

A GREAT SALVATION

1 Peter 1:10-12

Hebrews 2:1-4

Ephesians 3:1-14



Watching the Moon (Luke 12:35-43)

- Are you watching, preparing, praying, and working?
- Christ is coming **only** for those who are eagerly watching, are prepared, are praying, and working! (Hebrews 9:28; Luke 12:37; Luke 12:35; Matt 25:1-13; 24:42; Luke 21:36; Ephesians 2:10; James 2:14-26; Luke 12:43)

A Great Salvation (1 Peter 1:1-10)

- ➔ Chosen/Elect of God (v. 2; Ephesians 1:3-4)
- ➔ Made children of God by God ALONE. (v. 3; John 1:13; 1 John 3:1, 10)
- ➔ Heirs of God and Coheirs with Christ. (Romans 8:16-17)
- ➔ A great inheritance (v. 4; Eph 1:11)
- ➔ An inheritance reserved for us and kept by God incorruptible, undefiled, and will not fade away. (v. 4; Ephesians 1:14; Colossians 1:12; Hebrews 9:15)
- ➔ We, ourselves, heirs, KEPT by God! (v. 5; John 10:27-29; 17:15; Philipp 1:6)
- ➔ Our faith being REFINED by God, our Father. (vv. 6-9; Job 23:10; Isaiah 48:10; Revelation 2:10; 3:10)

The Prophets Pursued Understanding (1 Peter 1:10-12)

- ALL of the prophets were AMAZED at the promise of salvation.
 - ★ They were amazed at “the grace that would come”!
- They diligently **studied** their own prophecies!
- They made “careful searches and inquiries” of by whom and what time this grace would come.
- The Spirit of prophecy was:
 - ① Revealing the suffering of the Messiah.
 - ② The glories that would follow the suffering of the Messiah.
 - ③ The prophets were not serving themselves but **us** – God’s elect!
 - ★ Remember Hebrews 11:13!
- This salvation was also preached by the Apostles – messengers of God empowered by the Holy Spirit. (v. 12)
- ★ **IF this salvation SO GREATLY preoccupied the prophets, then how much ought this same salvation occupy our thoughts and actions?**

We Cannot Neglect this Salvation (Hebrews 2:1-3)

- “must” is the Greek word *dei* which is a strong word of **absolute necessity**.
 - This word is in the **PRESENT** tense which means that we **MUST** continually!
- “give **more earnest** . . .” – *perissoteros* {per-is-sot-er-oce}
 - Literally – more superabundantly – with **all** diligence!
- “heed”; “pay attention” – *prosecho* {pros-ekh'-o} – STRONG WORD.
 - This is MUCH MORE than just *listening*!
 - to **apply** oneself to; to **hold** or **cleave** to; to **devote thought** and **effort** to.
 - Again, this word is in the **PRESENT** tense indicating continuous action!
- “lest we drift away” – **THE DANGER IS REAL!**
- **MANY** have, are, and will DRIFT away! **MANY** have been deceived!
 - We are warned of a GREAT FALLING AWAY! (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
- Drifting is **DECEITFUL**! One seldom realizes he or she is drifting away until it is too late!
- One can **sincerely** believe they are SAFE when in TRUTH they are in GREAT DANGER! (Matthew 7:21-23)

Consequences of NEGLECT (Hebrews 2:2-3)

- **IF** the LAW (word spoken by angels: see Psalm 68:17; Deut. 33:2; Acts 7:38, 53; Galatians 3:19) **DOES NOT** ignore any SIN and was STEADFAST (unmoveable) then how shall we ignore such a **GREAT SALVATION**!
- Consider the LAW: Leviticus 24:14-16; Number 15:30-36.
- **Consider James 2:10!!**
- **SALVATION – to be saved from DANGER! What is this danger?**
 - ★ **How shall we ESCAPE?**
- God holds us accountable. We **MUST DILIGENTLY** make our election and calling SURE. 2 Peter 1:10
- We also have the witness of those who heard Christ. See 1 John 1:1-5.

Things That Angels Desire to Look Into (1 Peter 1:12b)

- (Luke 2:10-11) The angel's announcement of the PROMISED SAVIOUR!
- This salvation is something that angels “desire to look into”.
 - ➔ “desire” – “to long for”
 - ➔ “look” – “to stoop to a thing in order to see”; “to *carefully* look into”
 - ➔ **PRESENT TENSE** – something that they are **continually amazed** at!!!!
- Angels are **spiritual creatures**. (Hebrews 1:14; Luke 24:39)
- They are normally **invisible** unless we are given the ability to see them. (Numbers 22:31; 2 Kings 6:17; Luke 2:13; Colossians 1:16)
- Angels are referred to as:
 - ➔ “sons of God” (Job 1:6, 21; 38:7) ➔ “holy ones” (Psa 89:5, 7)
 - ➔ “mighty ones” (Psalm 29:1) ➔ “ministering spirits” (Hebrews 1:14)

- “thrones”; “dominions”; “principalities”; “authorities” (Col. 1:16; Eph. 3:10-11; 1 Peter 3:22)
- There are “**cherubim**” (Genesis 3:24; Psalm 18:10; Ezekiel 10:1-22; Exodus 25:18-22); “**seraphim**” (Isaiah 6:2-7); “**living creatures**” (Ezek 1:5-14; Rev. 4:6-8); **archangels** (Jude 9; Daniel 10:13; 1 Thess 4:16)
- How many? Tens of thousands and thousands of thousands! (Deut 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Daniel 7:10; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 5:11)
 - ★ Twelve legions were available to Christ. (Matt 26:53) (65-72,000)
- There are the **bad** angels (demons, fallen angels) (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4; Isaiah 14:13-14) and there are the **good** (or elect) (1 Tim 5:21) angels. The fallen angels are **doomed** to eternal judgment without any hope of redemption. Some of these angels are imprisoned in **Tartarus** (2 Peter 2:4); some are wandering the earth deceiving and tempting; some are fulfilling God’s purposes (1 Kings 22); some are in chains awaiting a specific time in God’s plan (Rev. 9:14).
- Duties of angels:
 - Praising God day and night. (Psalm 148:2; Revelation 4:8)
 - Constantly coming and going from Heaven to the Earth to do God’s will. (John 1:52)
 - **Hearkening to and doing the Word of God.** (Psalm 103:20)
 - Ministering spirits to those who inherit salvation. (Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 91:11-12)
 - Bringing God’s messages to earth. (Luke 1:11-19; Acts 8:26; 10:3-8, 22; 27:23-24)
 - Bring God’s judgment to earth. (2 Sam 24:16-17; 2 Chron 32:21; Acts 12:23; Revelation 16)
 - Accompany Christ when He returns. (2 Thess 1:7-8; Luke 9:26)
 - Battle demonic forces. (Daniel 10:13; Revelation 12:7-8)
 - They are involved with our praying! (Revelation 8:3-4)

The Angels Are Watching

- Angels “desire to look into” the Gospel – salvation for rebels that Satan and his followers did not and never will receive. (1 Peter 1:12)
 - ★ The Gospel amazes angels — does it, the Gospel, continually amaze us?
- (Zechariah 1:10-11) Here we see God sending angels to “patrol” the earth and to report back to God. (Consider Job 1:6; 2:1-2)
- They are to observe the Church and learn “**the manifold wisdom of God**”. (Ephesians 3:9-11) **MEDITATE ON THIS!**
- Angels rejoice when one person REPENTS! Notice that it does not say, “Believe” but “REPENTS”! (Luke 15:10) Consider how we started this sermon.
- Worship and Submission to God’s Word (1 Corinthians 11:10)
 - ★ When the Church, with the responsibility to display the “manifold wisdom” of God to the angels comes together, angels look for submission to God’s Word. Certainly, the Church would not be rebellious after

receiving such a great gift as salvation from their Lord.

- ★ Angels are not concerned with what men and women are doing in culture. They are looking for men and women who joyfully submit to the Word of God, their LORD.
- ★ Consider what an angel might think if they witness a redeemed sinner in out right disobedience to God's Word.

We Are On Display!

- RIGHT NOW we are in the PRESENCE of the MOST HIGH GOD of all the Universe. We must give an account to HIM! (Hebrews 4:13)
 - RIGHT NOW we are in the PRESENCE of the angels of God.
 - ★ They are CREATURES created by God just as we are!
 - ★ However, they, the **elect** ones, are SINLESS creatures OBEYING God's voice without delay or discussion.
 - ★ They observed God's JUST WRATH executed on Satan and his followers and understand that there is NO REDEMPTION for any of them!
 - ★ They observed God send His Son into a sinful world. They observed the Son make Himself of no reputation and obey the Father even to the point of death. They observed the Father crucify His Son so that sinners (rebels) like us could receive His mercy and love. These thoughts hold their attention because they **continually long** to look into them! (1 Peter 1:12) JUSTIFICATION FOR SINNERS! HOW CAN THAT BE?
- 👉 What do the angels that are present RIGHT NOW **observe**? They cannot see or judge your heart. What do they **observe**?

WHAT MUST WE LEARN & DO

- ❶ We must NEVER take our salvation for granted! (Hebrews 2:1-4)
 - ❷ We must BEWARE of DRIFTING away by not diligently taking our salvation seriously. (Hebrews 2:1) Here is a test . . .
 - Since the beginning of 2024, you have become a more faithful **servant** in your Church. (Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor 12:12-27)
 - Since the beginning of 2024, you pray more frequently **with your church**.
 - Since the beginning of 2024, you **study, memorize, and meditate more** on the Word of God. (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:11-14)
 - Since the beginning of 2024, you are more **obedient** to God's commands.
 - Since the beginning of 2024, you are more **faithful** to your church covenant. (Matthew 5:37; James 5:12)
 - Since the beginning of 2024, you have become more of **an example** for others to imitate. (1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Timothy 4:12)
- **ARE YOU GROWING or DRIFTING AWAY?**
- ❸ We must "manifest God's wisdom" IN ALL that we do, especially in worship – **ANGELS ARE WATCHING!** (Ephesians 3:10)