

# 1 Peter Part 8 – The Foundation of Suffering – Conduct During Suffering – Christ’s Example of Suffering – Summary & Study Guide – April 9, 2026

## Summary

This teaching explores the **biblical concept of suffering** through the lens of Jesus Christ’s example as presented in **1 Peter**. The text emphasizes that Christ serves as a **divine pattern for endurance**, highlighting how his physical death and spiritual vindication offer believers a **living hope** in the face of trials. A central theme is the **distinction between the natural flesh and the spiritual life**, noting that true deliverance and exaltation are reserved for the **resurrection** rather than the present age. The speaker clarifies Christ's current role as a **great high priest** rather than a reigning king, suggesting that his full authority over the earth is a **future event**. Consequently, believers are encouraged to **arm themselves with a willingness to suffer**, turning away from worldly desires to live according to the **will of God**. Ultimately, the passage frames **water baptism** as a symbolic appeal for a good conscience and a public commitment to **union with Christ**.

## Study Guide

This study guide is designed to analyze 1 Peter 3:18–4:6, focusing on the **practice of suffering** as modeled by Jesus Christ. It explores Christ's current office, the nature of salvation, the theological significance of baptism, and the believer's call to arm themselves with a willingness to suffer.

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## Definitions of Key Words

- **Apo:** A Greek term meaning "out from," often illustrated as a circle with an arrow pointing from the center to the outside; used in the context of Jesus saving His people *from* their sins.
  - **All with Distinction:** The interpretation that "all" refers to a specific group (those whom He calls) rather than every human being without exception.
  - **All without exception:** refers to every single individual within a category with no omissions.
  - **Greek Period:** A long, syntactically complete sentence or carefully constructed paragraph packed into one sentence for rhetorical impact, as seen in 1 Peter 3:18–22.
  - **Causal Conjunction:** A word (like "for" or "because") that indicates a cause for a preceding remark.
  - **Antitype:** The fulfillment or greater reality of an earlier symbol, person, or event (the "type") found in the Hebrew scriptures.
  - **Mysticism:** In this context, the "devious delusion" of believing one is already living in a "spiritual" post-resurrection state while still in the natural flesh.
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## Expansion of Key Points

### 1. The Pattern and Purpose of Christ's Suffering

The series is structured around the "**Three Ps**" in Peter: the **Purpose**, the **Place**, and the **Practice** of suffering. Christ's suffering (1 Peter 3:18) serves as the anchor and central theme for the section. He died "once for all"—the **just for the unjust**—to bring believers to God.

- **Key Concept:** Death to sin is an **ongoing battle** in the flesh, not a one-time event.
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 Peter 3:18; Matthew 1:21.

### 2. The Current and Future Offices of Jesus Christ

Jesus is currently exalted to the office of **Great High Priest** in the heavenly tabernacle, seated at God's right hand.

- **High Priest vs. King:** While He will absolutely be King, He is **not King yet** because He has not yet been given His earthly kingdom to reign over with His called.
- **The "Not Yet":** Though some powers (angels, authorities) are subjected to Him at this time, the term "**not yet**" qualifies that all things will be under His full authority and under His feet in the future (Hebrews 2:8).
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 2:5–8; 1 Corinthians 15.

### 3. Flesh vs. Spirit and the Hope of Resurrection

Peter uses contrasting terms: **flesh** (Christ's earthly life before the crucifixion) and **spirit** (His post-resurrection life).

- **The Gospel Requirement:** The resurrection is **compulsory** to the gospel; without it, there is no victorious message.
- **Deliverance:** Believers should not expect total deliverance *before* the resurrection. The hope of the resurrection is what allows a believer to maintain a **good conscience** and make a defense with gentleness.
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:42; 1 Peter 1:3.

### 4. Baptism as an Antitype

Baptism is an **antitype** of the eight persons saved through water in Noah's day.

- **True Meaning:** It is not the removal of physical dirt but an **appeal to God for a good conscience**.
- **Symbolism:** It represents **union with Christ**, death to sin, and resurrection to a new life-born anew.
- **Biblical Reference:** 1 Peter 3:20–21.

### 5. Arming Oneself for Suffering and Changing Course

Believers are exhorted to "arm yourselves" with the same purpose as Christ—a **willingness to suffer**.

- **The Course of the World:** Satan is described as the "skipper" directing and steering the course of the world toward sensuality and idolatry.
  - **Repentance:** Entering the Kingdom requires a **major course adjustment** (repentance) away from the "excesses of dissipation" common in the Gentile world.
  - **Biblical Reference:** 1 Peter 4:1–4; 2 Corinthians 4:4.
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### Study Questions

1. How does the term "all with distinction" change the understanding of 1 Peter 3:18?
  2. According to the teaching, why is it essential that Jesus was a man rather than an angel or God the creator?
  3. What is the current primary role of Jesus in the "heavenly tabernacle," and why is this role vital for believers who still fall into sin?
  4. Explain the significance of the phrase "not yet" in the context of Christ's reign and Hebrews 2:8.
  5. Why does the speaker label the belief that we are currently "spiritual" as "mysticism" or a "devious delusion"?
  6. What does water baptism represent if it is not the act of the water itself that saves?
  7. What is the "same purpose" believers are told to arm themselves with in 1 Peter 4:1?
  8. According to 1 Peter 4:6, what is the purpose of the gospel being preached to those who are now dead?
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### Answer Key

1. "**All with distinction**" means Christ died for a specific group (those whom He calls) to bring them to God, rather than every person without exception (the error of universalism).
2. It is essential because He had to be man **tempted in all ways** that humans are tempted to effectively serve as a Great High Priest (stipulated by God as having to be a man) who can make propitiation for our sins.
3. His primary role is **Great High Priest**. It is vital because He intercedes for our **ongoing sins**, allowing for continued repentance and confession in the present tense.
4. "**Not yet**" signifies that while Christ has authority, we do not yet see all things (like the world's systems or total righteousness) in practical subjection to Him; this awaits His future crowning as King.
5. Because 1 Corinthians 15 teaches "**first the natural, then the spiritual.**" Believers are currently in the natural/fleshly state; thinking otherwise leads to judging others based on subjective feelings rather than scripture.
6. It represents **union with Christ**, the commitment to die to sin, and the hope of being raised to a new life and walk of righteousness.
7. A **willingness to suffer** in the flesh, following Christ's example.

8. So that although they were judged/persecuted in the flesh while alive, they might **live in the spirit** according to the will of God.
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### Complete List of Biblical References in Sources

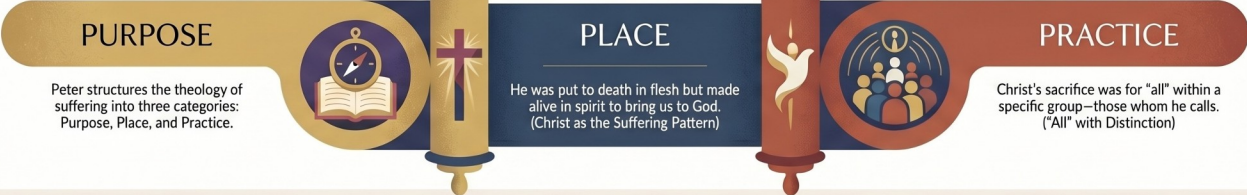
- **1 Peter 3:18–22:** Christ's suffering, preaching to spirits, Noah, and baptism.
  - **1 Peter 4:1–6:** Arming for suffering, ceasing from sin, and the judgment of the living and dead.
  - **Matthew 1:21:** Jesus saving His people from their sins.
  - **1 Corinthians 15:** The timeline of subjection and the natural vs. spiritual body.
  - **Hebrews 2:5–8:** All things being put in subjection under His feet.
  - **1 Timothy 3:16:** The mystery of godliness: revealed in the flesh, vindicated in spirit.
  - **Jude 6:** Reference to imprisoned spirits/angels.
  - **1 Peter 1:3:** The living hope and resurrection.
  - **2 Corinthians 4:4:** Satan being the god of this world blinding the minds of the unbelieving to the gospel.
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### Exhortations

- **Maintain a Good Conscience:** Do not look for total relief from suffering *before* the resurrection. Your ability to remain gentle and firm in your defense of the faith depends on your **conviction to the hope of the resurrection.**
- **Arm Yourself:** Recognize that a **willingness to suffer** is not optional; it is the "weaponry" needed to cease from sin and live for the will of God.
- **Trust the Compass:** The world is blinded by a false "skipper." **Trust the scripture** as your compass to ensure you stay on the correct course toward the Kingdom of God, even when the "ocean" of life makes it hard to see your progress.
- **Prioritize Holiness:** Do not get bogged down in scriptural mysteries that do not help you walk a **holier life.** Our priority is preparing for the judgment seat of Christ by focusing on what we did with the truth we were given.

# THE PRACTICE OF SUFFERING: CHRIST AS HIGH PRIEST AND FUTURE KING

## THE THREE Ps OF PETER



### CURRENT STATUS (HIGH PRIEST)



**PRIMARY ROLE:  
MAKING PROPITIATION**

Jesus is presently exalted as High Priest, making propitiation for our ongoing sins.

## THE "NOT YET" KINGDOM

NOT

YET

**LOCATION:  
HEAVENLY TABERNACLE**



**PRIMARY ROLE:  
RULING OVER ALL**



### FUTURE STATUS (KING)



**LOCATION: EARTHLY KINGDOM**

Jesus will rule as King only when his kingdom comes in full apocalyptic form.

While angels are subject to him, we do not yet see all things under his feet. (THE "NOT YET" AUTHORITY)