

1 Peter 1:10-12 | “What a Time to Be Alive!”

Please turn in your Bibles to 1 Peter 1, verses 10-12.

This morning, we once again continue our study through the book of 1 Peter. *[pause]*

As Peter started out his letter, he reminded us of our identity in Christ.

And he recounted what God has done in saving us, and giving us a living hope.

This salvation and living hope helps us to rejoice now as we face trials and live our lives in this world.

So really, Peter is desiring for us to appreciate our status as a Christian, and the passage for today continues that idea.

I’m going to read verses 10-12 right now, and I want you to think through how he’s desiring for us to appreciate our status as Christians.

READ PASSAGE.

“What a time to be alive!”

Have you ever thought that statement in your mind or heard it?

Now sometimes people use it in a humorous and sarcastic way, but I’m using it in a more serious way.

Have you ever thought about the time that we are living?

I mean, we have running water and dishwashers, computers and cars, microwaves and air fryers.

Just look around and think about all that we have that prior generations never got to see or experience. *[pause]*

We can *instantly* get in touch with someone.

We can travel multiple states away in just a couple of hours.

We can click a button on our phones and a package will arrive in 1 to 2 days on our front doorstep.

We don’t even need to walk grocery store aisles and get our groceries, but we can choose what we want and someone else will get our groceries, and put them in the trunk of our car.

What a time to be alive! *[pause]*

In our passage this morning, it’s like Peter is saying to us, “What a time to be alive!”

Yet he's not talking about our technological advances, but our blessings in Christ. *[pauseeee]*

Now a question that may arise in your mind is, what time is he talking about?

He's not talking about blessings in the 2020's compared to the 1920's, or anything like that, but rather, what Peter is talking about is our time in salvation history.

There was the time before Christ, which is the Old Testament time period, and then there was the time after Christ, which is the New Testament time period.

We, of course, live in the time after Christ came.

He was born, lived his perfect life, died on the Cross, rose again, ascended, sent the Spirit, and instituted the church.

And this time period is what Peter will point to as a time of great blessing as he writes in these verses. *[pauseeee]*

My points for this morning will answer the questions: Why is it a great time to be a believer? What's so great about our time? First...

I. The salvation message of Christ is good news of grace.

How would you describe the salvation message?

I've been in a lot of meetings where someone is desiring to become a member, and I've found that describing the salvation message is strangely difficult.

I believe it's probably because when we are put on the spot, and asked to describe something in detail, it makes it hard.

If you think about it, this happens for other things as well.

There have been times where my son has asked me what a word means and I know exactly what it means in my head, but for some reason it's extremely difficult to explain it to a child.

That's probably what's going on for some who are asked to explain the salvation message.

Certainly, we should all practice this and learn more, so that we are able to explain it well for others to know the salvation message.

And actually, our passage helps us this morning as all throughout these verses, you see our salvation described in various ways. *[pause]*

There are many other words and phrases that could be used, but what does Peter use?

Peter has been talking about how we are saved, and how we will eventually be delivered when Christ comes again.

And he starts out verse 10 by saying, “Concerning this salvation...”

So that phrase right there gives us a hint as to what these verses are all about: they are about our salvation. *[pauseeee]*

I think we all know what salvation means, it means being delivered from something, right?

But what’s *our* salvation from?

It is salvation from sin and death.

We have all sinned and the wages of sin is death.

Our sin *deserves* punishment since we sinned against a holy God.

So by Christ taking our sin upon himself and taking our punishment, he became our substitute - he took what we deserved.

That means that by his death, we are forgiven our sin because Christ paid for our sins on the Cross. *[pause]*

Since Christ took our sin and his perfect righteousness was credited to our account, then that means we are no longer condemned, but we are justified in the sight of God.

And all of this means that we are saved from the wrath of God. *[pause]*

Yet the only way we receive this salvation is through faith in Jesus and what He did on the Cross in our place.

This is our much needed salvation from sin, death, and condemnation. *[pauseeee]*

Not only does Peter simply describe this salvation message by calling it ‘salvation’, but he also says, “the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours.”

So he describes the salvation message as *grace*. *[pause]*

Whenever you speak about salvation, you cannot leave out grace.

It is by grace through faith that we are saved.

Grace is the love and kindness shown to someone who doesn’t deserve it.

We are sinners, who were dead in our sins, and enemies of God, yet he sent Christ to save us from our sins - what else can you say but that that is grace! *[pause]*

Not only do we receive grace when we are saved, but we receive the grace of the myriad of salvation blessings that come along with being saved.

In the prior verses, Peter explained some of those gracious blessings like our new birth, our living hope, our inheritance, our future salvation, etc.

This is the grace that is ours! [pause]

Are you always humbled and thankful for the grace of God in what Christ has done for you?
[pauseeee]

How else does Peter describe our salvation?

Well he explains that the prophets predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

So the salvation message is all about Christ's work.

You can't remove Christ's work from the picture of salvation or else there is no salvation at all.

There are some who want to get away from Christ's death, and just preach that Christ was loving.

Yes, he was loving, but his love was demonstrated most clearly in the Cross!

Why? Because it was his suffering, death, and resurrection that made our salvation possible.

He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through him.

His death and resurrection is our only hope for being saved, so let's never take it for granted.

But let's cherish it, live in light of it, and proclaim it to others. *[pauseeee]*

Another way that Peter describes the salvation message is by calling it "good news".

Look there at verse 12, "in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you." *[pause]*

Whenever you hear the term, 'gospel', it is actually 'good news'.

The whole salvation message could be encapsulated in the phrase, good news.

It's good news because sinners with no hope in themselves are saved by God Himself.

You see, the good news actually starts out as bad news, but ends up as good news. *[pause]*

The bad news is that we are sinners who are bound for Hell and we can't save ourselves...

...But the bad news is transformed into good and great news because Christ intervenes by dying for us, and providing the way to be saved.

And so it is foundationally good news for lost sinners. [pause]

The salvation message of Christ is good news of grace.

Have you responded in faith to this good news of what Christ has done?

Turn from your sins and turn to Christ to be saved! Trust his work on the Cross for you, and receive grace today! *[pauseeee]*

What's so great about our time according to Peter?

We are saved by Christ's blood, we are the recipients of grace because of Christ's work on the Cross, and this is all good news. *[pause]*

The Old Testament believers were saved because they believed in the Messiah to come, but they didn't get to be in our position.

They didn't get to look back and hear in great detail all about the Son of God coming to earth, shedding his blood for them, and receiving life.

They didn't get to receive the Spirit, who is the Helper, all the time like we do.

They didn't get to experience all of the New Covenant blessings.

Let's be thankful!

Let's be grateful for the salvation message that we believed and by which we receive grace upon grace. *[pauseeee]*

Why else is our time great according to Peter? Because...

II. The Spirit spoke through men to give this message to us.

The Holy Spirit uses imperfect men to share the message to others.

And this has been the pattern of how God works throughout history to give his message to people.

He uses the Spirit to speak through people. *[pauseeee]*

Throughout these verses, we see Peter describe how we have heard the gospel.

He first talks about the Old Testament prophets.

They prophesied about the coming Messiah who would suffer, but also, who would exalted.

Just look throughout the whole Old Testament, and you see so many prophecies about Christ come forth.

Isaiah is definitely a very clear example when he prophesied in Isaiah 53.

He talked about how Christ will be despised and rejected by men.

He will be pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, and by his wounds we are healed.

That is the type of thing that Peter is talking about here in our passage.

We are actually served by the Old Testament prophets, who predicted so many things about the coming Messiah.

Peter even says that it was disclosed to the prophets that they were serving not themselves, but us.

Their prophecies were for a future time - our time - as they would be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

We were served by them! Now that's a blessing!

God used the Spirit of Christ to speak through them and serve us by sharing so many promises that would be fulfilled in Jesus. *[pause]*

It's amazing how much more the Old Testament is understood in light of Christ's coming.

We now read with Christ in mind, and we see indications of him everywhere.

Why is that? Because they were speaking about Christ! *[pause]*

We were served by the Old Testament prophets by seeing their prophecies fulfilled perfectly in Jesus.

What love of God to do this for us! What grace!

Before we were even born, he was using people, who lived thousands of years earlier, to serve us!

What a blessed time that we live in! *[pauseeeee]*

Not only have we heard the message of Christ through Old Testament prophets, but by the apostles, who preached the good news.

The Old Testament prophets prophesied of Christ, and then after Christ came and did his work, the apostles announced that what was promised was now fulfilled in Jesus.

Peter does this exact thing in his sermon at Pentecost in Acts 2. *[pause]*

So what you see here is that Peter is showing how the salvation message is one, unified message.

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are on equal standing, as they are the Word of God.

The Old Testament pointed forward to Christ, and then the New Testament declared, “He came!”

We can never separate the Old Testament from the New Testament, as they are both so very important to the good news of great grace. *[pause]*

There are some who say that we should “unhinge” from the Old Testament, but that’s far from the truth.

The apostles saw the importance of the Old Testament in showing how Christ is the fulfillment of God’s plan for mankind.

They declared, “He was promised, he came, so repent and believe!” *[pauseee]*

Not only is there one, unified message, but there’s one Spirit, who was used in both the Old and New Testament periods. *[pause]*

Notice how we are told that the Spirit of Christ predicted the sufferings and glory of Christ.

This is simply another way of talking about the Holy Spirit. *[pause]*

In this, we see the Spirit’s role in giving Scripture.

The prophets didn’t make up their prophecies, but the Spirit spoke through them to predict Christ’s person and work.

We are told that they were even trying to know more about these prophecies, reiterating that their message came from God Himself.

So what this all means is that when we read the Old Testament, we are reading God’s very Word to us. *[pause]*

And then what do you see when Peter talks about those who preached the good news?

They preached “by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven.”

Once again, the Spirit is seen as speaking through men who were proclaiming the gospel.

When they announced the good news, it was by means of and in the power of the Spirit. *[pause]*

This message can be trusted all the way through.

And now we as believers after Christ are in such a privileged position!

We have read the prophecies concerning Christ in the Old Testament, and we have read how Christ came and fulfilled those prophecies from the apostles who wrote the New Testament.

We have all that God wanted us to know in the Bible that we hold in front of us!

Do you realize the privilege of that reality?

Think about all the generations of believers who never had the complete Word of God in their hands.

And yet, many let their Bible sit on a shelf all week long until Sunday.

Let's read it even more, knowing how privileged we are to have God's written Word in our hands.

Even for many of us, if we forget our physical Bible, we can pull up the Bible in an instant on our phones.

What a privilege! *[pauseeee]*

What we find in Scripture isn't some made up story.

It's not some self-help information. It's not advice. It's not a collection of helpful suggestions.

But it's the very Word of God to us.

It is truth, and it tells us what is real, what is true, and what matters.

It has the power to change, the power to convict, and the power to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Do you remember this and take advantage of it? *[pauseee]*

What a time to be alive! The Spirit spoke through men to give this message to us.

We were served by the Old Testament prophets as they predicted Christ's coming, and then the apostles announced his arrival and work.

One unified message of good news, and one Spirit who carried along the writers who wrote it. *[pauseee]*

The third reason that our time is great is because...

III. The prophets and angels long to see what we have experienced.

If you look at my points for this morning, you will see that what we have been discovering is three "how's"....

How the good news is described, how we learned of this good news, and now how the prophets and angels reacted to it. *[pauseeee]*

Let's say that God told you that there would be revival in America someday in the future.

This of course would make you excited, right?

So you would want to learn more, like, “When is this revival going to happen? 20 years from now? 50 years? 100? When?!”

Or you would want to know, “Under what circumstances will this revival happen? Who will be some of the prominent Christians involved?”

You would want to know more in your excitement.

Well that’s sorta what it was like for the Old Testament prophets, yet even greater than a revival, for it involved Christ’s work of salvation. *[pause]*

We see in this passage that the prophets wanted to learn more about their prophecies.

They “searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating.”

Those words, “searched and inquired carefully,” emphasize a diligent search and careful investigation. *[pause]*

What were they searching and investigating?

They were probably searching out their own prophecies for clues, and then looking at other previous prophecies and Scripture.

Essentially, they were searching the Scriptures for answers. *[pause]*

Could this be said of your mindset?

Do you diligently search and investigate the Word of God to learn more?

Are you a student of the Bible?

When you come to a passage that you don’t quite understand, do you move on without any thought, or do you seek the answer?

Let’s be like Sherlock Holmes when it comes to our Bibles, searching and investigating more so that we can learn more about what it says. *[pauseeee]*

The Old Testament prophets received these predictions about the Messiah, and they searched diligently *for what?*

They wanted to know who, what, and when.

They wanted to know who the Messiah would be, but not only that, they wanted to know when he would come and under what circumstances.

Basically, they wanted to know all the details! *[pause]*

Really understand what is being said here...

The Old Testament prophets received some broad details about the coming Christ and they were like, “This is so good that I want to know everything about it!”

“Who will it be?! When will it happen?! What exactly is going to happen?!”

They were enthralled with this message that they only had a few glimpses about!

And yet we take all that we know about the gospel message for granted.

Why do we do that?!

Why do we take what we know for granted?! Why do we take the time period that we live in for granted?!

We think, “Oh yeah, I believed the good news when I got saved,” and then we move on like we never need it again.

But that’s not how we are supposed to view it, but like Peter, we should be continually bursting out in praise and worship for what God has done in us.

We should be continually humbled by what Christ has done.

We should be continually enthralled with the grand, redemptive plan that God accomplished in Jesus.

We should be so captivated by its message that we should proclaim it to others who need to hear it. *[pause]*

If these godly men in the Old Testament were this excited about what little they knew, how much more excited should we be about the good news that we know all about?! *[pause]*

Even Jesus talks about this in Matthew 13:16-17 when he says...

“But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” *[pauseeeee]*

When we think about our time in salvation history, Peter writes in such a way as to make it impossible to either be bored with it or take it for granted. *[pause]*

There are some people who desire to live in the Old Testament days because they think, “I want to experience seeing all those miracles, and I want to hear God audibly speak.”

But according to our passage, Peter won’t let us long for older days, or take our time period for granted, for he shows us the greatness of our time in salvation history.

The Old Testament prophets actually desired to know what we know in *our* day. *[pauseee]*

Interestingly, the prophets aren't the only ones who longed to see what we experience, but even the angels long to look into these things. *[pause]*

The word, "long," here means to strongly desire something or crave something.

And then the phrase, "to look," actually points to someone stooping down to see something with interest.

It's the idea of taking effort to see something that's happening.

So put together, it means that the angels strongly desire to watch God work in the world by saving sinners. *[pause]*

The angels are kept from fully knowing the mystery of every little detail of what God is doing, and they are interested in watching God's unfolding plan work out in us.

They are outsiders to the redemptive plan, and they strongly desire to watch and see more.

They're like spectators watching God's great plan unfold and saying, "Would you come look at this! This is amazing!" *[pause]*

Think about it! Angels marvel at what God is doing in our lives, they long to see more!

They crave to stoop down and catch a glimpse of God's manifold wisdom on display in redeeming individuals throughout all of history! *[pause]*

What God has done in saving sinners is so amazing, so wise, so great, so stunning, so marvelous that even the angels who serve him are continually desiring to look into what he's doing.

If even the angels long to look into these things, how much more should we be stunned by the gospel that saved us and is continuing to work in us?

Let's always be amazed by the greatness of our salvation!

What a time to be alive.

We are living in a great time in salvation history.

Christ was promised and he came.

We have read about the foundational prophecies that pointed to him in the Old Testament, and now we have read all about his coming.

We have read about his words. We have heard about his perfect life.

We have heard the good news of his death and resurrection for sinners.

And now because we have believed in him, we have been forgiven and given new life.

We have a living hope, an inheritance guarded in heaven for us, and we are guarded for a salvation ready to be revealed when he comes again.

What else can we do but “rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory”?

We are blessed beyond measure in Christ.

We have so many blessings that come along with being a believer after Christ’s first coming.
[pause]

The prophets desired to know what we know, and the angels long to watch it unfold.

The time that we are living in is far from boring or terrible, but it’s amazing because of our glorious Christ.

It’s all centered on him and what he did for us in grace.

We are privileged to know and experience what we have, and we should always be amazed at the greatness of our salvation.

Never take it for granted! *[pause]*

So how do you view the good news of Jesus Christ? Do you ever take it for granted? Or are you continually amazed by it? *[pause]*

Since it’s so great, then let’s live differently!

Let’s not take it for granted, but learn more about what he has done for us regularly.

Let’s not be bored with it, but take advantage of all the knowledge that we have in the Word.

Let’s revere, appreciate, admire, and adore our great God who accomplished our great salvation through our great Christ.