

1 PETER 1:4-9 “A LIVING HOPE THAT ENDURES FOREVER”

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has **begotten us again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Ephesians 2:11-13

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—
12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world.**

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

4 to an inheritance **incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away**, reserved in heaven for you,

- Peter used three words, each **beginning with the same letter and ending with the same syllable**, to describe in a cumulative fashion this inheritance’s permanence:
 - **“incorruptible”** (*aphtharton*)
 - **“undefiled”** (*amianton*)
 - **“not fade away”** (*amaranton*)¹

5 who are **kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- **“guarded”** by the power of God
 - **“Kept”** is from *phrouomenous* (φρουρομενους), **a present participle implying action constantly going on.** It is a military term, meaning “to guard or protect.”²

Hebrews 6:19-20

19 This *hope* we have as **an anchor of the soul**, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil,
20 where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now **for a little while**, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

- **“for a little while”**; **“season”**

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

²Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 1:5). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

- “Season” is from *oligon* (ὀλιγον) which means “little, small, few,” and refers here to a little while. Surely, this present life is a little while compared to eternity. And then a loving God sees to it that in the midst of the shadows and heartaches and trials, His children have their days of sunshine even in this life. ³
- “If need be”
 - In some lives there seems to be more need of trials than in others. To those servants of God whom He purposes to use in a larger, greater way, many trials are allowed to come, for “we must be ground between the millstones of suffering before we can be bread for the multitude.” And then, in the case of a saint who is not living close to his Lord, it is necessary to send disciplinary trials to purge his life of sin and draw him into a closer walk with God. ⁴

7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

- The Lord tests men’s heart to produce purity – whereas the Devil does it to destroy us.
- **Genuine faith – more precious than gold to God.**
 - **A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.**
Our suffering is but “for a season” as the Lord sees it; but the glory will be forever. ⁵

Job 23:10 But He knows the way that I take; *When* He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

Proverbs 17:3 The refining pot *is* for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts.

400 years of an iron furnace for Israel in Egypt:

Jeremiah 11:3-5

3and say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “Cursed *is* the man who does not obey the words of this covenant

4which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them **out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace,** saying, ‘Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God,’

5that I may establish the oath which I have sworn to your fathers, to give them ‘a land flowing with milk and honey,’ as *it is* this day.” ’ ” And I answered and said, “So be it, LORD.”

³Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 1:6). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

⁴Wuest, K. S. (1997, c1984). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament : For the English reader* (1 Pe 1:6). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

⁵Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

8 (*Jesus Christ*) whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

John 20:24-29

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

26 **And after eight days** His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!”

27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”

2 Corinthians 5:7 **For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

1 John 4:20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, **how can he love God whom he has not seen?**