



exiles

IN A FOREIGN LAND

THE LETTER OF FIRST PETER

Triumph that Follows Suffering

“A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so that I do not know for certainty what Peter means.”

-Martin Luther

Triumph that Follows Suffering

1. We don't build doctrines from hard to interpret passages.
2. What is the main point [theme] of the text [context]?
3. Keep the text with the theme. Keep the main thing the main thing. [What is Peter doing in this text?]

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4. What cross-references can you find?

Always interpret a text in light of the whole counsel [the whole teaching] of God.

5. Don't be dogmatic in your interpretation.

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Theme: Suffering for Righteousness
Sake

Message: Take heart, even though you may experience suffering, but because Jesus has triumphed over sin, death, Satan and every evil principality, you who are united to Him, will triumph too.

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This text works to substantiate our hope. Look to Jesus' death and resurrection and when you see what is happening there...then what do you have to fear?

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins,
the righteous for the unrighteous, that
he might bring us to God,

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Christ's suffering was ultimate suffering in that He died.

Christ's suffering was unique. He suffered once.

Christ's suffering had a purpose: He died for sins

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Christ's suffering was vicarious
[substitutionary]: the righteous for the
unrighteous

Christ's suffering was effective: that He
might bring us to God.

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Romans 1:3-4

concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey,

1 Peter 3:18-22

when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

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1. Christ preaching [the spirit of Christ] through Noah [a prophet] to those who lived while Noah was building the ark.

1 Peter 1:10-11

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

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2. OT saints who were disobedient and died and then were liberated by Christ between His death and resurrection.

Ephesians 4:8

Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.

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3. This text describes Christ's proclamation of victory and judgment over evil angelic spirits.

2 Peter 2:4-5

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;
⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others,

2 Peter 2:4-5

when he brought a flood upon the world
of the ungodly;

1 Peter 3:18-22

²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 3:18-22

²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Romans 6:3-4

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.