

ANXIOUS ANGELS

Text: IPeter 1:3-12

*of the angels in kind interest in
the sufferings of X & glories, how little
do we know of them: we stand ankle-deep
in a pathless ocean.*

INTRODUCTION: It has been said that what man has gained through Christ is far greater than what he lost through Adam. The Bible emphasizes the glory of man which has come through salvation. No where is this expressed *(any)* clearer than in the last words of verse 12--"Which things the angels desire to look into." Many people believe that when we get to heaven we will become angels. But what we have now, and then, is enough to make the angels themselves, who have seen all the splendor of God through all eternity, gaze upon us with great interest. It portrays one stooping and stretching the neck to gaze on some wonderful sight. The word "look" means literally to "look from the side," and shows that the angels contemplate salvation from without, as spectators, not as participants. What is it that the angels are gazing at?

I. THEY DESIRE TO LOOK INTO OUR INHERITANCE.

(Verses 3,4,5)

We are heirs to a spiritual estate. It signifies a gift of God to His chosen people. In the Old Testament, it is the Promised Land, in the New, it is a possession viewed in one sense as a present possession, and in another as future. It emphasizes salvation as a gift. Our inheritance ~~is~~ the heavenly kingdom in all its glory.

The little baby lying in the crib does not fully realize the inheritance that is his--we are the same way.

1. The source of our inheritance is the New Birth.

Verse 3. *a settled secure possession*

An inheritance is a heritage which one receives by virtue of birth or by a special gift. As God's sons, we are His heirs, and have by birth come into an inheritance.

This new life, new birth, took place in accord with His great mercy. He took pity upon us in our condition and raised us from where we were to an entirely different state.

2. The Character of our inheritance.

The adjectives emphasize the fact that it is eternal and spiritual.

What is this inheritance?
"Not heaven" - it's in heaven -
& himself - I'll be C. P. Culpepper,
dying) immortal latter, young man =
Job: "brought nothing into this."
All I've got is D & that's everything.
D, I don't have anything but you.

arranged by any invading army - Palestine had been

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as to its substance

(1) Incorruptible. It belongs to the future world and is apart from this corruptible world. It is an imperishable possession. It is beyond the reach of death. No grave will ever be dug on this estate.

as to its purity Palestine has been defiled

(2) It is undefiled. It is pure in a moral sense, implying separation from the sinful world. It is beyond the taint of sin. Sin has ruined most things in this life.

as to its beauty

(3) It is unfading. This word is used of fading flowers. The loveliness of the heavenly inheritance is described as exempt from fading. It never withers, never disappoints, never becomes old or worn. The delight of it will never lessen or grow stale. The leaf never turns. It is beyond the blight of change.

3. The certainty of our inheritance.

Expressed in two ways.

(1) "Reserved in heaven..." To keep watch over, keep undisturbed, unharmed--opposite of lose. In the perfect tense: Has been guarded, is being guarded, will always be guarded. It has been reserved from beginning to the end. Eternity is in the word. And it is God who keeps it.

stands sentry over us

(2) "For you, who are kept..." To hold in custody--a military word--to build a wall around.

We are amid enemies who are bent on robbing us of our inheritance. Again a perfect part. a continuous process of protection. The inheritance itself is safe and we are likewise guarded for the inheritance.

"Through faith--" Faith that trusts the guarding power of God. In every danger our faith turns to God.

"Unto salvation." This is the final result of God's keeping. "Ready..." Not about to, but prepared, accomplished. Right now we are prepared. There is no more that we must do.

afflictions

II. THEY DESIRE TO LOOK INTO OUR TRIALS. (Verses 6,7)

Here is present rejoicing in the midst of grief. The joy of the Christian life is continuous and not conditioned by the changing moods of earth.

Love is the touchstone -
How you react to trials is
determined by your love to
Jesus -

Trials - many color -> God's grace can match any trial
God - gave - many - color

1. They are necessary. "If need be." Used of divine destiny.
2. They are short. "For a season."
3. They have a purpose. "Trial of your faith."
"Trial" means to approve by means of testing, to prove genuine."

Is it the trial or the faith that is more precious? Is it more precious than the trial of gold or of the gold? Precious means "valuable." It is the trial, not the faith, that is more precious. The assayer's report to the mining company is of far more value than the gold he has assayed. The fact that a certain Christian has been put to the test and has met that test, and thus has demonstrated that he can be trusted by God, is of far more value to God than his faith. God has someone He knows He can trust. The trial of faith is more valuable than the trial of God. Would to God we thought as much of faithfulness to God as we do of Gold.

Two Trials Compared

"Unto praise and honor at appearing of Christ." Well done

III- Missionary for thirty years on same boat with Teddy Roosevelt, no one noticed the missionary--complained to the Lord. "Old missionary, you are not home yet."

It is bitter to know Him this way than to know Him in the Body - (1) not always with us (2) Pain of losing Him,

III. THEY DESIRE TO LOOK INTO OUR LOVE FOR JESUS WHOM WE HAVE NEVER SEEN.

Affection

(Verse 8) We can understand how the angels would wonder at this. Our love began and continues without the sight of Him.

1. How do we come to love Him?

"Believing" Through faith, submission to Him, considering ourselves the life-time servant of Jesus.

2. The outcome of such love-"Joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Inexpressible because it is clothed in the glory of the future life. A taste of glory now.

CONCLUSION: Look into what Jesus has done--sufferings and glories that follow. You will come to love Him.