

STUDY GUIDE ON SUFFERING

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Major portions of scripture deal with suffering-pain-calamity-death: the Book of Job, 1 Corinthians, and 1 Peter. From these books cross references identify other shorter sections on this difficult subject.

I. What basic facts about suffering do we observe in or inferred from the following groups of passages?

A. Genesis **3**; Romans **5:12-14**; 1 Peter **1:6-7**

B. Genesis **18:31**?; the thesis of the Book of Job; John **9:1-3ff.**, **34**; Acts **28:1-6**

C. Genesis **3**; **6:5ff.**; **18:16-21**; **38:7**, **8-11**; Exodus **32:21-35**; Leviticus **10:1-7**; Numbers **14**; **16**, **21**; Acts **5:1-11**; **12:20-23**; **13:4-12**

D. Psalm **73**; Jeremiah **12:1-2**; Malachi **3:15**; Luke **13:1-5**; 2 Corinthians **12:7-9**

II. What benefits can come from suffering according to these references? Explain how these benefits can come from pain.

A. Psalm **119:67**; Hebrews **5:8**; 1 Peter **1:6-7**

B. Job **1:7-8**; **2:3**; 1 Peter **1:6-7**; **4:16**

C. Hebrews **12:9**

D. Romans **8:18**

E. 2 Corinthians **12:10**

F. 2 Corinthians **12:7-10**

G. 2 Corinthians **1:4-5**; **11:23-29**; Hebrews **2:18**; **10:33-34**

H. 1 Peter **5:10**

I. Ecclesiastes **7:14**; Romans **8:31-34**; 2 Corinthians **1:9-10**; **11:28-30**; **12:7-10**; 2 Timothy **3:11**; 1 Peter **2:23**

J. 2 Corinthians **1:6**; James **5:10-11**; 1 Peter **2:20**; Revelation **13:10**; **14:12**

K. Psalm **119:71**

L. Hebrews **2:10**

M. 1 Thessalonians **2:2**; Philippians **1:12**

III. What attitudes can we take toward, or in, suffering that will help us endure it faithfully?

A. Romans **8:31-39**

B. Hebrews **12:11**

C. Romans **8:18**; 2 Corinthians **4:17-18**; Hebrews **12:10a, 11a**; 1 Peter **1:6**; **5:10**

D. Psalm **119:71-72**; Hebrews **12:10b**

E. 1 Corinthians **10:13**

F. 2 Corinthians **4:17**; Hebrews **12:4**

G. Matthew **5:10-12**; **16:21-27**; Romans **8:18**; Philippians **3:8**; 2 Timothy **2:12**; Hebrews **11:26**

H. Matthew **5:10-12**; 2 Timothy **3:12**; 1 Peter **4:12**

I. 1 Corinthians **6:1-11**; **9:12**

J. Hebrews **12:5-13**

K. Job **1:8**; **2:3**; 1 Peter **1:6-7**

L. 2 Corinthians **1:3-10**; Philippians **4:14**; 1 Thessalonians **2:14**; James **5:10-12**; 1 Peter **2:21-23**; **3:18**; **4:1**; **5:9**

M. Matthew **16:21-23**; 2 Corinthians **4:11**; **12:10**; Philippians **1:29**; **3:8**; Colossians **1:24**; 2 Thessalonians **1:5**

N. Romans **8:17**; Philippians **3:10**; 2 Timothy **2:11-13**; Hebrews **10:33**; 1 Peter **3:4**

O. Philippians **2:5-11**; Hebrews **12:1-3**; 1 Peter **4:1**

P. Matthew **5:10-12**; Acts **7:52**; 2 Corinthians **7:4**; 1Thessalonians **2:15**; Hebrews **10:34**; 1 Peter **4:12-14**

Q. Matthew **16:24-27**

R. Philippians **1:28**; Revelation **13:10**; **14:12**

IV. What general model for viewing suffering does the Proverbial writer (**3:11-12**) and the writer of Hebrews (**12:5-10**) suggest for the follower of God? Is the model inadequate in any way?

V. Is there any positive purpose for suffering in the world—any answer to the “problem of pain” (Genesis **3:22**)?

VI. Would you say what brings pain is good because pain brings good?

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