

1 Peter 1:10-12

The Christian is, by definition, someone who has taken someone else's identity. We've even taken His name and call ourselves by that name – Christian. We are joint heirs with Christ as identified in **Romans 8:17**, “*and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ ...*”

1. Our privileges have been the passion of prophets

The New Testament Christians, even though they were dispersed and rejected, they were better off for at least 3 reasons than even the Old Testament prophets.

A. First, the prophets examined the scriptures which were not completed.

This word translated “*inquired*” comes from a verb that means to “*mount an intensive investigation*”, “*to study diligently*” and with painstaking effort try and find the answers to mysteries. The second word, “*to search diligently*” is used of a lion following the scent of its prey; in other words, the prophets, with all diligence, spent their lives “*hunting down*” the implications of all the Scripture they had written at that time.

“They knew that large numbers of Gentiles would be saved; they had a concept of Calvary and certainly the prophecies related to final atonement. But they knew nothing of the symbolisms of the annual Jewish feasts, especially of Passover and Pentecost as it related to the death of Jesus or the creation of the church.” [Warren W. Wiersbe]

By the time the New Testament is completed, the believer will know the next events in the prophetic lineup which include:

- The rapturing of the church
- The coming tribulation as God judges the world and prepares Israel for restoration
- The coming millennial kingdom where we will reign with Christ on earth
- The battle against Christ where He will be victorious
- The destruction of the earth and universe, dissolved in a fire ball of judgment
- The final judgment of the unbelieving world
- The eternal glory for the believer as they enter new heavens and a new earth forever

B. The prophets pointed to the Savior whose name they didn't know.

They foresaw the Christ, the “Christos”, the “Anointed One”, but they didn't know His name would be Jesus, until the angel announced to Joseph, to name Him Jesus, “Yeshua” Joshua (in Hebrew). That name means deliverer – “*for He will save His people from their sins.*” (**Matthew 1:21**)

Jesus would suffer and die, but after that the glories:

- The resurrection (Matthew 28)
- His ascension (Acts 1)
- His resumption to the throne of glory (John 17, Hebrews 1 and Revelation 3)
- His return for the church (1 Thessalonians 4)
- His recreation of the heavens & earth (2 Peter 4)
- His final and eternal glorious reign as Judge and King over all (Colossians 3 & Revelation 20)

C. The prophets understood their service was for a future generation

“The verb here that refers to them “serving” creates a picture of someone who spreads the table, who sets the table, but only for someone else to come and eat the meal.” [D. Edmond Hiebert]

2. Our privileges are the focal point for preachers

Peter now brings our privileged status into the New Testament dispensation of the church age by the Holy Spirit.

Acts chapter 2 proclaims that the Holy Spirit's descent from heaven occurred on the Day of Pentecost. Jesus stated that when He ascended back to the Father, He promised to send the Spirit as our companion and creator of the church (**Jn. 16**).

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Verse 12 makes it very clear here that preaching the gospel is enabled and empowered by the Holy Spirit at work in and through the preacher – the messenger. Just as the prophet’s message didn’t originate with him, the preacher’s message isn’t from himself either.

3. Our privileges are the fascination of angels

The things related to the gospel, to salvation, to the privileged position of the believer, angels long to behold.

Angels:

- Never experienced salvation
- Christ didn’t die for the angels
- The angels who did not participate in Satan’s rebellion remained holy and were confirmed in their holiness unto God
- The angels who rebelled were confirmed in their wicked state and will one day be cast into an eternal hell (*James 2:19 and Matthew 25:41*)
- *Hebrews 2:16* clearly says that Christ did not die for angels but for mankind

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Peter informs us that angels are always ready to immediately respond at the chance to serve God and their greatest captivation and deepest joyful fascination is to observe what God is doing with and through His believers.

This Scripture is saying to the Apostle’s readers, and to us, the world considers Christians insignificant and worthy of pity; however, we are actually the honored participants in the greatest drama unfolding in universal history. We have been given an identity gift from God.

Picture angels hardly being able to contain themselves with joy, not only over every sinner who repents (*Luke 15:10*), but in the coming glory when the believer joins His Lord and Savior and is rewarded and enthroned with Him in splendor.

One day, those who faithfully serve Christ will receive from Christ Himself the rewards for fighting the good fight, for running the race; whatever the race is that God has given us. The angels will crowd around and watch with holy curiosity all of us who are such privileged recipients of grace.

While we go about working for the Lord, no matter how mundane or how unimportant it may seem, it is good to remember we are incredibly privileged, and we’re being watched. Not in a bad way, but with curiosity and interest, with a measure of amazement and wonder of us by the angels, for we have received this unique identity gift from our Creator and our God, who is our personal Redeemer and Savior and Lord.

Selah:

Our thoughts and perspectives concerning God’s revelation to us should be challenged by the truth of this passage. We have the very words of God delivered by the Spirit of God concerning the ultimate revelation found in the Son of God. This should challenge the way we think, concerning listening to the Word of God, and reading the Word of God.

Application:

Ask the Spirit of God to work in your heart to accomplish two goals: to create an affection and desire for the Word of God and to renew the joy and awe of your salvation.

We experience a place of great privilege as recipients of God’s revelation concerning the salvation that is found in Jesus Christ. This week share the truth of salvation found in Jesus Christ with someone. As privileged recipients of the glorious truths found in the bible it should compel us to share it with those who have not heard.