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# The Curiosity of Prophets and Angels

1 Peter 1:10-12



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# The prophets made careful searches and inquiries

- **“as to this salvation”** ~ everything already shared about the salvation of our souls (1 Peter 1:1-9).
- **“propheied of the grace that would come to you”** ~ many things they proclaimed would only become available at a future time when the Messiah would live, suffer, die, rise, and ascend to glory.  
*We are now living in very privileged times!*
- **“made careful searches and inquiries”** ~ They had a solemn duty to faithfully proclaim God’s truth, and they studied God’s Word carefully in order to know more about what God had spoken through them (for example, Dan 9:2-3; 12:8-9).

# Seeking to know what or what manner of time

- **“what or what manner of time”** ~ the circumstances or timeframes for prophetic fulfillment
- **“indicating”** and **“predicting”** ~ showing or declaring beforehand
- **New birth** ~ regeneration is a work of God which puts a new nature into the life of a person who has trusted in Christ for salvation (John 3:1-21; 14:16-20; Col 1:27).
- The **Salvation Covenant** ~ regeneration was included in the prophecies which predicted the *New Covenant* (for example, Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Ezekiel 36:22-28).

# As they predicted the sufferings of Christ

- **“Sufferings”** (*pathēma*) ~ includes physical pain and hardship, as well as mental and emotional passion or turmoil.
- The Old Testament prophets received revelation concerning the sufferings of their Messiah (for example, Isaiah 53):
  - He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief
  - He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities
  - He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth
  - But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief, if He would render Himself as a guilt offering
- The sufferings of Christ were in fulfilment of prophecy ~ many Jews minimized or denied that their Messiah was to suffer, but God’s Word declared His sufferings beforehand to the prophets.

## And the glories to follow

- “**glories to follow**” ~ literally, “the after-these-things glories.”
- The prophets often combine the *sufferings* and the *glories* of the Messiah in the same passage (for example, Isaiah 9:6-7; 61:1-2; Zech 9:9).
- When Jesus read Isaiah 61:1-2 in the synagogue at Capernaum He deliberately quoted only the “first coming” part of this two-part prophecy (see Luke 4:16-21).
- The Old Testament did not reveal that there would be a gap of time between the first coming of the Messiah to suffer and His second coming in glory. In the New Testament, this intervening time period was called a **mystery** because it had not been previously explained by God to the writers of the Old Testament.

## Not serving themselves, but you

- **“Serving”** (*diakoneō*) ~ “to wait upon others; to be a servant; to minister to the needs of others.” God reassured them that their ministry would have a lasting effect into the future.
- The details they longed to know would be understood and experienced by believers in the future.
- **“Holy Spirit sent from heaven”** ~ see Jesus’ promise – “The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:25-26).

# Things into which angels long to look

- **"longing"** (*epithumeō*) ~ "having passion toward something." Used by Jesus in Matt 13:17, "Truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men **desired** to see what you see."
- **"to look"** (*parakuptō*) ~ "to lean over or stoop down to look." The prefix (*para*) means "beside" which implies that angels are looking on from the sidelines as spectators.
- Angels who did not participate in Satan's rebellion remained holy and are not in need of salvation, which is beyond their personal experience. They eagerly watch to witness our salvation and to rejoice as it brings glory to God (see Luke 15:7).