

Spirit guided.

Time- appointed period of grace, with the desire to participate.

The question being searched was how could an eternal God be involved in suffering. Revelation did not fully explain this to the O.T. prophets.

This passage teaches that the prophets had a clear understanding of the importance of inspiration- something treated very lightly by today's Christians.

Glory- the hope for believers that glory follows suffering as it did in the death and resurrection of Christ, Matt. 13:15, I Pet. 5:10.

Being an O.T. prophet made them ministers to future generations more than to themselves, Eph. 3:1-13.

IV. THE PRESENT UNDERSTANDING 1:12

To whom it was revealed- believers in this age who have understanding that was beyond the knowledge of earlier believers.

While the prophets understood that they were not writing for themselves, they did not know what group of people and at what time in the future they were writing for.

The Holy Spirit- The advent of the Holy Spirit and His actions in the lives of the first generation believers consequently demonstrated that the former revelations were now understandable and could be experienced.

Angels- the significance of this former mystery about revealed truth is shown by the extent of the secret, even the angels were curious but without information permitted to them.

SUMMARY

Peter's counsel to the early believers was to measure the extent of their sufferings in light of the eternal glory which would result from their faith under fire. Nothing short of understanding this will give a satisfactory explanation to current believers who are going through unusual difficulties.

Peter's counsel is: Eternity will reward all the injustice which occurs to God's children here on earth. Don't expect it before the rapture!

EXPOSITION OF FIRST PETER 1:13-21
A CALL TO HOLINESS (Christ our Example)

I. AN EXAMPLE OF A SERIOUS MIND, 1:13

1. The mind needs controls.
2. The mind needs serious thoughts.
3. The mind needs confidence.
4. The mind needs a basis for judgements.

II. AN EXAMPLE OF SELF-CONTROL, 1:14

1. Control is the result of obedience.
2. Control is the result of a changed nature.
3. Control is the result of new intelligence.

III. AN EXAMPLE OF HOLY BEHAVIOR, 1:15,16

1. Behavior is measured in mannerisms.
2. Behavior is measured in providence.

IV. AN EXAMPLE OF ETERNAL REWARDS, 1:17

1. Rewards are earned without prejudice.
2. Rewards are earned through effort.
3. Rewards are earned through a lifetime of respect.

V. AN EXAMPLE OF SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE, 1:18-19

1. This knowledge is based on redemption.
2. This knowledge is based on the blood of Christ.
3. This knowledge is based on truth rather than tradition.
4. This knowledge is based on Christ's perfection.

VI. AN EXAMPLE OF ETERNAL CONFIDENCE, 1:20-21

1. This confidence is providential.
2. This confidence is revealed in Christ.
3. This confidence is proven valid by the resurrection.
4. This confidence is firm in the Father.

EXPOSITION OF FIRST PETER 1:22-25
APPLICATION: NEW BIRTH
PRODUCES A NEW LIFE

I. THE EVIDENCE OF A NEW LIFE, 1:22

1. A love for other believers
2. A love which is unfeigned
 - A. Our word for hypocrite (un = not)
 - B. Play actor, plays the part of another
 - C. One who hides behind a mask
3. Two causes of hypocrisy
 - A. Returning to the unsaved world, desiring their friendship over the company of other believers, 4:3
 - B. Social status, "speaking down" regarding other believers as less important, degrading believers, 2:1
4. Love, "phileo", human attachment, similarity in character, from one heart to another for the pleasure of the other, a love one can have without God, proper love among classes, Holy Spirit works with this stage of life
5. Cause of returning to the world- not obeying God's Word
6. Purified = something settled in the past, now a habitual obedience to God and His Word
7. Love, "agape". See that you love with this "self sacrificing love, God's love, only available as produced by the Holy Spirit, a love for others because they are precious to God, rejoice in others' welfare, never jealous
8. Fervently= with an intense strain

II. THE SOURCE OF A NEW LIFE, 23

1. Result of a new birth
2. Not natural, rather, eternal and changeless
3. Available through the message of the eternal Word of God

III. THE CONTRAST, 24, 25

1. Flesh is temporary.
2. Flesh as a transitory glory
3. Flesh will wither and fall.
4. God's Word is eternal and enduring.
5. God's Word is the gospel which is to be proclaimed.

EXPOSITION OF FIRST PETER 2:1-3
DESIRE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH
(Moving toward Maturity)

I. MOVING TOWARD MATURITY IMPLIES A DESIRE OF SEPARATION
FROM NON CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR PATTERNS, 2:1

1. Separation is imperative (demanded by God).
2. Separation is imparted (by divine life).
3. Separation is immediate (once for all).
4. Malice = any kind of wickedness
5. Guile = "to catch with a bait"
6. Hypocrisies = to judge under by judging behind a screen, true identity is hidden, assuming the character of someone else
7. Evil speaking = "speaking down", defaming, slandering, against
8. Responsibility of every believer includes some negatives

II. MOVING TOWARD MATURITY INVOLVES A NEW BEGINNING, 2:2

1. Newborn = baby at the mother's breast
2. New Testament illustration, Luke 2:16- in manger
3. Old Testament illustration, Isaiah 28:9- at breast
4. New believers are pictured as just-born infants with an intense yearning for food.
5. Idea is that all believers should be as hungry for spiritual food as a new baby is for its mother's milk.
6. Sincere = with a desire for unadulterated truth, without change to God's Word
7. Milk is not pictured as simple food for new Christians, but rather as the trustworthy truth of God which produces growth.
8. Grow = resulting in progress in your Christian development
9. Notice: know, 1:18; grow, 2:2; show, 2:9
10. The yearning for God's Word puts sin out of our lives by filling it with spiritual desires.

III. MOVING TOWARD MATURITY INVOLVES A CERTAINTY, 2:3

1. If = a fulfilled condition
2. Tasted = to know that God's Word is excellent (gracious)

EXPOSITION OF FIRST PETER 2:4-8
CHRIST THE BASE FOR GROWTH
(Living Corner Stone)

(Growth in this paragraph is likened to the growth of a building. The shape and design of the building are a result of the right foundation and selected stones.)

I. CHRIST THE REJECTED STONE, 2:4

1. "Coming", close, habitual approach of intimate nature
2. "Living Stone", only Christ, title, no such thing exists in nature, a life giving stone, Matthew 16:18
3. "Disallowed", put to the test with no future testing needed, settled conclusion, men have disapproved the life giving stone, rejected by official examination.
4. "Chosen", elected and selected by God, the same stone Israel (mankind) has rejected God has held dear, honored "precious".

II. CHRIST THE LIFE GIVING STONE, 2:5

1. "Ye", by being in Christ, believers become also living, life giving stones by displaying and dispensing the gospel.
2. "Spiritual house", the mystical body of Christ, the church, Ephesians 1:22,23
3. "Holy priesthood", individual believers become their own priest with the right to approach God through Christ and without the authority of another earthly or heavenly being. If this distinctive doctrine is violated, it nullifies the gospel and presents Christ as deficient and in need of human help, thus not the chosen stone, but another act of disallowing. This doctrine is a test of orthodoxy!
4. Christians become the priesthood with the authority given to them to bring others, "spiritual sacrifices", to God through Jesus Christ. This is "acceptable", well pleasing to God.

III. CHRIST THE CORNER STONE, 2:6

1. Quote from Isaiah 28:16
2. Christ is the foundation upon which the church is built, as well as the chief corner stone from which the church takes all its directions.
3. "Elect", chosen out, selected by the Father, anything else is not qualified.
4. "Precious" held in high honor
5. "Not be confounded", not ever put to shame by any inefficiency in the stone.

IV. CHRIST THE SELECTED STONE, 2:7

1. "Precious", held in high honor by believers.
2. "Disobedient", disbelieving who are unable to see the perfection of the stone, Christ.
3. "Disallowed, builders", unsaved chose to reject the honored stone, God's sole Savior.
4. "Head of the corner", God gives all directions for the church in relationship to Christ and no one else.

V. CHRIST THE STUMBLING STONE, 2:8

1. "Stone of stumbling", a loose stone in the path which some choose to kick and strike against.
2. "Rock of offense", a ridge set up as a trap to cause one to trip, the "disobedient" choose to trip over Christ and to do so by scandalizing (word for stumble) the gospel and the Savior.
3. "Appointed", the unsaved can do only things which scandalize the Savior, this they are God-ordained to do. The penalty of rejecting God's stone, (Christ), permits only open denouncing of the Son. It is impossible to be an enemy and a friend at the same time.

EXPOSITION OF FIRST PETER 2:9-10
WORKING FOR GROWTH
(Praise as a Motive)

I. PRAISE IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF A PARTICULAR PRIESTHOOD, 9A

1. Ye = in contrast to the unsaved, disobedient of verse 8
2. Chosen = particular people chosen out of others, elect
3. Generation = a group of people with a common life and descent
(here used in a spiritual sense, believers)
4. Royal = king-priest vs. Levitical priest
5. Priest = king priest rather than just priest. Believers are priests after a different line; namely from Christ as the fulfillment of the Melchizedek, king priest.
6. Holy nation = a multitude of people of the same nature. Here the nature is a holiness (people set apart for the service of the deity (Lord)).
7. Peculiar = "to make around", surround something to denote ownership. Does not mean strange or odd, rather every believer is a unique person owned as private and personal property by the Lord.

II. PRAISE IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF A PRESENT POSSESSION, 9B

1. The purpose of being a possession of the Lord is clearly for making known the praise worthiness of the Lord.
2. Show forth = a phrase for something spoken, to publish abroad
(note progress; know 1:18; grow 2:2; show 2:9)
3. Praise = God's gracious and glorious attributes
4. Called = chosen out of others, for special purpose
5. Called out of a life of lost, sin into a life of light, salvation.

III. PRAISE IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF A PERSONAL PEOPLE, 10

1. In a lost condition we were not in special people status with God.
2. In a saved condition we are God's people on this earth.

3. The change is unmerited (grace) because of God's attribute (love) and the act of salvation is a benevolent act (mercy).
4. One of the differences between a saved and a lost person is that the lost has not received God's gift of forgiveness (mercy).

Working for growth (2:2) will result in praise for the Lord's goodness. It will be only from special people who are related to each other by their relationship to God. It is always demonstrated by a changed life (darkness to light).

EXPOSITION OF FIRST PETER 2:11-12
TESTIMONY: CHRISTIANS AS ALIENS

I. THE BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP TO PETER, 11A

1. Well worthy of their calling: 9
2. Beloved ones of God, loved-ones
3. Assured of Peter's love as well as God's.
4. Dispersed people, 1:1, may not be personally known by Peter, but loved in the Lord as fellow believers.
5. Application: we are accepted by being in the beloved (Christ)
Eph. 1:6. We are to obey the Lord on the basis of love.
6. I beseech = I beg of you please- Peter is writing, but takes the same attitude God takes.

II. THE BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD, 11B

1. Stranger = to have a home alongside of (but not part of)
2. Pilgrims = to settle down alongside of pagans (but not partake of)
3. No joining, no home
4. Resident aliens with citizenship in another country, heaven,
Hebrews 11:8-16
5. Often misunderstood

III. THE BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP TO HIS NATURE, 11C

1. Abstain = hold yourself constantly back from something
2. Fleshly lust = fallen nature, natural craving, strong desires which may be misused by the depraved nature
3. Description, Galatians 5:19 (context determines good or bad)
4. War = constant military campaign, to wear down
5. Soul = regenerated soul
6. Every believer's real battle is not with people but with his own passions which God placed within us.