

1 Peter 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

Analysis

Peter introduces the salvation theme's historical depth, revealing Old Testament prophets' intense interest in New Covenant blessings. "Of which salvation" (*peri hēs sōtērias*, *περὶ ἧς σωτηρίας*) connects to verse 9, indicating the salvation believers receive was object of prophetic inquiry. The verbs "enquired and searched diligently" (*exezētēsan kai exēraunēsan*, *ἐξεζήτησαν καὶ ἐξηράυνησαν*) both use the intensive prefix *ex-* suggesting thorough, exhaustive investigation. *Exezēteō* means to seek out carefully, investigate thoroughly. *Exeraunaō* means to search diligently, examine minutely—used of miners searching for precious metals. Prophets weren't passive recipients of revelation but active searchers, pondering their own Spirit-inspired utterances to understand their full meaning. The relative clause "who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you" (*hoi peri tēs eis hymas charitos prophēteusantes*, *οἱ περὶ τῆς εἰς ὑμᾶς χάριτος προφητεύσαντες*) identifies prophets' subject: the grace destined for New Covenant believers ("unto you"). Prophets spoke of Messiah, new covenant, Spirit's outpouring, Gentile inclusion, yet didn't fully comprehend these mysteries' timing or nature. Their inspired prophecies transcended their own understanding—the Spirit revealed truths they themselves investigated with wonder.

Historical Context

This verse counters the notion that Old and New Testaments present different gospels or different ways of salvation. Peter affirms radical continuity: Old

Testament prophets proclaimed the same salvation New Testament believers receive, the same grace, the same Messiah. What prophets saw dimly through types and prophecies, Christians see clearly in Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection. The prophets' diligent searching demonstrates Scripture's inexhaustible depth—even its inspired authors found their own writings worthy of careful study. For first-century Jewish Christians tempted to reject Hebrew Scriptures, Peter affirms their enduring value: they testify to Christ and the salvation believers now enjoy. Church fathers like Augustine and Irenaeus emphasized this verse when defending Christianity's rootedness in Old Testament against Marcionite heresy (which rejected Hebrew Scriptures). The prophets' intense interest in salvation they wouldn't personally experience demonstrates that God's kingdom transcends individual lifetimes—believers participate in God's unfolding redemptive plan spanning millennia.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that Old Testament prophets 'searched diligently' to understand salvation increase your appreciation for God's word and motivate your own Bible study?
2. What privileges do you enjoy that even the prophets longed to experience, and how does this awareness deepen your gratitude?

Interlinear Text

περὶ ἧς σωτηρίας ἐξεζήτησαν καὶ ἐξηρεύνησαν
Of which salvation have enquired and searched diligently
G4012 G3739 G4991 G1567 G2532 G1830

προφῆται τῆς περὶ τῆς εἰς ὑμᾶς χάριτος
the prophets who Of who that should come unto you the grace
G4396 G3588 G4012 G3588 G1519 G5209 G5485

προφητεύσαντες
prophesied
G4395

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:17 (Prophecy): For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Luke 10:24 (Prophecy): For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

John 5:39 (Parallel theme): Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Acts 7:52 (Prophecy): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Acts 10:43 (Prophecy): To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Daniel 2:44 (Parallel theme): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Hebrews 11:13 (Parallel theme): These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Proverbs 2:4 (Parallel theme): If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

Matthew 26:24 (Parallel theme): The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

John 7:52 (Prophecy): They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

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