

I PETER: SALVATION FOR THE SUFFERING

A. Author: Peter

B. Background: Peter wrote to the Christians scattered through the dispersion after the temple was destroyed. They were experiencing great suffering and trials, but Peter wrote to encourage them that Jesus would deliver them.

C. Theme: Suffering is part of walking with and serving Jesus; it is not to be feared but embraced.

D. Outline:

1. INTRODUCTION (1:1-2)

2. SALVATION AS A LIVING HOPE IN JESUS (1:3-12)

a. Salvation is Permanent (1:3-5)

- Incorruptible
- Undefined
- Does not fade away
- Reserved in Heaven
- Kept by the Power of God

b. Salvation Brings Joy in Trials (1:6-9)

- Faith is tested
- But results in praise, honor & glory to God

c. Salvation Proclaimed by the Prophets (1:10-12)

- The prophets proclaimed salvation
- The angels longed to see it

3. THE DEMAND FOR HOLINESS (1:13-2:3)

- Patterned after God's Holiness (1:13-16)
- Offered at a Great Cost (1:17-21)
- Shared in Love for Others (1:22-25)
- Seen in Moral Transformation by the Word (2:1-3)

4. A DESCRIPTION OF THE SAVED (2:4-10)

a. Offers Spiritual Sacrifices to God (2:4-5)

b. Trusting in Christ, the Chief Cornerstone (2:6-8)

c. Declaring the Praises of a Merciful God (2:9-10)

- As a Chosen Generation
- As a Royal Priesthood
- As a Holy Nation
- As His Own Special People
- To Proclaim His Praises as a Merciful God

5. CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN THE WORLD (2:11-3:12)

a. Begins with a Pure Heart (2:11-12)

b. To Government Authorities (2:13-17)

c. To Employers (2:18-25)

d. To Family (3:1-6)

e. To Other Christians (3:8-12)

6. PROMISES TO THE PERSECUTED (3:13-4:19)

a. Keep Sharing the Gospel in Persecution (3:13-17)

b. Christ Triumphed over Suffering (3:18-22)

c. Suffering Prepares Us for Accountability (4:1-11)

d. Why You Suffer Is More Important Than How You Suffer (4:12-19)

7. ASSURANCES FOR FAITHFUL SERVANTS (5:1-14)

a. The Reward for Pastors (5:1-4)

b. The Reward for Lay People (5:1-11)

c. Conclusion (5:12-14)

E. Real Life Lessons from 1 Peter

1. Salvation Is a Work of God and Is Eternal.

2. Salvation Produces Holiness in Those Who Experience It.

3. Christians Witness to the World as They Endure Suffering.

4. Christ Showed Us How to Suffer with Dignity.

5. The Suffering Will Be Rewarded