



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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SERIES : Studies in 1 Peter - "A Living Hope"

June 24, 2007. Study 3 : "A NEW UNDERSTANDING" 1Ptr 1:9-12

CONTEXT

Peter was by nature a practical man - quick to speak and to act. Transformed by the grace and power of God and convinced by the evidence of Jesus' resurrection, this uneducated fisherman became a leader of the Church and the leading missionary among the Jewish people. And so an unshakeable faith and a loving heart was grafted onto a practical personality.

The practical principles that guided & shaped Peter's life also shaped his letter. Today, we discover his third principle - "A New Understanding" ... of the Old Testament

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY 3

From a letter to me this week ... *"Dear Mr Lockyer, yours is a name that keeps coming up here at Reader's Digest, and 13 Falconer Rd is an address that is very well known to all of us here."*

I was overwhelmed with warm fuzzies as I contemplated the whole workforce at RD clocking on just so that they could talk about me and serve me then I continued reading (A mistake!) The next paragraph drowned the attack of warm fuzzies in cold water.

"That's because your name and address appear each month on the package that brings your copy of Reader's Digest magazine."

Do they really know me intimately? Do they really care about me? Have I really earned the position of *"Privileged Subscriber to enjoy special treatment,"* or is all of this just PR spin? (And should I be offended that they think my IQ is low enough to believe it?)

Is Peter also doing a bit of PR spin when he writes? : *"Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.*

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. **1 Peter 1:10-12**

A. WHAT THE PROPHETS KNEW

Our purpose today is not to study in depth what the prophets said about Jesus, but to simply note Peter's point in verse 11, that they spoke of and knew about :

1. THE "SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST"

a. THE DETAILS OF HIS SUFFERING

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 'He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him....' They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. **Ps22:7-8,18 ... see Mt27:35, 39-44**

... a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. ...he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. ...They will look on me, the one they have pierced ... **Ps22:16, Ps34:20, Zech12:10 ... see John**

19:31-37:

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. **Is50:6 ... see Mt27:30**

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, & with the rich in his death. **Is53:9 ... see Mt27:57-60**

b. THE PURPOSE OF HIS SUFFERING

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering ... Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows ... But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed ... and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Is53:3-6**

2. THE GLORIES THAT WOULD FOLLOW

Right from the start of the human story, the **ULTIMATE TRIUMPH** of Jesus was promised:

So the God said to the serpent, "... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." **Gen3:14**

Since the children have flesh & blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil. **Heb2:14**

Isaiah spoke of Jesus' life after his death:

... though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will ... prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life ... therefore I will give him a portion among the great ... because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. **Is53:10-12**

David also saw the Resurrection of Jesus:

... my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. **Ps16:9-10**

David ... was a prophet ... Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ. **Acts 2:25-31**

Daniel speaks of Jesus reigning:

He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples ... of every language worshiped him. His dominion is everlasting ... and his kingdom will never be destroyed." **Dan7:14**

3. THE TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES

... know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens ... after the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off ... **Dan9:24-26**

From the order to rebuild Jerusalem, (by Artaxerxes, King of Persia, in 458BC (See Ezra 7)), 69 "sevens" (483 years) is the EXACT time span to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. (458BC + 483 years = 26AD) which illustrates what Paul meant when he wrote:

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son... **Gal4:4**

B. (What The Prophets Knew, Is) WHAT JESUS TAUGHT.

After his Resurrection - to the two un-named followers on the Emaus Road:

"Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. **Lk24:26-27**

And later, to the Disciples, in the upper room:

"Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations." **Lk24:44-47**

From the beginning, the role of God, acting in grace and mercy, was clear. So Jesus could say : Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." **Jn8:56**

C. THE IMPLICATIONS

1. Who Jesus is, and what he has done, is **CENTRAL** to the whole Bible.

2. The remarkable plan of God. Conceived before time, fulfilled in Jesus ... **GRACE** toward us.

... we preach Christ crucified ... to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God ... we speak of God's secret wisdom ... that he destined for our glory before time began **1Cor1:22-23, 2:7**

3. Our grateful **RESPONSE** - **Obedient Lives**. "Therefore, prepare your minds for action ..." (v13) and finally, no, Peter is not in the "spin" business, just passing on the sober truth! He was chosen before the creation of the world... revealed in these last times for your sake. **1Ptr1:20**