

I Peter

(14) Fiery Trials

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 1 Peter 4:12, NAS

Godly responding to unjust suffering...IPet.4:12-19

What's the basic message in 4:12? 1:7; ICor.10:13; IThess.3:2-4

Beloved, don't be astonished at the fiery testing coming on you. How relevant for us...

What is the root meaning of 'fiery ordeal'?

It means to test, refine in a furnace. Driven by Satan, allowed by the Lord.

When suffering because of the name of Christ, what should be our attitude? 4:13,16; James 1:2

Rejoice! that you are allowed to share in the sufferings of Christ! Ultimate glory!

What is the not-so-obvious truth when such persecution happens? 4:14; Lu.6:22-23

If it's because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, the Spirit of God rests on you!

What's one type of suffering a Christian should never have? 4:15; 2:20; Mt.5:11

Not genuinely deserved as a murderer, thief, any kind of criminal, or even a meddler.

It's time for judgment to begin. But where does it start? 4:17; **Ez.9:1-6** see:9:3,10:4,18;11:22-23

Judgment starts with the family (household) of God. That's the pattern in Scripture.

For believers, judgment is for discipline/purification. But what about unbelievers? 4:17-18

For unbelievers, judgment is vengeance/wrath. For believers it's for our benefit/glory.

Peter's summary of this passage? 4:19 see **Ps.31**

Believers should commit themselves to their faithful God and continue to do good!!

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, 1 Peter 5:1-2, NIV

Admonition to the shepherds of the flock...IPet.5:1-4

Peter now shifts his exhortations to whom? 5:1; **ITim.3:1-7**

To the elders among them. Those who's gifts/responsibilities are as under-shepherds.

What is the admonition to the elders? 5:2; ICor.9:16-17

Be eager/willing to serve as shepherds, overseers of God's flock under your care.

How is this shepherding/overseeing to be done? 5:3 see **Ez.34:1-6**

Not dominating/ruling but as an example to the flock. Remember, it's His heritage!!

What is the promise of 5:4? ICor.9:24-25

When the Chief Shepherd (Christ) appears, elders receive crown of glory for vs.2-3 service