***Omega: BIB 109***

***1st Peter – Always Be Prepared***

***Lesson 5***

***I. Prophets, Preachers, and the Holy Spirit***

🡪 In the previous verse of Peter’s letter he has declared that “the outcome of your faith” is “the salvation of your souls” (v. 9). Having thus introduced the idea of our salvation, the Apostle pauses to make some comments about how glorious and exciting it is.

A. 1st Peter 1:10-12

🡪 One thing that Peter makes clear is that the prophets and the preachers who announced the gospel of our salvation were not themselves the origin of their own message. Rather they spoke under the power of the Holy Spirit, by means of the Spirit’s marvelous work of revelation and inspiration.

🡪 Thus the main point of this paragraph is not the content of our salvation as such, but rather how we have come to have knowledge of it. What we know about our salvation has come to us through *prophets, preachers, and the Holy Spirit.*

***A. Salvation and the Old Testament Prophets***

1. The Prophets who prophesied of the grace to come… Who are these prophets?

A. They certainly would include the 16 prophets who wrote the 17 books of prophecy in the OT: Isaiah through Malachi. Moses should also be included, as well as David. All these are called literary prophets.

B. Non-literary prophets…

1. Elijah and Elisha – compare to John the Baptist.

2. The Prophets Role

A. They were servants (v. 12). Peter say they were not serving themselves; they were not looking out for their own needs, but for the needs of others.

B. Who were they serving then?

1. First they were God’s servants.

A. The very word “prophet” involves the concept of serving someone else.

B. A prophet is thus a spokesperson for that other person. In the Bible, prophets most often are speaking on behalf of God.

C. There are serving God by delivering inspired messages from Him to others. (Jer. 7:25)

C. Peter’s Main Point Concerning Prophets…

1. When the prophets were delivering their messages from God, “they were not serving themselves, but *you*

(v. 12)

2. The prophets were our servants! They were serving the needs of Christian people, believers in Christ throughout the NT age. (Romans 15:4 and 1st Cor. 10:11)

3. The Work of the Prophets…

A. They prophesied and predicted things about our salvation.

1. This is their work of “FOR-telling” i.e., passing along messages “for” or on behalf of God.

2 They are also called “FORTH-tellers” since they are speaking forth God’s message to a specific audience.

3. They were also “FORE-tellers” as when they predicted future events.

A. Our faith is grounded in part by this work, i.e., fulfilled prophecy. Fulfilled prophecy is an important reason why we believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God.

4. The Message of the Prophets…

A. Concerning Salvation 🡪 Gen. 3:15 & Mal. 4:5-6

B. Concerning Grace 🡪 Isa. 44:3 & Ezek. 36:27

C. Concerning the Messiah’s Sufferings

🡪 Ps. 22:1-21 & Isa. 52:13-53-12

D. Concerning the Messiah’s Glorification

🡪 Ps. 2:6-12, 16:8-11, 24:7-10, 110:1-7 & Dan. 7:13-14

5. The Prophet’s Frustration…

A. “Made Careful Search & Inquiry”

1. It simply was not possible for them to know, by their own efforts, who the magnificent figure of Isaiah 53 was, or when he would live. This was their frustration.

6. How could they be prophesying about things they didn’t understand?

A. This concept is grounded in the way in which the Bible was written…

B. Based on the Bible’s own teaching, we understand that each book of the Bible has 2 authors…1 human and 1 divine.

C. God Himself chose the human beings whom He wanted to lead His people and write the Scriptures that would accumulate over the centuries until the intended canon was complete.

D. Some of the material they wrote about came from their own minds and experiences, or from other human sources; but some of the material could only come from a divine author. God alone knows the future; so only God could supply this kind of prophecy 🡪 This is what is called Revelation.

1. The Bible is thus a mixture of non-revealed and revealed materials.

E. Does this mean that only part of the Bible is trustworthy and authoritative? Not at all!

1. Only part of the Bible is *revealed*, but 100% of it is *inspired.*

2. The Divine Holy Spirit was at work in their minds and hearts during the whole process to guarantee that the product – the original documents – were everything God wanted them to be.

***B. Salvation and the New Testament Preachers***

1. Peter’s point in verse 12 is that we Christians, living in the New Covenant age, are the ultimate beneficiaries of these marvelous OT prophecies.

2. We benefit from these Messianic mysteries because they have “now,” in this age of the Church, “been announced to you through those who preached the gospel.”

3. The meaning of these prophecies can now be explained because the grand events which they speak have now occurred in history:

A. The birth and ministry of Christ.

B. His Saving death and resurrection

C. His ascension and enthronement

D. The pouring forth of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost

4. Once these things have taken place, it is now possible to point to them as the fulfillment of the prophecies and to explain exactly what those prophecies meant.

A. To accomplish this, Jesus Himself sent forth messengers to proclaim these new truths.

B. These messengers are The Apostles whom He trained for about 3 years for this very task.

C. Beginning with Acts 2, it was the apostles who announced these things and preached the gospel about Jesus Christ

5. Before long the task of preaching the good news became too much for the original group of apostles, so the Lord supplemented them by adding Paul to the list of apostolic preachers.

A. But even then that was not enough; so the Lord added to the apostles another category of preachers in that early era of the Church, namely, those who were given the gift of prophecy and were simply called “prophets.”

B. These NT prophets were equivalent to the OT prophets in that they were enabled to speak God’s message not just by themselves but through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

C. It is reasonable to conclude that early great evangelists, such as Philip and Stephen, had this gift of prophecy, as did any authors of NT writings who were not apostles.

D. Thus the preachers of whom Peter speaks were not just ordinary preachers; they were supernaturally equipped by God to know and to explain all mysteries and truth pertaining to life and salvation.

6. The role of the Holy Spirit in this matter…

A. The Spirit was instrumental in the origin of the OT prophecies and the NT explanations. This understanding help us to see the source of the unity of the OT and NT Scriptures.

B. God, the Holy Spirit is the ultimate author of all Scripture.

7. The role of preachers today…

A. Preachers today should never call themselves “prophets” in the Biblical sense of that term.

B. The Prophets of the OT and the NT times spoke inspired and therefore inerrant messages from God through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit working within them.

1. These prophetic powers have ceased. (1st Cor. 13:8-13)[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Entire Lesson pulled from: Studies in 1st Peter – Dr. Jack Cottrell. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)