

ENDURANCE UNDER UNDESERVED SUFFERING

I want us to think about what James is meaning, not just what he is saying.

(2 Pet.3:16) ¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Paul reminds us that two things are inseparably linked in the Christian way of Life:

(Phil.1:29) “**For to you** it has been granted **for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake** (Undeserved Suffering).”

What is one of James’ intentions by what he is teaching us in our lesson text? _____

James gave two examples of Undeserved Suffering from the Old Testament. We will study (Jas.5:10) this week and next week we will study (Jas.5:11) to glean James’ intentions.

(Jas.5:10-11) ¹⁰ As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is* merciful.

- In (Jas.5:10), James gave the example of Undeserved Suffering of the Old Testament prophets.
- In (Jas.5:11), he gave the Old Testament example of the Undeserved Suffering of Job.

1. James prepared us for this lesson in (Jas.1:2-4)

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing the **testing of your faith produces endurance**. And let **endurance have its perfect result**, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

The issue before us today, regarding Undeserved Suffering, is NOT the testing of our LIVES, but the testing of our FAITH (Rom.10:17). All Undeserved Suffering is directed towards our faith (Jas.1:2-4).

2. The reward for endurance under Undeserved Suffering is given by James in (Jas.1:12)

“**Blessed** is a man (believer) **who perseveres** under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the **CROWN OF LIFE** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

One who perseveres is described by Paul as the one who fights the good fight of faith and finishes the course by faith. One who has kept the faith in time, receiving in the future a **second crown** having love Him beyond their own life – the **CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

(2 Tim.4:7-8) ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

3. James' first example of Undeserved Suffering was the Old Testament prophets.

Jesus taught Undeserved Suffering of the Old Testament prophets in a similar way in (Matt.5:12; 23:29-39; 21:33-46) [the parable of the landowner].

James earmarked which prophets in (Jas.5:10) - “who (hos/ nplm) **spoke** (laleo/ a.a.ind.3pl) in the name of the Lord Christ” which resulted in - “suffering (kakopatheia) [evil afflictions] and patience (tes makrothumia) [long suffering].”

We will mention just six points regarding our choice of Jeremiah.

- Jeremiah was known as the **prophet of doom** because he preached the coming of the five cycles of divine judgment upon Israel (Lev.26; Deut.28; 2 Chron.36:21). Jeremiah denounced sin and pronounced salvation or judgment.
- Jeremiah was known as the **weeping prophet** because his people lacked interest in the word of God for life and the need for repentance regarding it (Jer.9:1; 13:17; 23:9). Jesus preached the same message to Israel (Matt.23:37-39).
- Jeremiah was known as a **reformer prophet** by his leadership in King Josiah's national reformation (2 Chron.35:25). Later he was harshly persecuted for it (Jer.11:18-23) [In his hometown] (Matt.13:54-57) [Jesus].
- Jeremiah wrote about the coming of **the Messianic New Covenant** (Jer.31:27-34) (Heb.8:7-13); (Luke 22:20); (1 Cor.11:25); (2 Cor.3:6).
- Jeremiah wrote about the messianic importance of the **Curse of Coniah** (Jer.22:24-30).

Many theologians think that Jeremiah was mention in (Heb.11:37) (“They were stoned.”) and Zechariah for the sake of Christ in (Luke 11:50-51) and (2 Chron24:20-21) [SEE the Introduction notes to the Book of Jeremiah].