

Path to Hope: First Peter

Hope & Suffering



Victory Through and Over Suffering

The death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah (*Jesus Christ*) provides the greatest comfort for believers going through difficult times.

A. *The Believer's Hope: Jesus Christ* 3:18-22

Peter describes a fourfold ministry accomplished by the Savior that is the basis for our hope.

1. His death 3:18

- Suffering and death: Jesus was the 'just' suffering for us 'the unjust'. He was 'bringing us to God' [reconciliation].
- Made alive: His body experienced death and was laid in the tomb—who He was as Divine did not die. *Rev 1:18; 2:7*
- However he was separated for a time from the Father until He was 'made alive' in the Spirit and then announced the victory to the fallen angels in Sheol. (*See below*)

2. His journey to the spirit world 3:19–20

- Where did He go and why?
 - He went to the Old Testament Sheol
 - He announced His victory over Satan who had attempted to corrupt the seed of man in *Gen 6*
- When we die our spirit will join all the righteous in **paradise** [heaven] until the coming of the Lord when our bodies will be resurrected. *Luk 16:22-31; 23:43; 2 Cor 12:3-4; Rev 2:7* **This is our sure HOPE!**

3. His resurrection 3:21

- Water baptism is the outward symbol/sign of an inward condition. Water baptism (the act) does not save but repenting of sin and accepting Christ as savior does save—resulting in a good conscience.

4. His ascension and exaltation 3:22

- Our advocate in heaven: *1 John 2:1* Jesus Christ continues to make intercession for us as we live a life of repentance and obedience.

B. *Our Response: Arm Ourselves with Hope* 4:1-6

1. Our Armament 4:1 Thinking like Jesus thought! Having the mind of Christ *Phil 2:5-11*

- Sin loses its power: *4:1b-3* Suffering causes sin to lose its power. What is pictured here is the repentant life of a believer—walking in the power of the Spirit of Christ.

2. Our Witness 4:4–6:

- The unsaved around us wonder why we do not participate in a lifestyle that is not consistent with God's Word. At some point in time—all will stand before God.
- Our hope in Christ—should motivate us to godly living and witness for the purpose of keeping as many people out of eternal hell as possible.

1 Peter 3:18–22 (NKJV)

:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

:19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

:20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

:22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

1 Peter 4:1–6 (NKJV)

:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

:3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

:4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

:5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

:6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.