getting them to see it is to remind them that the glories of final salvation were predicted by the Old Testament prophets.

1. **Old Testament prophets were enabled to predict the final glory of Jesus and His people.** Peter has been speaking of the Christian's final salvation, the occasion when Jesus will be revealed in glory and Christians will be raised to glory at the same time. Now he writes: *'Concerning this salvation the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours searched and enquired'*<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 1:10

Old Testament prophets often spoke of the glory to come. They pictured a time when the earth would be covered with glory as the waters cover the sea. All things will be put under the human race. Redeemed and restored humanity will be crowned with glory and honour. Creation will be restored. Death will be swallowed up in victory. All of this was proclaimed by the Old Testament prophets. It was all a matter of God's graciousness. The prophets 'prophesied of the **grace** that was to be yours' says Peter. Final salvation is a matter of **grace**.

Peter says that the Old Testament prophets did not completely understand their own message. They 'searched and enquired' into what their own predictions meant. Their predictions were often quite miraculous. They did not always understand their own message. It had come to them entirely from God, and they were sometimes perplexed as to what their message might mean.

In verse 11 Peter explains further. *'They were seeking to know what person or what sort of time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them, when they were predicting the sufferings appointed for Christ and the subsequent glory'*<sup>1</sup>. Their ability to predict came from 'the Spirit of Christ within them'. The Holy Spirit gives gifts of revelation and illumination. He enables the Old Testament prophets to know the future. He was with them in their writing of their prophecies and predictions.

<sup>1</sup> 1:11

The theme of their message was the person of the coming Saviour, His sufferings and His final glory. The prophets did not only predict glory for Jesus; they predicted suffering also. Old Testament prophets often spoke of His being a suffering servant, and of experiencing reproach because of His loyalty to God. The sacrifice of the Passover lamb and the shedding of blood pointed to One who would sacrifice Himself. If Peter's friends in Roman Asia Minor are suffering at the time Peter writes, they must remember: it was always predicted that suffering precedes glory. Even the divine Messiah of Old Testament prophecy was destined to suffer before entering His glory.

2. **Old Testament prophets went through more than one stage in receiving revelations.** Peter's way of speaking implies that the prophets received revelations which they did not altogether understand. They then 'searched and enquired' and eventually God answered their enquiries and gave them further understanding. This is an important principle in understanding what God says to us. We may not understand everything the first time. God may want us to do more enquiring. The young boy Samuel heard God calling him, but he was not told everything in one step. He had to say 'Master speak; your

- *Similar steps and stages for us*

### 3. Christians may take to themselves the comfort of Old Testament descriptions of glory

- *They would enter into the sufferings that come with loyalty to Jesus*

- *If there are sufferings now, then there are glories to follow*

### 4. The glories of the future are so great, even the angels enquire into them.

servant is listening'. Then God would tell him more. It was a two-stage process for the prophets, and understanding God's word may well involve similar steps and stages for us.

3. **Christians may take to themselves the comfort of Old Testament descriptions of glory.** Peter tells us of the answer the prophets received. *'It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached good news to you, through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which the angels long to look'*<sup>1</sup>. The predictions of the prophets included the final glory that is to come; and it included the preliminary sufferings of Christ and His people. An answer was given to the prophet's enquiries. The final glory was not to come in their lifetime. Their writings were preparing for the future. A future age of believers would witness the coming of the Saviour that they predicted. They would enter into the sufferings that come with loyalty to Jesus, and they would need the encouragements of the prophets more even than people in the prophet's own time. This time has arrived, says Peter. The prophets predicted a coming time of sufferings followed-by-glory. The prediction of sufferings-followed-by-glory is being experienced. Jesus has suffered. Jesus has been raised in glory, and His glory is to be revealed in due course. Now Christians are suffering. They too will be raised in glory. Their glory also will in due course be revealed. The new epoch of the fulfilment of the prophets was inaugurated by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven in the apostolic age. Peter is encouraging his friends to understand the age of history that they in. If there are sufferings now, then there are glories to follow.

4. **The glories of the future are so great, even the angels enquire into them.** They are 'things into which the angels long to look'. The angels themselves wonderingly enquire into these amazing glories which are laid up as an inheritance for the obedient people of God. God's people can rejoice despite the sufferings. The glory ahead of them is so rich and full that the very angels admire it. Let the Christians despise the shame of sufferings and rejoice that they are given the high privilege of living for God.

<sup>1</sup> 1:12



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