

## WHOSE MESSAGE SHOULD WE FOLLOW --- PETER'S OR PAUL'S ?

*For years, you've probably heard the old saying about someone is going  
"to borrow from Peter .... to pay Paul."*

*By that they are indicating either  
financially-speaking:  
that they have at least a couple of loans at different banks, & they plan to trade mon-  
ies, by borrowing from one bank to make their installment payment at another bank.*

**--- OR ---**

*spiritually-speaking:  
that Peter and Paul are 'basically equal' in their messages ....  
or that 'one is just as good as the other' ....  
or that it doesn't really matter which one you pick since they both say the same thing.*

*So, as good Bible students who 'rightly divide' the Word of truth, let us investi-  
gate the issue to see where the scriptures lead us .... to form OUR own position.*

*We'll begin with the*

### ***Initial 'Calling' of Each of These Two Men.***

*Jesus called **Peter** to follow him, while He was living on the earth and minister-  
ing to the nation Israel. We'll read Matt. 4:18-20, but it is also found in Mark 1:16-18:*

**Matt 4:18-20** And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.  
19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.  
20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

*The Lord Jesus also called **Paul** (who was named Saul, from the city of Tarsus,  
at the time) into His service, after He had been crucified, buried, risen, and ascended  
back into heaven. We'll look at it in Acts 9:1-6, but it is also recorded in Acts 22:3-10  
and again in Acts 26:12-16:*

**Acts 9:1-6** And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the dis-  
ciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,  
2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of  
this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusa-  
lem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

5 And he said, *Who art thou, Lord?* And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

6 And he trembling and astonished said, *Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?* And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

*So, we saw that the same person, JESUS called both Peter and Paul, but Peter was called when Jesus was on the earth, and Paul was called after Jesus went back to heaven.*

*Now, let's look at*

### ***The 'COMMISSION' of Each of These Two Men***

*Let's be careful to notice 2 things Jesus said to both men:*

1. **WHO** Jesus **specifically told them --- 'NOT' --- to go to**
- and 2. **WHO** Jesus **specifically told them --- 'TO' --- go to:**

*Jesus commissioned **Peter**, along with 11 other disciples:*

**Matt 10:1** And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

**Matt 10:2** Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, --- **then the other 11 are named, so let's drop on down to verse 5:**

**Matt 10:5-6** These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying,

**Go not into the way of the Gentiles,**

and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

6 But **go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

*OK, Peter was told NOT to go to the Gentiles .... but to go TO Israel instead.*

*The word 'Gentiles' simply means 'nations' (that is in the plural, as opposed to 'nation' -- singular -- which would be the one nation Israel. Gentiles are ALL nations -- except the ONE Jewish nation. Gentiles are 'all people' --- except Israel.*

*Now, let's compare the same things about Paul's commissioning:*

Even before Christ told Paul himself (or Saul, as he was then called) **WHO** the main thrust of his ministry would be to .... Jesus revealed that information in a vision to another one of His disciples:

**Acts 9:10-16** And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me,

to bear my name before the **Gentiles**, and kings, and the children of Israel:

16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Yes, Paul's main FOCUS of his ministry would be directed toward the Gentiles, although he would also minister to kings and the nation of Israel. Now, we'll see when Jesus tells Paul (while Paul was in a trance) **WHERE** to go 'AWAY' from:

Here's the Webster's 1828 dictionary definition of a trance:

**A 'trance' is an 'ecstasy' .... it is a 'state in which the soul SEEMS to have passed out of the body into 'celestial' or 'heavenly' regions' .... or to be rapt into visions.**

**Acts 22:17** And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

18 And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

In another account of Paul's same experience, again, it is revealed that Jesus is **specifically sending Paul --- 'TO' --- the Gentiles .... TO the 'nations.'**

Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

17 Delivering thee from the people, and from **the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,**

18 To open **their** eyes, and to turn **them** from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that **they** may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

*By the end of the book of Acts, we find Paul telling the Jews that God's salvation "IS SENT" to the nations, and they'll be glad to get it.*

*That wording means both:*

*that it 'IS sent' .... meaning it 'was being sent' at that PRESENT time  
.... and .... that it 'is SENT' .... meaning it 'was already sent' by that time (PAST tense):*

**Acts 28:28** Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

*So, we saw that Jesus commissioned both Peter and Paul ....  
but that He sent them to different groups of people:*

*Peter was directed NOT to the nations, but to Israel only,  
whereas*

*Paul was directed to get OUT of Jerusalem (the capital, or hometown, of the Jews),  
and to go TO the Gentiles.*

*Now, let's look at the*

### **'MESSAGE' Each One Had:**

*Peter was given the 'gospel of the kingdom' to preach. Let's go back to the passage where Jesus commissioned His 12 disciples in Matt. 10:*

**Matt 10:7** And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

*That was the message that was being preached at the time .... by John the Baptist, by Jesus Himself, and by the 12 .... They were all preaching the same message, about God's long-awaited and prophesied kingdom, in which Christ would reign:*

**Mark 1:14-18** Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

*That was the kingdom Jesus taught His disciples to PRAY for, in the 'so-called' Lord's prayer:*

**Matt 6:9-10** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

*Yes, they were anticipating the “days of heaven” to come “on the earth” .... just like **Moses** had told them years before:*

**Deut. 11:21** That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

*It was the kingdom that God promised **King David’s SEED** would rule:*

**2 Sam. 7:16-17** And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

17 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

*It was the kingdom **Daniel** prophesied would come and FILL the earth:*

**Dan. 2:44** 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.

*It was the kingdom the prophet **Isaiah** said would come:*

**Isa 9:6-7** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

*Isaiah also described that the Gentiles would ‘come to God’ through Israel’s RISE, as Israel shined God’s glorious light to the entire world:*

**Isa 60:1-3** Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. **(that is Israel)**

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

***There is a particular POINT to realize here:  
that at the END of Jesus' EARTHLY ministry ....  
He EXPANDED the preaching of the same 'gospel of the KINGDOM'  
to INCLUDE the entire world .... BEFORE the end would come.***

*It was the kingdom Jesus said would be preached in all the world ....  
through-out the Great Tribulation, before the end would come:*

**Matt 24:13-14** But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.  
14 And **this** gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness  
unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

***It is important to notice 2 things here:***

- 1. The 'gospel of the KINGDOM' will EVENTUALLY go forth --- to all nations ---  
just before the end.***
- 2. When Jesus had commissioned the 12 to preach, back in Matt. 10:1-8,  
and all the way up to this point in Matt. 24:14,  
the CONTENT of the 'gospel of the kingdom' had not changed.  
Information about His death and resurrection was NOT included.***

***In fact, the 12 did not even realize Jesus would die, up until He plainly told them.***

*They had been preaching the 'gospel of the Kingdom' for quite some time by  
then .... not even knowing what we **now** believe to be saved. So the **content** (the  
message) of that gospel simply could NOT be the same thing that we believe today:*

**Luke 18:31-34** Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go  
up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of  
man shall be accomplished.

32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully  
entreated, and spitted on:

33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise  
again.

34 And **they understood none of these things:** and this saying was hid from them,  
neither knew they the things which were spoken.

*Obviously, Peter did not understand that Christ's death would pay the sin debt  
for all mankind. Peter thought he would 'correct' the Lord, when Jesus announced His  
pending death to His disciples, but ended up getting corrected. He was rather 'brazen'  
to think that he could 'rebuke' Christ:*

**Matt 16:21-23** From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

*It was after Jesus announced (in Matt. chapter 24), the 'gospel of the kingdom' to be spread to all the world, that He explained the Passover Supper to His disciples.*

*But notice, still yet, that He did not say that His blood would cover the sins of the whole world. He did NOT say it was for 'all' .... but instead He said it was for 'many'. We do NOT learn that it was for 'all' until Paul later preached it. Please be careful not to read back into 'times past' what was NOT there. Do NOT put information that we now have --- back into the scriptures --- before it was really there:*

**Matt 26:26** And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;

28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for **many** for the remission of sins.

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

*It was AFTER Jesus' resurrection that He 'opened their understanding of the scriptures' .... where it had been prophesied that He would suffer and rise again. But the point still is --- that **He did NOT change the gospel He gave them to preach:***

**Luke 24:44-48** And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,  
46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

*When Jesus gave them the 'so-called' Great Commission, He did specifically tell them to start at Jerusalem, and then go on out into the whole world. Israel was supposed to "get it" first .... they were to RISE into God's glory .... and then spread out to the Gentiles, as found in Acts 1:8:*

**Matt 28:16-19** Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

*Notice carefully .... WHAT they were supposed to teach all nations .... the next verse plainly tells them .... it was to obey the law!*

**Matt 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

*That goes right along with what Jesus Himself PLAINLY told a man who asked Him how to have eternal life in:*

**Matt 19:16-17** And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, **that I may have eternal life?**

17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, **keep the commandments.**

*The point is, that is still the very same message Peter was preaching as far along as Acts chapter 10 .... keeping the commandments, which is 'doing righteous works'. Peter knew the message was now to include all nations.*

*God had just given him the vision of the great sheet of unclean animals, in the previous verses (Acts 10:10-16):*

**Acts 10:34-36** Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

35 But in every nation he that feareth him, **and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**

36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

*Now, let's contrast the message Peter had been given (the gospel of the kingdom) .... with the message Paul was given.*

*Let's begin with the name that God assigned to the message Paul preached:*

**Acts 20:24** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the **gospel of the grace of God.**

*Peter's message was called the "gospel of the kingdom."  
Paul's message was called the "gospel of the grace of God."*

*Through Paul's writings, we learn that we are saved by grace:*

**Eph. 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

*In Paul's message, we also learn that we are to live the same way --- by grace, through faith:*

**Col. 2:6** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

*We just read in Acts 10:35, where Peter told his listeners they had to do works of righteousness to be accepted with God. Yet here we find Paul saying just the opposite, as Paul also tells us we are justified by grace:*

**Titus 3:4-7** But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*Paul made the answer to the question between grace and works very clear in his letter to the Romans:*

**Rom. 11:6** And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

**Rom. 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

*Now, I will admit that sometimes the issues between Peter and Paul can be confusing .... because we see in the scriptures that*

*both men preached about the kingdom of God,  
and both men preached about the grace of God.*

*Therefore, we will look closer at it:*

Throughout the last half of the book of Acts, **God was giving Israel a renewed opportunity to repent.** They had crucified their own King, and should have realized it. Israel was in a unique position, while they were 'on a roll' (so to speak) .... They were in the process of 'falling down' to equal ground with the Gentiles.

We already read the prophecy in Isa. 60:1-3, where that Israel was to RISE and shine the glory of God so the Gentiles could see it, and come to the light. But NOW we see that .... rather than RISING --- according to prophecy .... Israel is FALLING --- which was a MYSTERY. Paul discusses it in depth in Romans chapters 9-11.

Paul ministered to the Jews during this 'transitional period' as God was taking away their chosen, elected position of privilege .... taking away their favored nation status:

**Acts 19:8** And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

*It is important to notice, that regardless of WHO Paul was preaching to --- whether Jews or Gentiles --- he presented the 'BIG PICTURE' for them .... that would be the 'ENTIRE plan' of God.*

*Therefore, it is reasonable that Paul would have explained BOTH  
the Prophecy Program, about the Earthly Kingdom,  
concerning the nation Israel ....  
and the Mystery Program, about the Heavenly Kingdom,  
concerning the Body of Christ (the Church).*

**Acts 20:25** And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

27 **For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.**

*Paul had 'further revelation' than Peter had. Therefore, he was able to 'tell MORE of the story' about God's purpose .... for both the earth .... and for heaven:*

**Eph. 3:9-11** And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 According to the **eternal purpose** which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

*Paul was preaching 'all the counsel of God' .... God had committed information to Paul that showed the 'whole plan of the ages' .... Paul was able to explain what Peter had not known, about the 'accomplishments of the cross':*

**1 Cor. 2:7-8** But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the **hidden wisdom**, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:  
8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

*Paul also 'broke the news' that the blood of the cross was for ALL men .... not just a ransom for MANY, as Jesus had said in Matt. 20:28. That was a message that God 'TIMELY' revealed:*

**1 Tim. 2:5-6** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;  
**6 Who gave himself a ransom for all**, to be testified in due time.

*Paul taught that the blessings for the Body of Christ are located in heavenly places .... not on the earth:*

**Eph 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

**Eph 2:5-6** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)  
6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

*Paul understood that God's kingdom EXTENDS both UP into the heavens .... and DOWN on the earth. We know from Dan. 2:44 (and other passages) that the God of heaven will set up a kingdom on the earth.*

*This next passages shows that God also has a kingdom in heaven, where the Body of Christ is destined to be. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, who mainly make-up (or compose) the church today in this dispensation of grace, when Israel -- as a nation -- is in blindness:*

**2 Tim. 4:17-18** Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that **all the Gentiles might hear**: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.  
18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his **heavenly kingdom**: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*In a moment, we'll look through Peter's writings to get some understanding of 'grace' through his eyes. But before we do, we should notice that the scripture SPECIFICALLY names TWO different gospels given to Peter and to Paul:*

**Gal. 2:7** But contrariwise, when they saw that  
the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me,  
as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;

*Incidentally, it is important to know that the K.J.V. PRESERVES this information. In the N.I.V. book, it completely CHANGES the meaning of that verse, and forces a wrong one to its readers. The N.I.V. makes the message be the SAME one, just coming from two different people. You entirely LOSE the correct words.*

*Listen as I read Gal. 2:7 to you in the N.I.V.:*

*"On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews."*

*The New American Standard is almost as bad as the N.I.V. It changes the 'little word' "OF" .... to the word "TO" .... which basically does the same trick. It makes the gospels be the same, but just going to different people.*

*Hopefully, you have seen, and are seeing, that the content of Peter's and Paul's messages are different.*

*We need to remember that Peter had been exposed to Paul's revelations and commission by God. Even though, when Paul got his message, he waited 3 years before he spent 15 days talking to Peter about it:*

**Gal. 1:15-19** But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.

18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

19 But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

*Let's go into Peter's epistles now. Notice how he phrases what he has to say about Paul's writings. Being the Jew that he is, and also writing to Jews (which were the 'strangers scattered abroad' as in 1 Peter 1:1, and James 1:1), Peter says that some of Paul's message is hard to understand.*

*Peter also recognizes that some people who are 'ignorant' and 'not established' TWIST the scriptures Paul wrote, along with twisting other ones, too. Sounds like a bad case of 'WRONGLY dividing', doesn't it?*

**2 Peter 3:15-16** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother **Paul** also **according to the wisdom given unto him** hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things;  
**in which are some things hard to be understood,**  
which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest,  
as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

*Now, let's read through 1 Peter 1:9-13, as I point out some things and make comments after each verse ... as we go:*

**1 Peter 1:9-13** Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

*Israel could expect 'their salvation' at the end of things, when God would establish His kingdom here on the earth.*

**verse 10** Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

*The prophets asked and looked hard for answers .... HOW God could save Israel, when --- according to His covenant with them, Israel had NOT kept up their part of the bargain?*

*God had promised certain things to them .... based upon their obedience.  
And God had promised some things to them --- unconditionally.*

*But they wondered .... HOW God could JUSTLY give them grace, when they had so miserably failed Him? What they did NOT see .... was 'all that God was FREE to do for them BECAUSE OF CALVARY.'*

*That's what 'grace' is .... getting what you do NOT deserve.*

**verse 11** Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

*They wrote that Christ would suffer, and after-ward have glory .... but they did not understand when it would happen, nor what it exactly meant.*

**verse 12** Unto whom it was revealed, 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.

*Somehow, the prophets did realize that they were really writing for people in a FUTURE time .... in the 'Ages to Come'. God wrote the scriptures to SPAN across time .... and different portions of the Word minister to different people in different ages. Even the angels were interested to know about it.*

**verse 13** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **hope to the end for the grace** that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

*There are 3 important points in verse 13:*

1. *This passage goes right along with instructions Jesus gave to the 'little flock' (which was the 'believing Jews' .... the remnant of faithful believers --- NOT 'apostate Israel') .... for life during the kingdom, when God will provide their 'daily bread' (as Jesus had taught them to pray for in the Sermon on the Mount). The beginning of verse 13 (here in 1 Peter 1) goes with the last verse of this next passage (Luke 12:35):*

**Luke 12:29-35** And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

32 **Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give -- YOU -- the kingdom.**

33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

2. *Again, here, as in verse 9 (where we began reading), they have to WAIT until the END for their grace .... and they have to 'hang-on' (endure or hope) until then.*

*That goes right along with the verse we read about them 'getting through the Great Tribulation' in*

Matt. 24:13 But he that shall **endure unto the end**, the same shall be saved.

*Let's read 1 Peter 1:13 again, to refresh our memory, for the 3rd point:*

**verse 13** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,  
and hope to the end for the grace  
that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

3. *They will get their grace at the end .... when Christ returns to save them.  
He will BRING their salvation when He returns to take them into His kingdom.*

*Through-out his epistle, Peter reminds them of the END and that the time of  
their deliverance will be worth their suffering:*

**1 Peter 4:7, 10** But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch  
unto prayer.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as  
good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

*Israel has always been referred to as 'God's SHEEP.' 4 times they're called the  
'sheep of God's pasture' in the Psalms, and once in Jeremiah. In the familiar Psalm  
23, it says about Israel .... 'The Lord is my Shepherd.' That is not talking to us today.  
He was (and is) Israel's shepherd .... THEY are the sheep. We Gentiles were DOGS:*

**1 Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of  
glory that fadeth not away.

*Now, let's look at two other mentions of grace by Peter.*

*During the Great Tribulation, Satan will be especially persecuting Israel.  
They must rest, and stand in the fact, that God will eventually rescue them:*

**1 Peter 5:8-10** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring  
lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accom-  
plished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ  
Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while**, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen,  
settle you.

11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhort-  
ing, and testifying that **this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.**

*Peter writes of the 'day of the Lord' here in his epistle, as he preached about it in Acts chapter 2. That is the time of the Great Tribulation, which they are encouraged to go through:*

**2 Peter 3:10-12** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

**Acts 2:19-20** And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

*On the contrary, Paul teaches us that the Body of Christ will NOT go through it, but God designed to 'save us from His wrath':*

**1 Thess. 1:10** And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

**1 Thess. 5:9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

*In Peter's epistle, their salvation will come at the end:*

**1 Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation **ready to be revealed in the last time.**

*Peter ends his letters with continued encouragement for them to 'hang-on' stedfast, till the end, and to grow in grace:*

**2 Peter 3:17-18** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

*In conclusion, let's look again at Peter's sermon in the first part of Acts:*

**Acts 3:18-21** But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out,

*--- Watch 'WHEN' that will happen ---*

**WHEN** the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

*--- and 'WHEN' will those 'refreshing times' come? ---*

*--- it will be 'WHEN' Christ returns to set up His Kingdom on Earth ---*

**verse 20** And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive

until the times of restitution of all things, *--- (that would be "the end") ---*

which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

*By contrast, look 'when' Paul says we receive forgiveness of our sins .... right now .... immediately, when we believe (or trust) that Christ died to pay for them --- we HAVE (presently and past) forgiveness:*

**Rom. 5:11** And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have **NOW** received the atonement.

**Eph 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**Col 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

*One final contrast .... Gal. 2:9 says that James, Peter, and John were to minister to Israel. Their message is about the heavenly Jerusalem coming **DOWN** to the earth. **They** will truly experience "EMMANUEL" .... God living with them:*

**Rev. 21:2-3** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming **DOWN** from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

*On the other hand, Paul teaches that the Body of Christ will be going **UP**:*

**1 Thess. 4:16-17** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught **UP** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.