

FIERY ORDEALS

I PETER 4:12-19

BACKGROUND: Our previous lesson taught us the urgency of being ready to meet Jesus. In this lesson we look at the word *happened* in relation to our trials in the process. “The word *happened* is important; it means ‘to go together.’ Persecution and trials do not just ‘happen,’ in the sense of being accidents, They are part of God’s plan, and He is in control. They are a part of Romans 8:28 and will work out for good if we let God have His way.” Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, New Testament, Volume II, p. 424.

HAPPEN TO TEST YOU. As a believer, your suffering refines your faith. When you suffer, you are not alone. You join with Christ in how He suffered. Rejoice now and look forward to great reward. (I Peter 4:12-13, I Peter 1:6-7, fn 1:6-7, James 1:2-3, fn 1:2-3, Hebrews 10:32-35, fn 10:32-36, Romans 5:1-5, fn 5:3-4) *How are your trials as a believer beneficial to you?*

HAPPEN TO BLESS YOU. When you suffer because you are a believer and are not loved or respected by others, the Lord will bless you abundantly with the knowledge of His presence if you trust Him. His presence will assure you that “the Spirit of glory and of God” rests on you. (I Peter 4:14-18, fn 4:16, fn 4:17-18, I Peter 5:10, fn 5:10, John 15:18-26, fn 15:26[1st], fn 15:26[2nd], Luke 6:22-23, fn 6:20-23, Matthew 5:10-12, fn 5:11-12) *What should you keep in mind before you suffer?*

HAPPEN FOR YOU TO ENTRUST. “The image of entrusting appears frequently in the NT... including that of entrusting people to God...In our context one is handing over one’s most valuable possession, one’s very self, to God.” Peter H. Davids, The New International Commentary on the New Testament; The First Epistle of Peter, p. 173. (I Peter 4:19, fn 4:19, John 10:27-30, fn 10:28-29, II Timothy 1:12, fn 1:12[1st]. Romans 8:28-39, fn 8:35-39, Mark 8:34-35, fn 8:35) *Explain whose life is your life. Why is that necessary for you at this moment in time?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

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