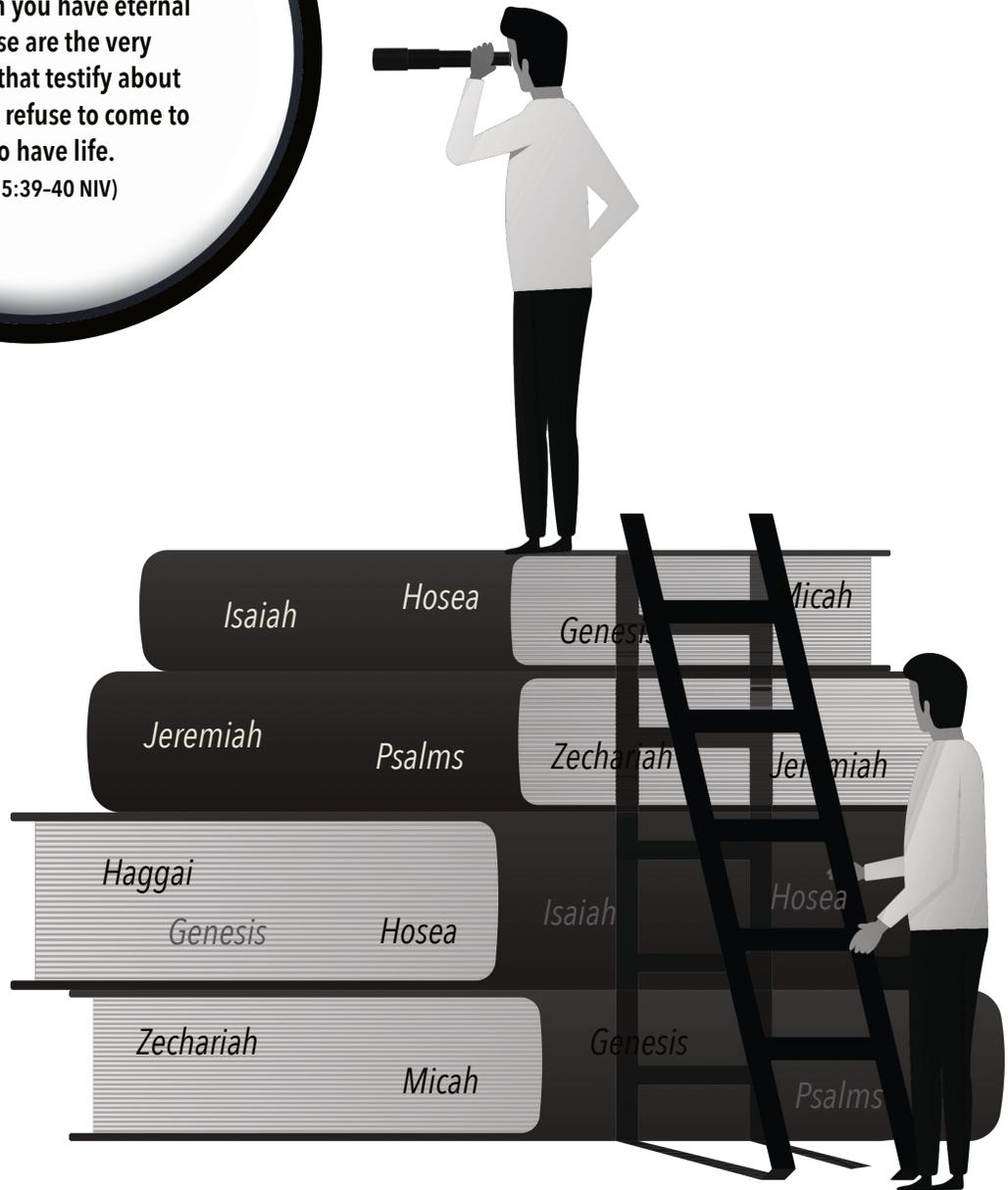


CONCERNING THE SALVATION OF OUR SOULS

The Grace & Glory of Our Salvation

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
(John 5:39-40 NIV)



"Concerning this salvation" ...

"Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

From "the prophets who prophesied," we learn of a passion for the gospel and the things of God that we would do very well to emulate (strive to equal or surpass).

- (1 Peter 1:10–12 ESV) Concerning this salvation, **the prophets who prophesied** about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

*******D. Edmund Hiebert** captures the thought of our text very well in this summary ... Peter did not seek to prove the truth of his teaching about salvation by showing its agreements with the prophets; rather, he sought to encourage his afflicted readers by demonstrating the importance and comprehensive grandeur of the salvation for which they were being afflicted. He did so by noting "the agents engaged in the ministry of redemption: prophets from the beginning, evangelists in the fullness of time, angels throughout watching and inquiring, all alike overshadowed and energized by the ever-present Spirit of Christ." [*Hiebert, D. E. (1997). 1 Peter (p. 72). Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books.*]

The Old Testament "prophets who prophesied" demonstrated the all-important nature of understanding the grace that was to be ours through the serious attention and considerate care they gave in their devoted, diligent and passionate pursuit of the truth "concerning this salvation."

1. The prophets who prophesied-the **passion** of their study, 1:10-11 ...

- (1 Peter 1:10–11 ESV) Concerning this

salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

- A. Prophesied of the grace that was to be ours.
- B. Researched intently and investigated with the greatest care.
- C. Tried to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.

2. The prophets who prophesied-the **result** of their study, 1:12 ...

- (1 Peter 1:12 ESV) It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.
 - A. They were told that the message was not for them but for us when they spoke of the things that have now been preached to us.
 - B. They were told that the angels are eagerly watching these things unfold in God's appointed time.
 - (Ephesians 3:8–13 NLT) Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. 9 I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. 10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in

the heavenly places. 11 This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. 13 So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored.

QUESTIONS IN CONCLUSION ...

Are we passionate about the things concerning our salvation?

- (Luke 24:32 ESV) They said to each other, **“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”**

Do we care? And if we do not care ... if our hearts never “burn within us” when the Spirit opens to us the Scriptures ... do we grasp the significance and eternal relevance of this indifference toward God and his word of truth?

So we need to honestly examine our lives and ask ... Do we emulate the prophets and search our Bibles diligently and investigate with greatest care the truth of God's word concerning our salvation?

Do we study our Bibles to learn of this grace that is ours and the glory to come? Even read them?

Are we thrilled for the opportunity when the events and circumstances of our lives refine and temper us proving the truth of God and the genuineness of our faith ... Bringing praise and honor and glory to God?

The longing of the prophets ...

- (Matthew 13:17 ESV) 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.

The glory of salvation the prophets saw from a distance ...

- (John 12:41 ESV) Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

They were given details just not the whole story ... definite signs ... descriptions ... and hope for the coming King ...

- (Isaiah 7:14 ESV) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- (Isaiah 9:6–7 ESV) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
- (Isaiah 11:1 ESV) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Where are “the burning hearts” in the Church today?

- (Micah 5:2 ESV) But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

- (Isaiah 11:2–5 ESV) And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- (Isaiah 35:4–6 ESV) Say to those who have an anxious heart, “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.” 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing

for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah's prophecy that Jesus fulfilled ...

- (Isaiah 61:1-2 ESV) The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.

Jesus reads and announces the fulfilling of the Old Testament prophecy ... leaves no doubt ...

- (Luke 4:16-21 ESV) And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was

written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "**Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.**"

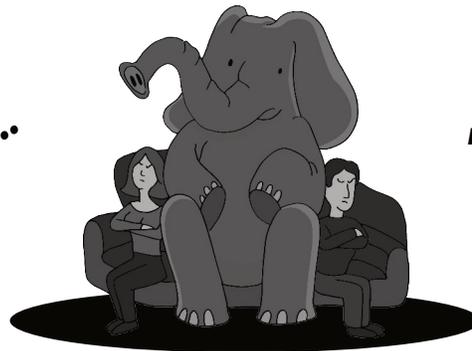
An example of the predicted glory and sufferings of Christ ... further description of his character and appearance ...

- (Isaiah 52:13-14 ESV) Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. 14 As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind.

What must I do to be saved?

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.

**Today is the day ...
And now is the time ...**



**The elephant in the room for
many faithful churchgoers ...**

THE BIG, HUGE QUESTION ...

Do I know what it means to be saved?

Do I possibly not know what it means to be saved because I am not saved?