

Keeping Your Eternal Perspective

Video Bible Study | First Peter 1:10-12 | 4/17/20

“What Do I See?” (Read the text)

“¹⁰ As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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—things into which angels long to look.”

“What Does It Mean?” (Answer some questions)

1. It seems a bit unusual that Peter now discusses prophets and their experience. If he’s trying to encourage Christians in the midst of trials, how does this fit in?
2. Who were “the prophets” and what does “prophesied” mean? (Peter will again writes of the inspiration of the prophets by the Spirit in 2 Peter 1:20-21.)

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27)

Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44)

For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. (John 5:46)

3. What did the prophets prophesy of in v.10?

4. Using your observation skills, identify three pairs of terms in vv.10-11.

Activity (v.10): _____

Curiosity (v.11): _____

Outcome (v.11): _____

5. Beside prophesy, what else did the prophets do in our passage?

Two Translation Options for 1 Peter 1:11	
(NAS) "What person or time"	(NIV) "What time and circumstances"
WHO the person was	WHEN the Person would come
WHEN the Person would come	HOW it would come about.

6. Who is "He" in v.11? What is "He" predicting?

7. What roles do the Spirit and Son fulfill in v.11?

8. There are (5) different groups/individuals in v.12. Who are they?

"How will I apply the meaning to my life?" (Live for Christ!)

Digging Deeper: What the prophets knew—“sense” and “reference” in prophecy.

Some believe the prophets hardly understood their prophecies. Yet we cannot ignore what the prophets did know. Take 1 Peter 1:10-12, for example. We see they spoke knowingly of 1) the Messiah, 2) His sufferings, 3) His glory, 4) the sequence of events (suffering was followed by glorification), and 5) that the salvation

“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.” - Matt 13:17

announced in those pre-Christian days was not limited to the prophets’ audience (v.12).

Some of the debate can be resolved by clarifying something called “sense” and something called “referent.” The “sense” of a word is its meaning, the actual concept conveyed by the word itself. In contrast, the “referent” of a word is the specific thing/person/event that the word refers to in a given context. Applied to today’s passage, the OT prophets were not ignorant of what they wrote (“sense”); the details were what they sought (“referent”). They understood a person was coming (“sense”), but did not know that it would be Jesus, son of Joseph born in Bethlehem under Roman occupation (“referent”). (The beginning of v.12 indicates they hoped for fulfillment in their own time). Nor does a lack of referent mean there were deeper, secondary meanings beyond their own writings. In summary, the prophets understood each piece of the puzzle they added. However, they did not always understand how the piece fit into the bigger puzzle. God alone knew that and His revelation of the whole picture is a tremendous blessing—something “into which angels long to look.” (Adapted from Prof. Matt Waymeyer, the Expositor’s Seminary).