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Our Great Salvation

1 PETER 1:1-12

Introduction

1. I don't know when this song first came out, but I remember it being taught to the youth who rode on the church buses in the mid-1970s, and we sang it at camp for a number of years.

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2. The title of the song is "Said I Wasn't," and these are the lyrics I remember:

Said I wasn't gonna tell anybody
But I (couldn't keep it to myself)
No, No, I (couldn't keep it to myself)
No, No, I (couldn't keep it to myself)

Said I wasn't gonna tell anybody
But I (couldn't keep it to myself)
What the Lord has done for me (for me)

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Chorus:
You oughta been there (oughta been there)
When He saved my soul (saved my soul)
You oughta been there (oughta been there)
When He put my name on the roll
I'll keep walking and I'll keep talking
And I'll keep singing and I'll keep shouting
What the Lord has done for me (for me)

3. The message of the song is that our salvation is great and so important that we just can't keep it to ourselves — we want others to know about it.
4. What is your attitude toward your own salvation this morning? Is it something

which you just can't keep to yourself? I hope so.

5. Peter's goal in our text this morning is to show his readers that the spiritual blessings which they now have are greater than anything the O.T. prophets or even the angels imagined.
6. He seeks to increase their appreciation for what God has done in their lives.

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7. When Peter writes, "as to this salvation" he is referring to . . .
 - a. The salvation of their souls which they are obtaining as the outcome of their faith (v. 9).
 - b. The salvation which he writes in v. 5 is "ready to be revealed in the last time" and for which they are being "protected by the power of God."
 - c. A salvation which includes an inheritance which is "imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (v. 4).
8. This is the salvation which you are obtaining if you are a Christian.
9. Here in verses 10-12, Peter has some other things to tell us about the special nature of this salvation which I would like for you to consider this morning:
 - a. The prophets of old spoke of it.
 - b. Those who preached the gospel centered their messages around it.
 - c. The angels long to look into it.
10. My goal is for each of us to develop the same passion for our salvation as these.

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I. Prophesied By The Prophets Of Old

"As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow."

(1 Peter 1:10-11, NASB95)

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A. THE NATURE OF THEIR PROPHECIES

1. Spoke of “the grace that would come” (v. 10).
 - a. Grace is what we need, not what we deserve.
 - b. God knew that we would all need a Savior.
 - c. Time and again through His prophets, He spoke of this coming Messiah.
 - d. Some 700 years earlier, God spoke through His prophet Isaiah and told Ahaz, who was king at the time, that “a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).
- b. In Matthew 1:22, after the angel’s announcement to Joseph that the child Mary was carrying in her womb was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Matthew wrote, “now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet (Isaiah).”

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- c. In Isaiah 9:6-7, we find another prophecy concerning this “grace that would come:”

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.”

(Isaiah 9:6–7, NASB95)

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- d. Some 550 years before Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, God spoke through His prophet Zechariah of this coming event (Zechariah 9:9)

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
He is just and endowed with salvation,
Humble, and mounted on a donkey,
Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”
(Zechariah 9:9, NASB95)

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- 2. “Predicted the sufferings of Christ” (v. 11b).
 - a. Not only did God speak through His prophets of the grace to come, but also of “the sufferings” which His Son would endure.

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- b. David spoke of these sufferings in Psalm 22:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:1).
“For dogs have surrounded me;
A band of evildoers has encompassed me;
They pierced my hands and my feet.”
(Psalm 22:16, NASB95)

“They divide my garments among them,
And for my clothing they cast lots.”
(Psalm 22:18, NASB95)

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- c. God also spoke of these sufferings through His prophet Isaiah:
“Surely our griefs He Himself bore,

And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.
But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.”

(Isaiah 53:4–5, NASB95)

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3. Along with the sufferings of Christ, there were “the glories to follow” (v. 11b).

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“As a result of the anguish of His soul,
He will see it and be satisfied;
By His knowledge the Righteous One,
My Servant, will justify the many,
As He will bear their iniquities.”

(Isaiah 53:11, NASB95)

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“It will come about after this
That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;
And your sons and daughters will prophesy,
Your old men will dream dreams,
Your young men will see visions.
Even on the male and female servants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

(Joel 2:28, NASB95)

Slide 15**B. THE EXAMINATION OF THEIR PROPHECIES**

1. They “made careful searches and inquiries” (v. 10b).
2. They wanted to know who the person was and when it was to take place (v. 11a).
 - a. No doubt, Isaiah wanted to know more about the child to be born upon whose shoulders the government would rest.
 - b. Who would have such lofty names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
 - c. David must have wondered about the individual of whom he spoke in Psalm 22, whose hands and feet would be pierced.
 - d. Zechariah must have questioned the identity of the king who would ride into Jerusalem mounted on a donkey. When would this take place?
3. In Matthew 13:17, Jesus told His disciples, “For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” (Matthew 13:17, NASB95)

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4. What the prophets did learn from all of this is that “they were not serving themselves, but you” (v. 12a).
5. The apostle Paul touched on this toward the end of his letter to the Christians in Rome.

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (Romans 15:4, NASB95)

6. Those of us who are here today as Christians are the recipients of this grace which God has extended to us.

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II. Announced By Those Who Preach The Gospel

“It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven . . .” (1 Peter 1:12, NASB95)

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A. THE APOSTLES AND EVANGELISTS

1. Just before His ascension back to His Father, Jesus promised the apostles that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit had come upon them, and that they would be His witnesses eventually to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8).
2. Following this bestowal of the Holy Spirit, Peter would go on to preach the good news of salvation to the crowd gathered in Jerusalem on Pentecost.
 - a. He quoted the prophecy from the prophet Joel which I shared with you just a moment ago, ultimately promising that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Acts 2:17-21).
 - b. He also shared with them the words of David, from Psalm 16:8-11, where David said in verse 10, “You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay” (Psalm 16:10, NASB95).
2. The evangelist, Phillip, was sent by an angel of the Lord to intercept a chariot on its way from Jerusalem back to Ethiopia (Acts 8:26-39).
 - a. In that chariot was the treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia.
 - b. He was reading from the writings of the prophet Isaiah.
 - c. Phillip asked him if he understood what he was reading.
 - d. He said, “how could I, unless someone guides me?” and invited Phillip to join him.
 - e. This man was reading from Isaiah 53, and Phillip began right there and preached Jesus to him.

- f. The result was that this royal official asked Phillip to baptize him and he did.
3. Throughout his three missionary journeys, the apostle Paul, enjoyed great success throughout the regions of Asia Minor, Macedonia and Achaia, preaching the same gospel message as did Peter and Phillip.

18a**B. THEIR PREACHING WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

1. As we noticed earlier, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles, as promised by Jesus.
2. Jesus had told them in the upper room on the eve of His crucifixion that the Holy Spirit “will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:26).
3. Peter, in his second letter, specifically 2 Peter 1:21, wrote, “no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (2 Peter 1:21, NASB95)
4. The apostle Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:16, told Timothy that, “All Scripture is breathed out by God . . .” (2 Timothy 3:16a, ESV).
5. It is this same Scripture, given to us through the Holy Spirit, that you and I are reading from this morning.

Slide 19**III. The Angels of God Look On With Great Interest****A. THE ANGELS ROLE IN GOD’S ADMINISTRATION**

1. Since their creation, the angels of God have had a significant role in the administration of His creation.
2. Hebrews 12:22, tells us that “the city of the living God” is filled with “an innumerable company” of them.
3. In Hebrews 1:14, the writer tells us that they are “ministering spirits sent

out to serve those who will inherit salvation” (NIV84).

4. It was the angel, Gabriel, who announced to Zacharias that his wife, Elizabeth, would have a son to whom they would give the name John (Luke 1:13).
5. Gabriel also announced to Mary the birth of our Savior, Jesus (Luke 1:26-31).
6. An angel of the Lord announced to the shepherds in the fields outside Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:8-11).
7. Following that announcement, a multitude of angels joined him and praised God (Luke 2:13).
8. Angels ministered to Jesus while He fasted for 40 days in the wilderness (Mark 1:13).
9. An angel also appeared to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane to strengthen Him (Luke 24:23).
10. An angel rolled away the stone from the tomb after Jesus rose from the dead (Matthew 28:2).
11. Two angels were in the tomb when Mary Magdalene stooped to look in (John 20:11-12).

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B. OUR SALVATION IS A MYSTERY TO THE ANGELS

1. In spite of all that we read of the angels doing on our behalf, there are still things which they do not know.
2. Jesus said that the angels do not know the precise moment of His return (Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32).
3. Here, when Peter writes that the angels “long to look” into these things, he utilizes a word for “look” (*parakuptō*) which means “to stoop and look into” or “to make considerable effort to try and find out something.”

4. Our salvation is so great and yet so mysterious that the angels in heaven continue to look into it with great interest.
6. Shouldn't that tell us something about what God has done for us?
7. Wouldn't it be great if every person took the same interest in his or her own salvation?

Conclusion

1. Our heavenly reward is a precious treasure.
2. You and I are living in the focal point of history.
3. Everything which God has been doing since the foundation of the earth is to bring us back to Him.
4. Our hope in this salvation rests not on the word of men, but upon the very testimony of God Himself.
5. Since we know that God would not and can not deceive us (cf. Titus 1:2), we can also know beyond the shadow of a doubt as faithful children of God what God has waiting for us at the end of our journey.
6. Are you a faithful child of God? Have you begun your journey?