

Prophecy

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One of the strongest arguments for the truthfulness of the gospel is its fulfillment of what was spoken by the prophets hundreds of years before. This is a thought to which the apostles often turned. "To whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto you, did they minister these things, which now have been announced unto you through them that preached the gospel unto you by the Holy Spirit sent forth from heaven; which things angels desire to look into" (1 Peter 1:12).

What the prophets foretold "hath now been announced." What the prophets foretold is the same as that preached in the gospel. The two stand or fall together. It is good news for every generation. Most of what we read and hear in the media is temporary. Within a week most news is out of date. Salvation is always relevant and urgent. The Hebrew writer summarizes the situation with a probing question. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Heb. 2:3).

The gospel is not speculation, a theology, a morality, or a declaration of principles, but a history of fact. Things were done on this earth of ours for our salvation. "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures...was buried...and...hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3, 4). Whatever else the gospel is, these facts are the kernel and the basis of it all. It is no gospel that Jesus died unless He died for our sins. Those who look to Jesus merely as a great teacher Who was martyred miss the point. To preach book reviews, world affairs, civil rights, economic equality, world government, or any other human idea is to rob men of what they need most. "But we preach Christ crucified..." (1 Cor. 1:23). The gospel is of no value to us unless we avail ourselves of its blessings by believing its facts and obeying its commands.

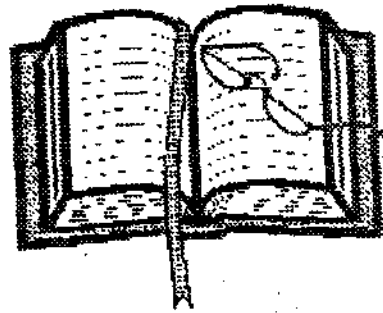
The grace that should come was foretold as flowing from the sufferings of Christ which were

also foretold. "Which things angels desire to look into." The salvation of the gospel, the prophecies, their fulfillment, and the salvation of man are of interest to the angels. To look into is to "bend aside" which shows their intensity. It reminds us of the cherubim above the mercy seat (Exod. 25:20). Angels are spiritual servants of God (Heb. 1:4). They passionately wanted to know or peer deeply into the depths of redemption. It is a subject worthy of the greatest minds in the universe. Angels are apparently outside the realm of redemption (Heb. 2:16). We have redemption. Let us praise God and faithfully serve Him.

The desire of the angels reminds us of "many prophets and kings (who) desired to see the things which ye see, and saw them not; and to hear the things which ye hear, and heard them not" (Luke 10:24). We have a blessing not known by God's saints before Christ. How eagerly they would have heard the word. Are we as interested? If angels are deeply interested, we, as sinful men, should be more so since it is for us. It is our shame that we loose ourselves and our thoughts in poor, childish things and trifle away our days while the great riches of God's salvation lie unregarded.

All ages are bound together in the work of Christ and His cross. It was the theme of prophecy, the study of angels, and the substance of the gospel. It is presented to men for individual acceptance in order to their salvation.

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