

6. What time reference does Peter make in verse 6? Keeping that phrase in mind, what observations can you make about trials and their duration? See also 1 Pet. 5:10.

7. There is a little phrase in the midst of verse 6 that can get passed over if we are not careful to observe it. It is *if necessary*, which can also be translated *if need be* or *if God should will it so*. This little phrase implies the sovereign plan of God at work in the lives of believers, which leads us to verse 7. Why did God allow these trials to come upon the Christians according to verse 7?

8. What comfort do you gain knowing that God *allows* and even *crafts* these trials for a purpose in your life?

9. Let's begin to build a short Biblical definition of trials and their purpose in the lives of believers. Summarize what you learn from the following verses: Ps. 31:7; 34:19; 2 Cor. 1:3-5; 4:17; James 1:2, 12; 1 Pet. 4:12, 19.

10. What kind of faith do believers possess according to verse 7?

11. Look up the following verses to discover more about faith that is tested: Deut. 8:2, 16; Job 23:10; Is. 48:10; Heb. 11:17 (cf. Gen. 22:1-18); James 1:2-4.

12. The believer's proven faith results in praise and glory and honor when Jesus is revealed. What else does faith produce as seen in verse 8?

13. What is the final result of their faith in Christ (verse 9)?

14. All of human history is leading up to the time when Jesus Christ will be revealed as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and the completion of our salvation. Choose one or two phrases out of verses 6-9 to think on and pray about. Write down the phrase and how it affects you.

15. In verse 10 Peter discusses a different aspect of the salvation he has been talking about in verses 6-9. What do you learn about the prophets in verses 10-12? See also Luke 10:23-24; Rom. 16:25-26; Col. 1:25-27.

16. Since the garden of Eden a Deliverer for mankind had been hinted at in the Bible. Clues to His identity and His work were scattered throughout the chapters of the Old Testament. Like Bible detectives the prophets tried to piece together the Scripture clues. As you read the following verses which reveal clues about the Messiah, imagine reading them for the first time. Marvel at the unfolding of God's plan throughout the pages of Scripture! See Gen. 3:15; 49:10; Deut. 18:18; Ps. 2:6-12; 22: 1-18; Is. 11:1-10; 42:1-9; 53:2-12; Micah 5:2.

17. What do the angels want to understand (verses 10-12)? Why? See Luke 15:7, 10; Eph. 3:8-10; Heb. 2:16 (for context read Heb. 1:13-2:18).

18. Reread verses 3-12. Notice words like *revealing*, *revelation*, *announced*, which communicate that God's plan has been made open for all to understand. As you look up the following verses record what has been made clear that was once a mystery. See 1 Pet. 1:3-12; Rom. 16:25-27; Eph. 1:7-14; 6:19; Col. 1:25-27; 2:2-3.

19. So far in Chapter 1, Peter has written about salvation—the glory and wonder of it, the bedrock firmness of it, the hope of it, the strengthening of it. How can reviewing these truths bring joy and peace to your heart?

20. Horatio Spafford may well have been meditating on 1 Peter 1 when he wrote the hymn “It Is Well With My Soul.” www.Cyberhymnal.com writes: “This hymn was written after two major traumas in Spafford’s life. The first was the great Chicago Fire of October 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a wealthy businessman). Shortly after, while crossing the Atlantic, all four of Spafford’s daughters died in a collision with another ship. Spafford’s wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, “Saved alone.” Several weeks later, as Spafford’s own ship passed near the spot where his daughters died, the Holy Spirit inspired these words. They speak to the eternal hope that all believers have, no matter what pain and grief befall them on earth.” As you read the hymn on the following page record your observations about Horatio Spafford’s response to the trials he was experiencing.

21. Write down at least one time in the last week or two when you chose to rejoice in your salvation while going through a difficulty.

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh trump of the angel! Oh voice of the Lord!
Blessèd hope, blessèd rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.