

## Discussion on 1 Peter 1:10-12

Sunday School – Sleater Kinney Road Baptist Church – May 7, 2017

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### 1. TEXT (1 Peter 1:10-12):<sup>1</sup>

The prophets carefully sought out and searched concerning this salvation; about the grace they prophesied for you. They kept investigating concerning what person, or what kind of time the spirit of Christ within them was explaining when He predicted about the sufferings of Christ and the glories that came afterwards. It was revealed to them they weren't serving themselves, but *you*, regarding these things which have now been revealed to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit, who was sent from heaven – things angels are longing to know about.

### 2. THINKING THROUGH THE TEXT:

#### a. The prophets carefully sought out and searched concerning this salvation; about the grace they prophesied for you.

- The Old Covenant prophets, from Moses to Malachi, wrote about Christ<sup>2</sup>
  - o This shouldn't be a surprise – Jesus Himself taught this (Lk 24:25-27; Jn 5:39-47)
- But, Peter wants you to realize something very important – these prophets didn't enjoy the benefits and blessings that you do now
- **Q1: What salvation of Peter talking about? The word can mean something like “deliverance” or “salvation of your soul”**
  - o Notice it reads “concerning *this* [ἡς] salvation”
- **Q2: So, the last time Peter mentioned salvation, what was he talking about?**

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<sup>1</sup> This is my own translation from the UBS-5 Greek text.

<sup>2</sup> J. Ramsey Michaels (*1 Peter*, in WBC, vol. 49 [Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1988], 40-41) toys with the idea that these are contemporary NT prophets, but ultimately discards the idea.

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- He was talking about the salvation of your soul (v.10); eternal salvation
- **Q3: Why were the prophets searching and inquiring about salvation? Didn't they already have salvation? Didn't they already know about God's grace?**
  - It's not that they didn't have grace, or salvation
  - It's that they didn't have the complete picture:
    - The entire Old Covenant law (moral, ceremonial, priestly and civil) was one massive object lesson to teach them about the Messiah who would come
      - **(1) Moral:**
        - I can't perfectly obey God's laws about right and wrong, no matter how hard I try
        - But, the law gives me a moral compass and always remind me of how sinful I am, because I can't ever keep it perfectly! (cf. Gal 3-4)
          - **But Jesus has come to keep it perfectly, for you!**
      - **(2) Ceremonial 1:**
        - I'm unfit to be in God's presence *just because of being human* (even aside from any sin),
        - That's why I can't go into God's presence, and the priests have to do it for me
        - That's also why I have to obey the laws about ceremonial uncleanness (e.g. Mary; Lk 2:22-24)
          - But Jesus came to make you **perfectly and permanently clean**, so now you can push through that veil in the temple and come boldly to the throne of grace **yourself** (cf. Heb 10:19-22)!
      - **(3) Ceremonial 2:**
        - I *think* and *do* evil things, this separates me from God, and I need something **besides my repentance** to heal that relationship – *the sacrificial system of blood atonement*
        - I deserve to die for my crimes against God, but this animal died in my place

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- My blood deserves to be shed, but this animal's blood is shed in my place
- This teaches me a lesson about Someone who will come and die for me, in my place, as my substitute!
  - *That Someone is Jesus of Nazareth,*
  - *He pays for all His children's sins now*
  - *He's also retroactively paid for all those sins from the OT which were forgiven on credit*
- (4) Civil:
  - The law tells rulers how to govern society, but no ruler has ever followed it
    - *Jesus is the King who will rule the world with righteousness and holiness*
  - The law tells us how to interact fairly with other people in our city, in our town, and in our country – but nobody can **ever** be perfectly fair and just to everybody else
    - *Jesus is the One who unites us to Him and the Father by the Spirit, and allows His children to know and perfectly obey all His laws in the world to come*
- You'll *never* understand this question until you read the book of Hebrews
  - Galatians 3-4 is only part of the answer
  - But, it's often the only part of the answer most Christians know
- So, the Old Testament prophets spent a lot of time searching, inquiring and wondering about the details of this salvation in Christ, what the complete picture would look like
  - Peter tells us more:

**b. They kept investigating concerning what person, or what kind of time the spirit of Christ within them was explaining when He predicted about the sufferings of Christ and the glories that came afterwards.**

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- This is what the prophets are wondering about; these are the dots they kept trying to connect; these are the blanks they wanted to fill in:
  - o (1) What kind of person will the Messiah be?
    - What will he look like?
    - How will he come onto the scene?
    - What will He be characterized by?
    - What can we know about Him so we can spot Him!?
  - o (2) When will He come?
    - What are the markers to let us know when Messiah will come?
    - How will we know when to start looking?
- **Q4: Who was giving them this prophecy that they were wondering about?**
  - o It is the Spirit of Christ
- **Q5: Is this the Holy Spirit, or Christ's Spirit (implying pre-incarnate existence)?**
  - o It could be either; it depends on how you translate it!
  - o It seems best to translate it as "the Spirit of Christ," meaning Christ's spirit – *before* the incarnation
    - This teaches us that Jesus is eternal; He didn't come into existence when He was born in Bethlehem
    - He has *always* existed
    - It's also a little tidbit about the Trinity
      - (1) We sometimes forget that Father, Son and Spirit are distinct from each other, but they're also *one* with each other – and one sometimes refers to something the other did as if *He* did it
      - (2) The Father created everything, but the NT tells us he did it through the Son (cf. Heb 1:1-4; Col 1:15-20)
      - (3) Peter tells us the Holy Spirit gave men the words to write (2 Pet 1:21), but here he also says it was Christ, too
- **Q6: What does this tell us about Scripture? Where it comes from? Who gave it to the men who wrote it? Whether it has errors?**
  - o It tells us the Bible is inerrant and infallible
  - o This is why the Bible is the sole, infallible authority for faith and practice - **do you treat it like it is!?**
- **Q7 (Group Discussion):**
  - o The prophets wondered:
    - (1) What kind of person Messiah would be, and

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- (2) When and under what circumstances (“what kind of time”) He would come on the scene
- Specifically, they wondered about the prophecies which predicted:
  - (1) His sufferings, and
  - (2) His subsequent glory
    - How do you put these two seemingly contradictory things together?
- Each table will look at one of these prophecies, and see how (and if) it answers these questions:
  - (1) Isaiah 11:1-16:

<b>What Kind of Person Will Messiah Be?</b>	<b>When Will He Come? Under What Circumstances?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Descended from David (vv.1)</li> <li>- Anointed by the Spirit (v.2)</li> <li>- Delights to fear and respect Yahweh (v.3)</li> <li>- Rules with perfect righteousness and faithfulness (vv.3b-4a,5); a political and religious leader</li> <li>- Kills all the wicked (v.4)</li> <li>- An ensign to the nations of the world; an internationally known and respected political <i>or</i> religious leader who will unite the world (v.10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some effects of curse lifted (vv.7-8)</li> <li>- The whole world will know about Yahweh, the one true God (v.9)</li> <li>- He'll be an ensign, a banner to the world representing Yahweh (v.10)</li> <li>- All nations in the world will seek after Him and unite under Him(v.10)</li> <li>- The Jews will all return, too (vv.11-12)</li> <li>- All Israel's enemies will be destroyed (vv.13-16)</li> </ul>

- (2) Malachi 3:1-5:

<b>What Kind of Person Will Messiah Be?</b>	<b>When Will He Come? Under What Circumstances?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The messenger of the new covenant, who the Israelites delight in (v.1)</li> <li>- He will bring judgment upon the faithless priests in Israel (vv.2-4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A messenger will prepare the way for Yahweh (v.1)</li> <li>- Messiah will suddenly come to Hiss temple (v.1)</li> <li>- Yahweh will judge the priests, sorcerers, adulterers, liars, oppressors, racists, those who don't fear Yahweh (v.5)</li> </ul>

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- (3) Isaiah 52:13-53:12:

<b>What Kind of Person Will Messiah Be?</b>	<b>When Will He Come? Under What Circumstances?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God's servant, who will be exalted and lifted up by God (52:13)</li> <li>- Beaten and marred beyond all comprehension; He won't even look human anymore (52:14)</li> <li>- Humble birth and childhood (53:2a)</li> <li>- Unremarkable appearance (53:2b)</li> <li>- Hated and rejected by people (53:3a)</li> <li>- Sorrowful, used to grief and sadness (53:4b)</li> <li>- People ignore Him contemptuously, and think He's lowly (53:3c)</li> <li>- Took upon Himself our griefs and sorrows (53:4a)</li> <li>- Considered a criminal by Israelites who was punished by God (53:4b)</li> <li>- Wounded and bruised for our sins (53:5a)</li> <li>- His chastisement makes God's people whole (53:5b)</li> <li>- His stripes heals us (53:5c)</li> <li>- All our sins have been laid on Him (53:6)</li> <li>- Will not protest His treatment (53:7)</li> <li>- Oppressed by authorities (53:8)</li> <li>- Sinless (53:9)</li> <li>- His death is an offering for sin, according to Yahweh's will (53:10a)</li> <li>- He will live again and see the results of His work (53:10b-11)</li> <li>- What He did makes many righteous in God's eyes (53:11)</li> <li>- God will reward Him (53:12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He will sprinkle or startle many nations by His suffering and what it means (52:15)</li> <li>- Hated, rejected and killed by Israelites (53:3a,3c,4b) and their leaders (53:8) as a criminal (53:4b)</li> </ul>

- (4) Psalm 110:

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What Kind of Person Will Messiah Be?	When Will He Come? Under What Circumstances?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equal to Yahweh; He'll sit at Yahweh's right hand until Yahweh subdues all enemies for Him (v.1)</li> <li>- Yahweh will set Him up as ruler over all enemies (v.2)</li> <li>- He will be a priest like Melchisedec, not Aaron or the Levites – a political <i>and</i> religious leader</li> <li>- He will judge kings and destroy them (v.5)</li> <li>- He will judge all the nations, killing all enemies (v.6)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God will appoint Him as king, to kill all enemies and judge the world</li> </ul>

- (5) Zechariah 9:9-17:

What Kind of Person Will Messiah Be?	When Will He Come? Under What Circumstances?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He is a triumphant and victorious king (v.9)</li> <li>- He is humble and lowly (v.9)</li> <li>- He will rule over the entire earth (v.10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Triumphant and victorious, riding on a donkey (v.9)</li> <li>- He'll establish peace on the earth (v.10)</li> <li>- Because of God's promises in the New Covenant, He'll set the Israelites free from all enemies and from all captivity (vv.11-12)</li> <li>- God will destroy all enemies (vv.13-17)</li> </ul>

- (6) Deuteronomy 18:15-19:

What Kind of Person Will Messiah Be?	When Will He Come? Under What Circumstances?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A prophet (v.15)</li> <li>- An Israelite (v.15)</li> <li>- He'll be like Moses (v.15)</li> <li>- He's God's spokesman, like Moses (v.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He'll be a prophet, raised up by God, whom the Israelites must listen to (v.15)</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- He'll speak what God commands Him to speak (v.18)</li><li>- God will hold people who don't listen to this prophet responsible (v.19)</li></ul>	
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- Try to put all these facts together into a coherent picture, and see how puzzled *you'd* be (cf. Mt 24:3; Acts 1:6)!
  - o The main conundrum was how to reconcile:
    - (1) Messiah's role as prophet, priest and king, ruling over the whole world in righteousness and holiness, with
    - (2) the implication that He's divine, holy and equal to Yahweh,
    - (3) and the prophecies about Him being rejected, tortured and executed
      - The NT makes it clear Christ will come twice, *not* once!
      - The first time to be rejected and die; the second to rule, reign and destroy all God's enemies

**c. It was revealed to them they weren't serving themselves, but you, regarding these things which have now been revealed to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit, who was sent from heaven – things angels are longing to know about.**

- God revealed this to them; they wrote and prophesied in order to serve Peter's readers – *and you!*
  - o (1) God wanted us to be able to look back at these prophecies (and many others) and be encouraged, strengthened, filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory, as we realize God fulfills His promises in *exactly* the way He promised He would
    - That gives us confidence that He'll fulfill the rest of His promises in *exactly the same way*
    - **“who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time,” (1 Pet 1:5)**
      - Do you believe this? You should – and all these fulfilled prophecies about Jesus' sufferings and the glories that came afterwards give you grounds to do just that!
  - o (2) This also tells us that the Bible is *one complete story*

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- The OT supports and prepares us for the NT – it's not irrelevant
  - These aren't disconnected, random books cobbled together by a committee
  - These are books written by holy men of old who spoke from God, and gave us exactly what He wanted us to have, so we're left with one complete story about how God created creation, how it all went bad, and the unique and eternal Son He sent to fix everything and set everything right
- **Q8: What is Peter's overall point in these three verses (vv.10-12)? He laid a foundation about God's grace in choosing you for salvation and preserving you until Christ returns (vv.1-5). Then, He said that it, if necessary, you'll have to be grieved for a short time by many different trials so your faith will be purified (vv.6-9). Now, he says this – why? From this passage, what is one big thing advantage you have over the OT saints?**
- You have the complete picture of Christ's salvation<sup>3</sup>
  - There are:
    - no more types and shadows,
    - no more object lessons,
    - no more forgiveness on credit,
    - no more preparation,
    - no more scratching your heads, wondering about what person or what kind of time the spirit of Christ meant when He led the prophets to write what they did
    - perfect forgiveness
    - perfect reconciliation
    - a new heart
    - a new soul
    - a new mind
    - a new person
    - the indwelling Holy Spirit
  - You have the blessings of the complete picture *and* finished salvation:

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<sup>3</sup> John Calvin remarked, "Had not the fathers the same salvation as we have? Why then does he say that the fathers inquired, as though they possessed not what is now offered to us? The answer to this is plain, that salvation is to be taken here for that clear manifestation of it which we have through the coming of Christ," (John Calvin and John Owen, *Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles* [Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2010], 38).

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- something Adam, Abraham, Moses, Aaron, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Zechariah and Daniel didn't have;
- even *angels* wish they could understand what it means to be saved by God
- **Read Jn 8:53-56**
- You have this – and they didn't
  - **Read Lk 10:23-24** (context is the 70 returning from brief missionary foray)
  - *They were serving you!*
  - That's why you can trust God to know what's best for you as you're grieved by various trials
- This passage is more foundation for you,<sup>4</sup> before Peter dives into the nuts and bolts of practical life next week

### 3. THOUGHT-FLOW DIAGRAM & GREEK NOTES:<sup>5</sup>

- I can hardly think of anybody who'd be interested in these notes. I made them for myself as I studied the passage, and I need somewhere to store them so I find them later. This is as good a place as any. Please feel free to ignore all this, if you wish!

<b>Subject</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <sup>10</sup> The prophets               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours</li> </ul> </li> <li>- searched and inquired about this salvation;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <sup>11</sup> they inquired                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them</li> <li>▪ when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Aside	
<b>Subj's action</b>	
Apposition for action	
Content of inquiry	
<b>God's answer to inquiry</b>	
Aside	

<sup>4</sup> Michaels referred to it as "an appendix to vv.3-9," (*1 Peter*, 49). See especially Karen Jobes' comments (*1 Peter*, in BECNT [Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005], 97, 105-106).

<sup>5</sup> This format is based off Richard Young's discussion on thought-flow diagrams (*Intermediate Greek* [Nashville, TN: B&H, 1994], 268-271) and the format in the ZECNT commentary series. It blends both versions, and I'm not entirely sure it gets the point across well, but I'm using it for now.

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|  | ○ things into which angels long to look. |
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### a. Translation and Notes on 1 Peter 1:10-12:

#### i. Translation:

The prophets carefully sought out and searched concerning this salvation; about the grace they prophesied for you. They kept investigating concerning what person, or what kind of time the spirit of Christ within them was explaining when He predicted about the sufferings of Christ and the glories that came afterwards. It was revealed to them they weren't serving themselves, but *you*, regarding these things which have now been revealed to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit, who was sent from heaven – things angels are longing to know about.

#### ii. Notes:

- Row #1: Greek text (UBS-5)
- Row #2: Parsing
- Row #3: Rendering
- Row #4: Brief syntax notes
- Row #5: Rough, ugly, but more “literal” translation
- Row #6: Smoother, slightly more colloquial translation (if necessary)

περι	ἧς	σωτηρίας	ἐξεζήτησαν	καὶ	ἐξηραύνησαν	προφήται	οἱ	περι	τῆς	εἰς
prep	rel.pro.gsf	gsf	3rd,pl,aor,a,i	conj	3 <sup>rd</sup> ,pl,aor,a,i	npm	npm	prep	gsf	prep
concerning	which	salvation	they carefully sought out	and	they searched	prophets	the	concerning	the	for
reference	<i>obj.prep; antec.is ὑμῶν σωτηρίαν ψυχῶν (v.9)</i>		<i>constative</i>		<i>constative</i>	<i>subj. nom.</i>	<i>deictic</i>	<i>reference; appositional clause</i>	<i>obj. περι</i>	<i>benefaction</i>
The prophets carefully sought out and searched concerning this salvation; about the grace										

ὑμᾶς	χάριτος	προφητεύσαντες
2 <sup>nd</sup> ,pl,a	gsf	aapnrm
you	grace	they prophesied
<i>obj.εἰς</i>	<i>obj. περι</i>	<i>attrib.mod. προφήται; constative</i>
they prophesied for you.		

ἐραυνῶντες	εἰς	τίνα	ἦ	ποῖον	καιρὸν	ἐδήλου	τὸ	ἐν	αὐτοῖς	πνεῦμα
papnrm	prep	asm		asm	asm	3 <sup>rd</sup> ,s,imp,a,i	nsn	rep	dpm	nsn

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they are searching, investigating	concerning	who	or	what kind	time	it was explained	it	by	to them	spirit
<i>Attributive; iterative</i>	<i>reference</i>	<i>object of prep.</i>				<i>mod.subj.nom.; desc.impf.</i>	<i>monadic</i>	<i>spatial</i>	<i>obj.prep.</i>	<i>subj.nom.</i>
They kept investigating concerning what person, or what kind of time the spirit of Christ within them was explaining										

Χριστοῦ	προμαρτυρόμενον	τὰ	εἰς	Χριστόν	παθήματα	καί	τὰς	μετά	ταῦτα	δόξας
gsm	pm(d)pnsm	apn	prep	asm	apn	conj	apf	prep	apf	apf
of Christ	it predicted to them	the	concerning	Christ	sufferings	and	the	with	them	glories
<i>subj.gen<sup>6</sup>.</i>	<i>attrib.mod.πνεῦμα; hist.present</i>	<i>deictic</i>	<i>reference</i>	<i>d.obj. of παθήματα</i>	<i>obj.prep.</i>		<i>deictic</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>dem.pro.</i>	<i>obj.prep.</i>
when he predicted about the sufferings of Christ and the glories that came afterwards										

οἷς	ἀπεκαλύφθη	ὅτι	οὐχ	ἑαυτοῖς	ὑμῖν	δὲ	διηκόνουν	αὐτὰ	ἃ	νῦν
rel.pro;dpm	3 <sup>rd</sup> ,s,aor,pass,i	conj	neg	ref.pro.dpm	2 <sup>nd</sup> ,pl,d	conj	3 <sup>rd</sup> ,pl,impf,a,i	apn	rel.pro,npn	adv
to them	it was revealed	that	not	themselves	you	but	they were serving	this	things	now
<i>mod.προφήται; d.obj.</i>	<i>constative; divine pass.</i>	<i>complement clause</i>	<i>mod. ἑαυτοῖς</i>	<i>d.obj. διηκόνουν</i>	<i>w/conj</i>	<i>adversative</i>	<i>descriptive</i>	<i>adv.acc.ref.</i>	<i>subj.nom.;coupled w/ αὐτὰ; refers back to sufferings and glory</i>	
It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in reference to these things which have now										
It was revealed to them they weren't serving themselves, but you, regarding these things which have now										

ἀνηγγέλη	ὑμῖν	διὰ	τῶν	εὐαγγελισμαμένων	ὑμᾶς	ἐν	πνεύματι	ἁγίῳ	ἀποσταλέντι	ἀπ'
3 <sup>rd</sup> ,s,aor,pass,i	2 <sup>nd</sup> ,pl,d	prep	gpm	amppgm	2 <sup>nd</sup> ,pl,a	prep	dsn	dsn	appdsn	prep
It was revealed	to you	by	the	they preached the good news	to you	by	spirit	holy	he was sent	from
<i>culminative;div.pass.</i>	<i>d.obj.</i>	<i>agency</i>	<i>substantial; indir.middle</i>			<i>d.obj.</i>	<i>means</i>		<i>attrib.;div.pass.;constative</i>	
been revealed to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit, who was sent from										

οὐρανοῦ	εἰς	ἃ	ἐπιθυμοῦσιν	ἄγγελοι	παρακύψαι
gsm	prep	rel.pro,npn	3 <sup>rd</sup> ,pl,p,a,i	npn	aor,a,inf
heaven	into	which things	they are longing for	angels	to investigate, look into, to know about
<i>obj.prep</i>	<i>ref.</i>	<i>mod.αὐτὰ ἃ</i>	<i>mod. ἄγγελοι, desc.pres.</i>	<i>subj.nom.</i>	<i>complementary mod.ἐπιθυμοῦσιν</i>
heaven – concerning which things angels are longing to know about.					
heaven – things angels are longing to know about.					

<sup>6</sup> For the subjective genitive, here, see especially D. Edmond Hiebert, *1 Peter*, revised ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH, 1992), 77. Greg Forbes also agrees (*1 Peter*, in *Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament* [Nashville, TN: B&H, 2014; Kindle ed.], KL 1281).