

# 1 Peter Part 4 – The Foundation of Suffering – Summary & Study Guide – March 15, 2026

## Summary

This teaching examines the **theological themes of 1 Peter**, specifically focusing on the **purpose of suffering** as a divine tool for spiritual refinement. The author argues that **salvation is a future event** to be fully attained at Christ's return rather than a past achievement, necessitating a life of **steadfast obedience and holiness**. Through an analytical study of the first nine verses, the text highlights how believers are **born anew into a living hope** and protected by God's power despite enduring various trials. It emphasizes that **Jesus Christ's current role as High Priest** is essential for ongoing forgiveness and the ultimate delivery of an **imperishable heavenly inheritance**. Ultimately, the teaching encourages followers to **rejoice in their hardships**, viewing them as temporary measures that prove the authenticity of their faith.

## Study Guide

This study guide provides a comprehensive analysis of the teaching "Part 4: From Sea to Kingdom Come," focusing on the introductory sections of **1 Peter**.

### I. Definitions of Key Words

- **Orthodox Approach:** Maintaining the **authenticity and integrity** of the scriptural text throughout the study.
- **Exegetical Approach:** Derived from the Greek *exēgeisthai*, this means extracting meanings **directly from the text alone** rather than imposing outside ideas. This often involves a verse-by-verse analysis.
- **Critical Approach:** Applying **sound logic and analytical investigation** to the words to make sound judgments based on the nature and purpose of the text.
- **Anagennao (Born Anew):** A Greek term meaning to **beget into a new life**. In 1 Peter, it refers to walking in a new mindset and obedience, distinct from the term used in John 3 regarding resurrection.
- **Aliens/Strangers:** Metaphorical terms for Christians who live in the world as **foreigners**, as their true homeland is the future kingdom established on earth.
- **Dispersion:** Historically referring to Jews scattered outside of Israel, Peter applies this phrase to **all Christians** living outside of Palestine.
- **The Elect/Chosen:** Those picked according to the **foreknowledge of God** to walk in obedience.

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### II. Expansion of Key Points

#### 1. The Framework of Suffering: The "Three Ps"

The study of 1 Peter is structured around three primary themes regarding suffering:

- **The Purpose of Suffering:** Covered in 1 Peter 1:1 through 2:12.
- **The Place of Suffering:** Found in 1 Peter 2:13 through 3:7.
- **The Practice of Suffering:** Detailed in 1 Peter 3:8 through 5:14.

## 2. The Divine Nature of Maturity and Suffering

- **Maturity is a Prerogative of God:** Spiritual maturity is not defined by academic degrees or "letters after a name," as seen with Peter and John in **Acts 4:13**, their **maturity** was derived from **being with Jesus**.
- **Suffering as a Sovereign Method:** Suffering is not coincidental; it was the **divinely sovereign pathway** through which Jesus fulfilled his mission. Jesus was made perfect (suited for his role) through suffering, which completed his office as the author of salvation.

## 3. Christ's Ongoing Office

While the sacrificial payment for sin was **perfectly finished on the cross**, Jesus continues to officiate as our **Great High Priest** in the present tense for the ongoing forgiveness of sins **ONLY** for His called and chosen people. This office is a critical, yet often overlooked, aspect of salvation.

## 4. Six Specifics of 1 Peter Chapter 1

The Apostle Peter establishes a structured scene for his epistle through six points:

1. **Election:** Believers are chosen for obedience.
2. **Living Hope:** They have an incorruptible inheritance reserved in heaven.
3. **Privileged Knowledge:** They understand truths that even prophets of old did not fully grasp, as it was never revealed to them..
4. **Perseverance:** Encouragement to remain faithful despite trials.
5. **Holiness and Love:** A duty to love the brethren fervently and remain holy (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).
6. **The Eternal Word:** While man is like grass that withers, the **Word of the Lord endures forever**.

## 5. The Future Nature of Salvation

The sources emphasize that salvation is frequently misunderstood as a past event.

- **To be Obtained:** Salvation is a **future event** to be obtained following the judgment seat of Christ after His return.
- **Revealed in the Last Time:** **1 Peter 1:5** states salvation is "ready to be revealed in the last time".
- **The Outcome of Faith:** Salvation is the **end result** of a walk of faith and perseverance, not something provided "upfront".

## 6. Refining Faith through Trials

Trials serve as a **refining fire**, similar to the process used for gold. This testing is necessary to reveal the **true nature of a person's faith**, resulting in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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### III. Study Questions

1. What are the "Three Ps" Peter uses to structure his teaching on suffering, and where is each found in the text?
  2. How does the source distinguish between the sacrificial work on the cross and Jesus' current office?
  3. According to the text, what is the "Gospel message"?
  4. How does the Greek word *Anageno* (1 Peter) differ in meaning from *Anathan* (John 3), according to the teacher?
  5. Why is the "Living Hope" described as being "through the resurrection"?
  6. Explain the analogy of gold in **1 Peter 1:7** regarding the testing of faith.
  7. Is salvation considered a past, present, or future event in this teaching? Provide evidence.
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### IV. Answer Key

1. **The Three Ps:** Purpose (1:1-2:12), Place (2:13-3:7), and Practice (3:8-5:14).
  2. **Sacrifice vs. Office:** The sacrifice for sin was finished perfectly on the cross, but Jesus currently officiates as the **Great High Priest** for the ongoing forgiveness of sins for his people as and when they repent of their sins..
  3. **The Gospel Message:** Christ reclaiming the earth and establishing his **righteous rule/kingdom on earth**.
  4. **Anagennao vs. Anothēn:** *Anagennao* refers to being begat into a new life/mindset and obedience. *Anothēn* (in John 3) refers specifically to **resurrection**.
  5. **Living Hope:** It is a hope made possible only because of Jesus' resurrection, which ensures the future resurrection, and gathering together of His people who are His chosen.
  6. **Gold Analogy:** Just as gold is heated to skim off fragments and impurities, trials act as a refining fire to prove the **true quality of faith**.
  7. **Future Salvation:** It is primarily a **future event**. The text cites **1 Peter 1:5** ("ready to be revealed in the last time") and **1 Peter 1:9** ("obtaining as the outcome... salvation"), noting that we are "being saved" continually as we walk in obedience, but the final result follows the judgment seat of Christ.
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### V. Biblical References Found in Sources

- **Psalm 73:** Attributed to Asaph; deals with the principle of retribution.
- **Ezekiel 36-37:** Context for the terminology used by Jesus in His conversation with Nicodemus.
- **Matthew, Mark, Luke, John:** The Gospel records.
- **John 3 (specifically 3:3, 3:7):** Jesus and Nicodemus; use of the word *Anothēn*.
- **Acts 4:13:** Peter and John's wisdom despite lacking formal letters/degrees.

- **1 Corinthians 15:35-49:** Nature of the resurrected spiritual body.
- **1 Corinthians 15:52:** The "indivisible moment" (*atomo*) of change/judgment.
- **Colossians 1:5:** Hope laid up in heaven.
- **Hebrews 1:** Guardian angels protecting the chosen.
- **Hebrews 2:11:** Christ not ashamed to call the sanctified "brethren".
- **1 Timothy 6:13-16:** God as the only one who is truly immortal.
- **1 Peter 1:1-12:** The opening address and the "long Greek sentence".
- **1 Peter 1:15-16:** The call to be holy.
- **1 Peter 1:18:** Context for Jewish background.
- **1 Peter 2:9-10:** Jewish language; being a chosen people.
- **1 Peter 2:12-13:** Transitions into the "place of suffering".
- **1 Peter 3:6-8:** Transition into the "practice of suffering".
- **1 Peter 3:21:** Reference back to the resurrection.
- **1 Peter 4:3:** Reference to background of recipients.
- **1 Peter 5:14:** Closing of the sections on suffering.

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## VI. Exhortations

- **Focus on the Temporary:** Always remember that while suffering is part of God's purpose for refining, it is **temporary**. Look beyond the trial to the **great hope of the inheritance** to come.
- **Embrace the "Born Anew" Mindset:** Ensure you are making the necessary changes in your life. Being "born anew" is evidenced by a **new desire and perspective** that leads to active obedience.
- **Maintain the Living Hope:** Burn the words "Living Hope" into your heart. Let this hope be the fuel that allows you to **greatly rejoice** even when you are simultaneously sorrowful due to trials.
- **Live a Life Intolerant to Sin:** A life of faith is a life of obedience. Strive for a **holy life** that does not tolerate sin, recognizing that this walk of faith is what leads to the final outcome of salvation.

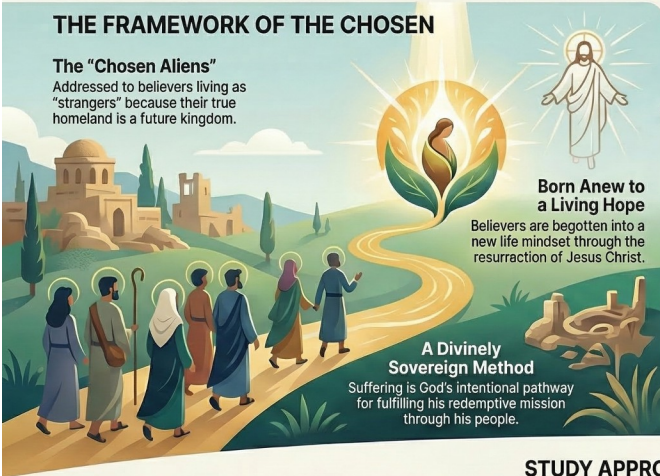
# The Divine Purpose of Suffering: Insights from 1 Peter

Exploring suffering not as coincidence, but as a divinely sovereign pathway maturing believers and preparing them for an imperishable heavenly inheritance, based on 1 Peter 1:1-9.

## THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CHOSEN

### The "Chosen Aliens"

Addressed to believers living as "strangers" because their true homeland is a future kingdom.



### Born Anew to a Living Hope

Believers are begotten into a new life mindset through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### A Divinely Sovereign Method

Suffering is God's intentional pathway for fulfilling his redemptive mission through his people.

## THE REFINING POWER OF TRIALS

### Faith Tested by Fire

Like gold refined by heat, trials reveal and purify the true nature of faith.



### A Future-Tense Salvation

Salvation is an outcome to be obtained at Christ's return, not a past event.

### Joy Amidst Sorrow

Believers can "greatly rejoice" in their inheritance even while being distressed by various trials.

## STUDY APPROACH (1 PETER)



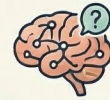
### Orthodox

Maintaining the authenticity and integrity of the scripture.



### Exegetical

Deriving meaning from the text itself, verse-by-verse.



### Critical

Applying sound logic and analytical investigation to the word.