

8 - SUFFERING AND THE NEW BIRTH – PART 1 (1 PETER 3:13-22)

I. The Blessing of Suffering (1 Peter 3:13-17)

A. The Question (1 Peter 3:13)

- Peter asks the rhetorical question concerning who can harm you as a believer.

B. The Reality of Suffering (1 Peter 3:14)

1. The Surety of Suffering (1 Peter 3:14a)

- Peter assumes that you will suffer for the sake of righteousness.

2. The Encouragement (1 Peter 3:14b)

Scripture Isaiah 8:12 (ESV)

“Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.

a. The Blessing

- If you suffer for righteousness, you will be blessed.

b. The Security

- We are encouraged not to be afraid or troubled by their threats.

C. Focus in Suffering (1 Peter 3:15-16)

1. Set the Lord Apart (1 Peter 3:15a)

- We are to make God the priority in our hearts.

2. Ready to Defend (1 Peter 3:15b)

- We are to always be ready to give a defense for our hope in Jesus Christ.

3. A Clear Conscience (1 Peter 3:16a)

- We are to have a clear conscience.

4. A Good Testimony (1 Peter 3:16b)

- We must have a good testimony to silence our enemies and critics.

D. The Principle (1 Peter 3:17)

Facing The Coming Storm: 1 & 2 Peter, Jude

- It better to suffer for doing what is good, rather than as a punishment.

II. The Example of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:18-22)

A. The Suffering of Jesus (1 Peter 3:18)

1. The Sacrifice

- Jesus Christ suffered and died for our sins.

2. The Nature of His Suffering

- Peter describes Jesus as the just one who dies for the unjust.

3. The Purpose of His Suffering

- He suffered and died that He might bring us to God the Father.

4. His Death and Resurrection

- He physically died and was brought back to life by the Holy Spirit.

B. The Exaltation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:19-22)

1. The Proclamation of Victory (1 Peter 3:19)

- At the resurrection, Jesus proclaimed His victory to fallen angels.

Biblical Notes: Preached to the Spirits in Prison

There are two main interpretations concerning the meaning of Jesus going and preaching to the spirits in prison. (1) Some scholars believe Peter is referring to the descent of Christ's Spirit into Hades between His death and resurrection in order to offer people who lived before the Flood a second chance for salvation. However, this interpretation has no scriptural support. (2) Some scholars have said this passage refers to Christ's descent into hell after His crucifixion to proclaim His victory to the imprisoned fallen angels referred to in 2 Peter 2:4-5, equating them with "the sons of God" that Moses wrote about (Genesis 6:1-2). Those who oppose this interpretation feel the context of the passage seems more likely to be referring to humans rather than angels. They state that the word "spirits" are described in 1 Peter 3:20 as those who were disobedient when God waited patiently for Noah to finish building the ark. They had rebelled against the message of God during the 120 years the ark was being built. They state that the "spirits" referred to in 1 Peter 3:20 are probably the souls of the evil human race that existed in the days of Noah. Those "spirits" are now "in prison" awaiting the final judgment of God at the end of the Age.

2. Their Imprisonment (1 Peter 3:20)

- These fallen angels were imprisoned for their disobedience at the time of Noah.

Facing The Coming Storm: 1 & 2 Peter, Jude

Scripture Genesis 6:1-2 (ESV)

¹ When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.

Biblical Note: Noah

Noah was the son of Lamech and the tenth descendent of Adam. When Noah was 480 years old, he was warned by God that the world would be destroyed water. He was warned 120 years before the flood. he was then given exact instructions for building an ark (see Genesis 6:14-16). While building the ark, he warned people of the coming judgment (2 Peter 2:5). One week before the Flood, God led Noah and his family into the ark. The Flood came in Noah's 600th year. Noah disembarked the Ark after 221 days. Noah lived 350 years after the Flood dying at the age of 950.

See: Genesis 5:29-30,32; 6:8-10,13,22; 7:1,5-7,9,13,15,23; 8:1,6,11,13,15,20; 9:1,8,17-20,24,28-29; 10:1,32; 1 Chronicles 1:4; Isaiah 54:9; Ezekiel 14:14,20; Matthew 24:37-38; Luke 3:36, 17:26-27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5.

3. The Symbolism (1 Peter 3:21)

- The salvation of Noah and his family is a parallel to our salvation.

4. His Exaltation (1 Peter 3:22)

- Jesus has been exalted to the place of power above all creation.