

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

August 7, 2019

The Glory that Follows

If you want to truly understand the grace given to us in redemption, like the Apostles, you must look to the prophets of God who ministered before Christ appeared.

The Apostle Peter tells us the *“Spirit of Christ”* was in the prophets telling of the grace that would be bestowed upon us. He said, *“Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you.”* | Peter 1:10. The grace of God is forever defined, not by a theologian who presents a theory, but by what *“the Spirit of Christ which was in them (the prophets) did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”* | Peter 1:11. The Apostle John would later identify these prophecies as being *“the record that God gave of his son.”* | John 5:10.

According to Peter, the grace of our salvation is revealed in what the prophets said about *“the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”* This twofold message is the very heart, soul, and body of the gospel of Christ. To understand it is to know *“the truth”* that Jesus said *“shall make you free!”* We all know the prophets spoke of the sufferings of Christ, but what about *“the glory that should follow?”*

In the phrase *“the glory that should follow,”* the words *“that should follow”* do not speak of something to come at a later time. The actual meaning of the word Peter used is *“to accompany”* or *“be joined to.”* It is not correct to view this as one person following another down a road. It is rightly illustrated if you use it as though two people are walking together. Where one is, the other is also! So it is with the sufferings of Christ and the glory God promised. They are always together.

The first prophecy of the *“sufferings of Christ and the glory that would accompany it”* was given the same day that Adam transgressed against God. God spoke to the serpent, saying, *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”* Genesis 3:15. Here we see the sufferings of Christ in that his human flesh was slain upon a cross, but we also find the *“glory that follows”* in that Christ was crucified so *“through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”* Hebrews 2:14. The Apostle John also tells us *“the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”* I John 3:8. John was crystal clear. Sin is the preeminent work of the devil, and sin is what Christ destroyed upon the cross! I John 3:8, Romans 6:6.

This simple prophecy of a redeemer who would destroy the devil and his works through bruising the serpent’s head is the foundation upon which every other prophecy of redemption is built. All the apostles understood that any grace which did not destroy Satan and his works, could

not be the grace of redemption. Such a weak grace did not have the accompanying glory God had promised.

Daniel saw the sufferings of Christ when Gabriel said Messiah would *"...be cut off, but not for himself..."* Daniel 9:26, but he also saw the *"glory which would follow"* Christ's sufferings when Gabriel promised Christ would come to *"...make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness..."* Daniel 9:24. A grace that does not bring this glory unto you cannot be the grace God promised would come!

Many of the other prophets saw *"the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow,"* but none so clearly as the prophet Isaiah. **SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST:** *"...his visage was so marred more than any man..."* Isaiah 52:14. **GLORY THAT FOLLOWS:** *"So shall he sprinkle many nations..."* Isaiah 52:15. **SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST:** *"...he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken."* Isaiah 53:8. **GLORY THAT FOLLOWS:** *"...by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many..."* Isaiah 53:11.

After Isaiah saw the sufferings of Christ he wrote about in Isaiah 53, he began to see more and more of the glory which followed as a result of Christ's sufferings. He heard God speak to the church, saying, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee." Isaiah 60:1. He saw that the redeemed would be *"all righteous."* Isaiah 60:21. He said, *"And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD."* Isaiah 54:13. *"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper..."* and *"...their righteousness is of me."*

Isaiah 54:17. Isaiah heard God make promise to Christ and his people, saying, *“My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and forever.”* Isaiah 59:21.

Some mistakenly take the glory of these prophecies and apply them to Israel or even to the millennial reign of Christ. In doing so, they miss the truth and power of God's grace. Peter said, it was revealed unto the prophets *“...that not unto themselves, **but unto us** they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”* I Peter 1:12. These prophets were telling of the glory that would come to us through the sufferings of Christ!

For more than a generation, the glory that the prophets foretold of has not been seen upon the church. Scandals, uncleanness, trickery, and profiteering have become almost normal. There are multitudes who struggle everyday seeking by fleshly means to please God. There are even more who are lascivious and glory in the false belief that God's people are still sinners. But where do you find those who Jesus promised would be made free? The reason that darkness prevails in this generation is actually very simple. The glory that God promised only accompanies *“the sufferings of Christ.”* Christ will never suffer again, but it is the preaching of the cross that *“is the power of God.”* I Corinthians 1:18. Until the power of the cross that destroyed both sin and Satan along

with the power of the blood that sanctifies the people are once again fully and unashamedly preached across our lands, darkness shall prevail. But if we are not afraid to boldly declare the power of the sufferings of Christ, we will see that the glory still follows!