

# 1 Peter 1:12

by John Gill

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*John Gill's sermon on 1 Peter 1:12 explores the profound connection between the prophecies of old, the apostolic preaching of the Gospel, and the ongoing interest of angels in the mystery of salvation.*

**Scripture:** Luke 15:10, John 1:51, Ephesians 3:10-11, Hebrews 1:1-2, 1 Peter 1:10-12

**Topics:** "Revelation of Salvation", "The Role of Prophets and Angels"

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## Description

John Gill expounds on 1 Peter 1:12, emphasizing that the prophets of old searched for the salvation that was revealed to them, which was ultimately meant for future generations, including us. He highlights that while they prophesied about Christ's sufferings and glories, their revelations were not fully realized in their time but serve as a foundation for our faith today. The apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit, preached the Gospel, making known the fulfillment of these prophecies. Gill also notes the angels' keen interest in the mystery of salvation, illustrating the profound significance of the Gospel. This sermon encourages believers to appreciate the depth of God's plan and the continuity of His revelation through history.

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## Transcript

Ver. 12. Unto whom it was revealed,.... The salvation they searched and inquired into, and the grace of it; the time of its being wrought out, and what sort of times they would be when Christ should come, both to the church, and to the world, among Jews and Gentiles; as also what cruel sufferings the Messiah should undergo, and what great glory should be put upon him afterwards:

that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister. The Vulgate Latin, Arabic, and Ethiopic versions, read "unto you"; and so do some copies. Not that they were ignorant of the things they searched into, and were revealed unto them, and they prophesied of; as the Jews sometimes say {c} of them,

"that they prophesied, and knew not what they prophesied of;"

though it is not to be supposed that they had such clear and distinct ideas of things as saints have now under the Gospel dispensation; yet they knew much of the grace of the Gospel, and had the comfort of it, and a view of interest in the great salvation, and saw the day of Christ afar off with pleasure: nor that they did not minister, and were not useful to the saints of the age in which they lived; for their prophecies concerning Christ, and salvation by him, were particularly calculated for their spiritual refreshment and comfort, and the support of their faith and hope under afflictive circumstances; but then they were not to have their accomplishment in their times; for though they sometimes speak of them, because of the

certainty of them, as if they were already done, yet they knew they were not to be brought about until the last days; and therefore what was written by them, was written for our learning and instruction chiefly and principally, on whom the ends of the world are come; and though they were both profitable to themselves, and others that lived with them, yet they are more so to the saints under the Gospel dispensations, who are able to compare prophetesies and facts together: even

the things which are now reported unto you; as accomplished facts; such as relate to the person and offices of Christ, and salvation wrought out by him; to his incarnation, obedience, sufferings, death, resurrection, ascension into heaven, and session at the right hand of God; of all which there is a true and faithful report made in the Gospel:

by them that have preached the Gospel unto you; meaning himself, and the rest of the apostles, who had been called, and qualified, and sent out by Christ to preach glad tidings, and publish peace, which they had done in the several parts of the world, both to Jew and Gentile:

with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; by Christ from the Father, particularly at the day of Pentecost, when the apostles had an extraordinary and plentiful effusion of the Spirit, qualifying them to preach the Gospel to which they were called and sent: and thus, as the great salvation is commended, from the concern that the prophets of old had in it, so from the preaching of it by the apostles, who were influenced and guided by the same Spirit of Christ as they were, and in a far greater manner; and this salvation is still more commended from the great regard the blessed angels have unto it:

which things the angels desire to look into. The Vulgate Latin version reads, "into whom"; either into the Holy Spirit, and the things of the Spirit, which he testified in the prophets, and published by the apostles; or rather into Christ, his person, offices, and grace, the allusion being to the cherubim on the mercy seat, a type of Christ, which looked to one another, and to the mercy seat, Ex 25:20 and was true of them in the days of Christ's flesh, when they ascended and descended on the son of man, Joh 1:51 and when he rose from the dead, and went to heaven; for then was he seen and gazed on by angels, as he now is, 1Ti 3:16 or "into which things": so the Syriac, Arabic, and Ethiopic versions read; namely, the sufferings of Christ, and the glories following; the great mystery of redemption and salvation by Christ; the several doctrines of the Gospel, in which the glory of the grace, wisdom, righteousness, truth, and power of God is displayed; things they are highly delighted with, take pleasure in the contemplation of, and desire to have a greater knowledge of, and acquaintance with: they sung glory to God in the highest at the incarnation of Christ; they rejoice at the conversion of a sinner; and disdain not to be ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation; and learn of the church the manifold wisdom of God; which may serve greatly to commend the excellency of Gospel truths, and engage us in the study of them.

{c} T. Bab. Bava Bathra, fol. 119. 2.

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