

The Trial of our Faith (1 Peter)

5) Partakers of Christ's sufferings



Jesus "came down to Capernaum ... and entered into Simon's house" (Luke 4:31,38)

Disobedient spirits (1 Peter 3:20)

- Disobedient spirits spoke evil of Noah, and suffered the judgment of the Flood. When Christ came and preached, disobedient spirits spoke evil of him also – as they did afterwards of his followers. The generation that rejected and crucified Christ suffered judgment like Noah's contemporaries – and that is surely why the example of Noah's day is referred to in 1 Peter 3.
- See also Luke 17:26,27 – note Daniel 9:26.

Stephen's dying vision

- “He, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus **standing** on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man **standing** on the right hand of God” (Acts 7:55,56).
- An echo of Psalm 110:1 – Was the Lord seen **standing** by Stephen in preparation for his return?

Watch

- “Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh ... lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch” (Mark 13:35-37).

1 Peter and Daniel (4)

- “Be ready always to give an answer”: Gk. *apologia* – a verbal defence (1 Peter 3:15).
- “Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?” (Dan. 3:15).
- “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, *answered ...*”

Salvation – past, present & future

- Past: “[God] *hath saved us*, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace” (2 Tim. 1:9).
- Present: “Moreover, brethren, I make known unto you the joyful message, which I myself announced to you, which also ye received, in which also ye stand; through which also ye are *being saved*, – if ye hold fast ...” (1 Cor. 15:1,2).
- Future: “He that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matt. 10:22; contrast Mark 4:17).

“If any man suffer as a Christian ...”

- This name only occurs three times in the New Testament. It seems it was first given by Gentiles (Acts 11:26).
- The name was later used by King Agrippa in scorn (Acts 26:28). Peter clearly has the unfriendly use of the name in mind here in 1 Peter 4:16.
- Perhaps the apostle is reflecting on his own experience (Matt. 26:74,75).

The House of God – 1 Peter 4:17 (1)

■ “The time is come” – cp. verse 7. The Mosaic age was about to end. Persecution would intensify after AD 64 (the Fire of Rome), being sponsored by the Roman authorities.



*The Torches
of Nero, by
Henryk
Siemiradzki*

The House of God – 1 Peter 4:17 (2)

- “The house of God” – cp. 2:5, “A spiritual house” (note also Num. 12:7; Hos. 8:1; 1Tim. 3:15).
- The Greek preposition “at” is far more often translated as “from”.

The House of God – 1 Peter 4:17 (3)

- “It is the time of the beginning of the judgment *from* the house of God.”
(*Young’s Literal Translation*)
- “The season is coming for the judgment to begin *from* the house of God.” (*Diaglott*)

God's judgment falls ...

- First on the Household
- Then it spreads to Israel
- Finally to the world at large

The prophets suggest this will be the pattern in the age to come.