



The Suffering and Salvation of Jesus

October 26, 2025

The Context:

- Peter is writing to Christians scattered across the world about how they are to live and serve faithfully even though many of them are **suffering** and being **persecuted** for their faith.
- He points them to **Jesus** as One who suffered for a very particular reason and who had already triumphed over every power, circumstance, and even death itself.
- Because of Christ's victory, you and I can live, suffer, die, and be resurrected to eternity with God. I can do **nothing** to accomplish this. Jesus has done **all** that is necessary for it.

The Importance of the Main Thing: There are 2 secondary matters in the text that are important and fascinating. Don't let your pursuit of understanding the secondary get in the way of grasping the primary! The primary teaching is that **Christ died to bring us to God**.

The Big Idea: The ultimate solution to enduring hardships and suffering of this world is found in Christ. He suffered, died, and **defeated** all that seeks to **destroy** us, through His resurrection. Have you bowed before Jesus and trust Him as your Savior, Lord, and King?

1 Peter 3:18-22 (ESV)

3 ¹⁸For **Christ** also **suffered** **once** **for** **sins**, the righteous for the unrighteous, **that** he might **bring us to God**, being **put to death** in the flesh but **made alive** in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and **proclaimed to the spirits in prison**, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹**Baptism, which corresponds to this**, now **saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²**who has gone into heaven** and is **at the right hand of God**, with angels, authorities, and powers **having been subjected to him**.

Questions this Scripture Raises:

1. Why did Jesus, the only perfect, good, and innocent man to ever live suffer and die? (v. 18)
2. Who are the "spirits in prison" that Jesus went to? (vv. 19-20)
3. Does Peter teach "baptismal regeneration"? (vv. 20-22)

✓ 3 Views of the Identity of the "spirits in prison"?

- Jesus, upon His death on the Cross, went to the faithful of God who died **before** the Cross, to assure them that their salvation through faith in God had been secured.
- Jesus preached (through **Noah**) to those in Noah's day who died in the flood as judgement for their unrepentant hearts and grave sin.
- Jesus descended into the depths of the earth to preach to the spiritual beings (angels who had rebelled against God) and are being held captive until their final judgement. Jesus came to them, **not** to give them opportunity for 'another chance', but to announce His victory and the completion of the Father's plan for salvation of men. [2 Peter 2:4]

✓ Salvation and Baptism

- Use scripture to interpret scripture. Peter brings baptism into his letter because the Ark in which Noah found salvation from the waters reminded him of our baptism.
- If Peter believed baptism is what God uses to wash away our sins ...

Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 5:42; 1 Peter 1:3

- The early church likely told the story of Noah and the Ark at baptisms. Those who ran to God and into the Ark were saved. Now, those who run to Christ and who confess their faith through baptism are saved.

✓ Why Did Jesus Suffer and Die on the Cross?

- "for sins", but not **His** own but **ours**.
- "that He might bring us to God"
- In Jesus death and resurrection He won **victory** over Satan and his demons, over sin, and over death itself. He is the victorious and eternally reigning King. **Have you come to Him and trusted Him for your salvation?**

1 Peter 3:22; Hebrews 10:12; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:27-28