

SUFFERING

Part A - From Disobedience

Part - B Suffering of Christ

Part C - Dealing With Suffering as a Christian

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Part A - From Disobedience

Exodus 3:7

Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,

How did God recognize Israel's suffering?

Leviticus 24:19-21

¹⁹ If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done it shall be done to him, ²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him. ²¹ Whoever kills an animal

shall make it good, and whoever kills a person shall be put to death.

How does this reflect choices that a person made?

Numbers 14:18

'The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.'

What is the consequence of sinning?

Deuteronomy 7:15

And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you knew, will he inflict on you, but he will lay them on all who hate you.

What was the consequence of hating God?

Isaiah 48:10

Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. **What did God have to do with His people?**

Nehemiah 9:27

Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies, [Assyria to Babylon] who made them suffer. And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies.

What leas to suffering at the hands of their enemies?

Lamentations 1:18

“The Lord is in the right, for I have rebelled against his word; but hear, all you peoples, and see my suffering; my young women and my young men have gone into captivity.

What was the result of rejecting the Word of God?

2 Peter 2:13

suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.

What was Peter saying here about the people?

Why did God punish his chosen people?

Part - B Suffering of Christ

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

What is the encouragement for us in this passage?

Isaiah 53:5

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

What does the promise of Christ bring to us?

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

What gives us a future and hope?

Jeremiah 30:17

For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, declares the Lord, because they have called you an outcast: ‘It is Zion, for whom no one cares!’

How beneficial would the suffering of Christ be?

Matthew 4:24

So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.

How important is the fact that Jesus had such compassion on people?

Mark 8:31

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

How we use this to teach people today?

Luke 9:22

Saying, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

Why was Christ rejected?

Luke 17:25

But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

Name something Christ suffered?

Luke 24:46

And said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,

How important is this prophesy?

Mark 9:12

And he said to them, “Elijah does come first to restore all things.

And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt?

Why was Christ treated with contempt?

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Why should we take heart?

Acts 1:3

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Describe some of the sufferings of Christ.

Acts 3:18

But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

Why was this so important?

Acts 17:3

Explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”

Why was it necessary for Christ to suffer?

Acts 26:23

That the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

What was the result of Christ suffering?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

What was the price with which we were bought?

2 Corinthians 1:5

For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

How do we share in Christ's suffering as well in comfort?

Hebrews 2:9-10

But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Who is the founder and how did he make salvation perfect?

Hebrews 2:18

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

How does the suffering of Christ help us?

What is the result of the suffering of Christ?

1 Peter 2:21

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

What was the example?

1 Peter 5:1

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:

Explain what was witnessed.

Explain the ways that the suffering of Christ contributed to our salvation?

Part C - Dealing With Suffering as a Christian

C Exodus 15:26

Saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer.”

Explain the key points of serving God faithfully and the result?

Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

How encouraging was God's relationship with this people?

Matthew 8:6

“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.”

How do we recognize the suffering of others?

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

How must we face tribulation?

Acts 5:41

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to

suffer dishonor for the name.

Why should we rejoice?

Acts 9:15-16

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him [Ananias] “Go, for he [Paul] is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

Why would even Paul expect to suffer?

Acts 28:8

It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.

Why was it that Paul could reduce suffering?

Romans 5:3-5

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

What does our suffering contribute to at this time.

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

What does suffering yield and why are we to suffer?

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

How do we help those who are suffering members and what they are enduring?

1 Corinthians 12:26

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

How do we support each other?

2 Corinthians 1:6-7

If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

How is it that we would share?

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

In times of tribulation what does God do for us and expect us to do?

2 Corinthians 1:8

For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly

burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. **How serious were the suffering of Paul and those with him?**

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

What encouragement is here?

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more

gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

How can there be perfection in weakness?

Ephesians 3:13

So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

How reassuring is Paul's remarks?

Philippians 1:29

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

What are some of the suffering we have and may experience?

Philippians 3:10

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

Explain this situation?

Colossians 1:24

Now I [Paul] rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,

What is Christ's regard for the church?

1 Thessalonians 3:4

For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.

What are we to suffer?

2 Thessalonians 1:5

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering

What is the reward of suffering?

2 Timothy 1:8

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,
Why should we not be ashamed?

2 Timothy 2:3

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

We may suffer no matter what?

2 Timothy 2:9

for which I [Paul] am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound!

How powerful is the word of God?

2 Timothy 3:11

my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

What can the Lord do?

2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

What persecution are we to experience?

2 Timothy 4:5

As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

How does one endure suffering?

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

As we face the economic situation, what happens to us?

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and

complete, lacking in nothing.

How can we work together in the face of trials?

James 5:13

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.

How are we to react to suffering?

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that

you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

How does Christ's suffering help us overcome trials?

1 Peter 5:9-10

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

What did early Christians experience that we may be facing?

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

What is the victory if we remain faithful?

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

What have we to look forward too?

What are the key points that will enable us to face trials that come our way and how can we encourage each other?
