

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to obtain <u>an inheritance</u> which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, <u>reserved in heaven for you</u>,

5 who are <u>protected</u> by the <u>power of</u> <u>God through faith</u> for a <u>salvation</u> ready to be <u>revealed in the last time</u>.

6 In this you greatly <u>rejoice</u>, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been <u>distressed by various trials</u>,

7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

9 obtaining as the <u>outcome</u> of your faith <u>the salvation of your souls</u>.

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,

11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

Anything that angels long to see is worth finding out about.

9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

Ephesians 3:9-10

10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 3:9-10



The angels long to see God's mercy find a place to manifest, and for them to be relieved of their assignment to guard Paradise.

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Are you living for today? for tonorrow? or for eternity? 6 In this you greatly <u>rejoice</u>, even though now for a little while, *if necessary*, you have been <u>distressed by various trials</u>,

7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire,

may be found to result in *praise* and *glory* and *honor* <u>at the</u> <u>revelation of Jesus Christ</u>;

The fires we face can only destroy that which is not eternal.

What is being purged out of your life now? What "fire" is providing that purging?

Will you open your heart to invite God into the fire with you? Or will you push Him away when you need Him the most?