

Beneficiaries of the Ages

1 Peter 1:10-12

I. Scripture reading: 1 Peter 5

II. Review: “God’s Elect”, “Newborns”, “Living Hope”, “Our Eternal Inheritance”, “Shielded in Suffering”, “Faith-filled Lovers”

III. Beneficiaries of the Ages: Peter knew that his audience had not seen Jesus in person, but he also knew that they had testimony about him from the Old Covenant prophets. For hundreds of years the Jews had the promises of God to raise their hopes that the Messiah was coming. This Messiah, they wrote, would suffer and then bring glorious life to the Jewish nation and to the nations as well. We have only to look to Psalm 22 and Isaiah 52-53 to see this suffering to glories pattern. The prophets foretold these things, but they didn’t have the benefit of context to make sense of it all. They did know enough to *want* to know more, though. They found out that the promises were for a people of another time – us!

IV. Matthew 13:17 Jesus was telling parables to show the people of Israel the true nature of God’s kingdom which had drawn near. His disciples asked Him why He kept speaking in parables to the people. This is a part of His answer. The fulfillment of the ages (1 Cor. 10:11) had come upon them and they were seeing and hearing what the prophets themselves wished they could see and hear. The prophets were only granted to catch a whiff of the coming wonders of the kingdom.

V. Hidden but now revealed: [references – Rom. 16:25-26; 1 Cor. 2:7,10a; Eph. 3:8-11; Col. 1:25-6] This is the amazing truth of God’s unfolding plan – it’s always been the plan! We’ve not been privy to it all along, but the plan of God has been in motion since before the creation of the world. He intended to keep it hidden until these last times for our sake. What a privilege to be born this side of the Messiah’s coming! We realize that the reality of God’s kingdom and His Christ could not have been discovered on our own. No investigative prowess could serve us well enough. God had to choose to reveal it, and He has chosen to do this through His Spirit and through His apostles and through all who serve Him by speaking this truth to those around them.

VII. Much has been given... Much will be demanded

This principle, from Luke 12:48, is clearly at play here. We have the incredible privilege of seeing and hearing these glories that followed the suffering of Christ nearly 2,000 years ago. We have the glorious and unspeakable joy of knowing this One we have not seen and cannot now see. We have wholeness in Christ, and so we have the obligation (yes, obligation!) to make the availability of this wholeness known to those in the world who have yet to embrace it. The greatest and most consequential truth in the world has been revealed to us through the Holy Spirit of God Himself – what other response is to be expected but that of making it known to those who remain painfully unaware? Let’s prove ourselves grateful for this privilege by being as gracious with sharing it as God has been. Amen!