

The Kings of Israel



You Are What You Are – 1 Peter 1:3 – 12

Sermon Discussion Guide

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New Life
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STUDY NOTES

New birth (1:3). When people accept Jesus as their Savior, something so radical happens that they can be said to be reborn into a whole new life.

A living hope (1:3). This is the first thing new birth brings. Specifically, here, there is hope in that one day when Christ comes again, they will experience the full fruit of salvation.

Shielded (1:5). Not only is the inheritance guarded and immune to disaster, but so too are the Christians for whom it exists.

For a little while you may have had to suffer (1:6). By these two clauses, Peter gives perspective to their suffering. First, it will be temporary. Second, such trials are circumstantial, perhaps even necessary (“you may have had to”).

In his Sunday message, Matt shared an important truth: While we often are what we are based on past experiences, our past experiences don’t have to determine our future.

For we, as Christians, have a future hope – a living hope – that has the power to transform our lives instead of allowing our past to set our future course. In this lesson, we will discover that our past isn’t the only factor that determines our future.

1. If you knew you were about to enter a difficult set of circumstances that would alter your life in the present and for the future, how would you prepare yourself?

Read 1 Peter 1:3 – 12.

2. What does Peter want his readers to focus on in verses 3 – 6? Does he ask them to deny their past pain and suffering? Explain.
3. What benefit is there in having difficult circumstances in the past? (1:7)
4. How has the suffering and pain you’ve been through strengthened and refined your faith?
5. What is the goal of your faith? (1:5 – 9)
6. How does the future, as Peter describes it here, offer you hope from your past pain and suffering whether you created it or not?

STUDY NOTES

Why Christians suffered under Roman rule (1:6). 1)

They refused to worship the emperor as a god and thus were viewed as atheists and traitors. 2) They refused to worship at pagan temples so business for these moneymaking enterprises dropped wherever Christianity took hold. 3) They didn't support the Roman ideals of self, power, and conquest; and the Romans scorned the Christian ideal of self-sacrificing service. 4) They exposed and rejected the horrible immorality of pagan culture.

Though you have not seen him (1:8 – 9). Jesus had said to his disciple Thomas, who came to believe after touching the resurrected Christ: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (John 20:29). Peter having heard those words, repeats them here.

The Spirit of Christ (1:11).

This is another name for the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus left his ministry on earth to return to heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, to teach, help, and guide his followers (John 14:15 – 17, 26; 16:7).

7. Peter complimented his readers because they believed in Jesus and loved him – even though they had not seen him. (1:7 – 9) What questions do you think people today have to cope with because they have not personally seen Jesus?
8. How have you coped with those questions?
9. How do these two additional passages, which Matt shared, give us further hope that as Christians our past does not shape our future outcome?
 - Ezekiel 36:26
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17
10. What can you do this week to welcome the present pain, suffering or difficult circumstances in your life as look towards the future?