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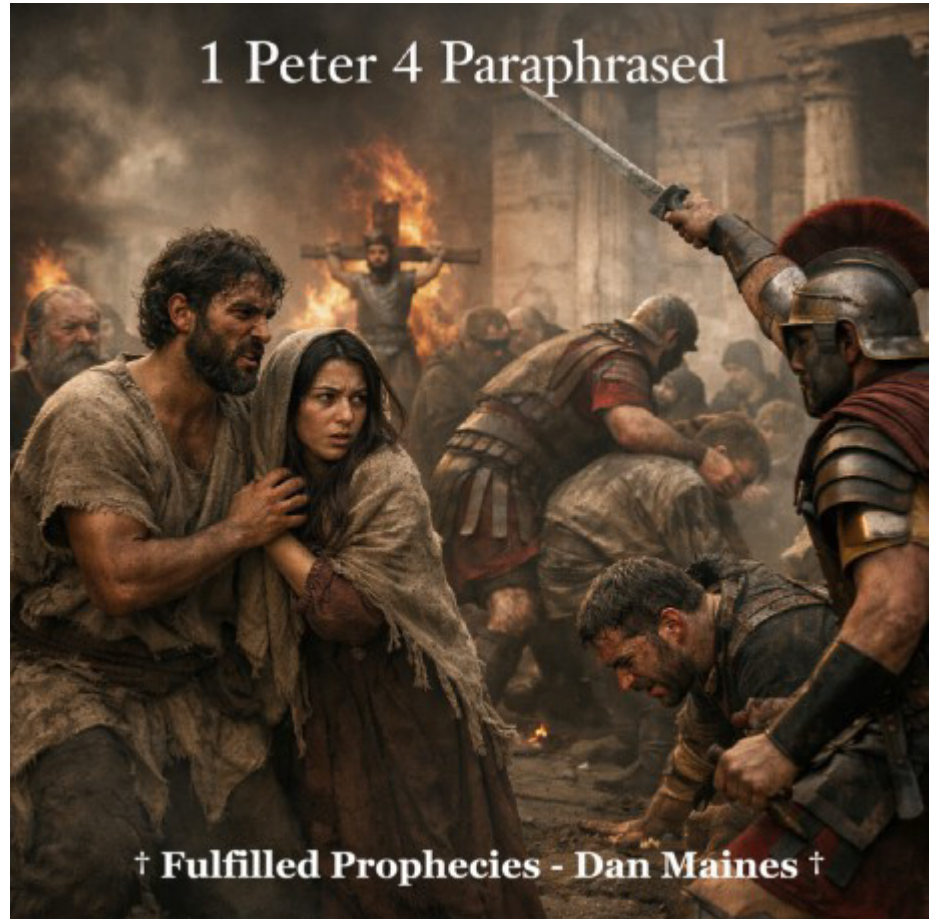
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1 Peter 4 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 Peter 4 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Peter continues encouraging believers who were facing suffering and pressure from the surrounding culture. He reminds them that Christ's suffering marked the end of the old life ruled by sin, and those who belong to Him must live differently now. The focus is not escaping hardship, but living faithfully through it.

† This chapter shows that suffering for doing what is right is not a defeat but part of sharing in Christ's work. Peter also reminds them that judgment was approaching that generation, which fits the time leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem.

† The message is simple but powerful, once Christ suffered and brought the old order to its end, believers must live with a renewed mind and purpose.

1 Peter 4:1

Since Christ suffered in the body, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, because the one who has suffered in the body has broken away from sin.

† Peter calls believers to adopt the same mindset Christ had, willingly enduring suffering rather than returning to sin (Hebrews 12:2-3).

† Suffering for righteousness often marks the turning point where a person refuses to return to their former life (Romans 6:6-7).

† The early church understood suffering as part of following Christ, not something strange or unexpected (Acts 14:22).

1 Peter 4:2

From now on, that person doesn't live the rest of their earthly life chasing human desires, but instead lives for the will of God.

† Once someone commits to Christ, their direction changes from pleasing themselves to pleasing God (Romans 12:1-2).

† Peter emphasizes a clear break with the past lifestyle that once ruled them (Ephesians 4:22-24).

† Living for God's will reflects the transformation that comes with the new covenant life (Galatians 2:20).

1 Peter 4:3

You've already spent enough time in the past doing what the nations like to do, living in immoral behavior, uncontrolled desires, drunkenness, wild parties, drinking gatherings, and sinful idol worship.

† Peter reminds them that their former lifestyle belonged to the pagan world around them (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

† Conversion meant leaving behind the patterns of the Gentile culture that surrounded the early church (Ephesians 2:1-3).

† The gospel didn't simply adjust behavior, it replaced the old identity completely (Colossians 3:5-8).

1 Peter 4:4

Now those same people are surprised that you don't join them in the same reckless lifestyle, and they speak against you.

† When believers stop participating in sinful culture, it often provokes hostility from those still living in it (John 15:18-19).

† The early Christians were frequently accused and slandered because their lives no longer matched the surrounding society (1 Peter 2:12).

† Their refusal to participate in pagan practices often caused misunderstanding and persecution (Acts 17:5-7).

1 Peter 4:5

But they will have to answer to the One who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

† Peter reminds believers that God will hold everyone accountable for their actions (Romans 14:12).

† The phrase ready to judge reflects the nearness of the judgment that was approaching that generation (James 5:8-9).

† Christ was already seated as judge, waiting for the appointed time of covenant judgment (Matthew 16:27-28).

1 Peter 4:6

For this reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that though they were judged in the flesh as people are, they might live in the spirit according to God.

† The gospel had been preached to people who later died physically but now lived spiritually because of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

† Peter isn't teaching a second chance after death, but reminding believers that those who died in Christ still live (John 11:25-26).

† The focus is on spiritual life granted through Christ even when physical death occurred (2 Corinthians 5:1).

1 Peter 4:7

The end of all things is near, so be clear minded and self controlled so you can pray.

† Peter plainly says the end was near for his audience, pointing to the approaching end of the old covenant system (Matthew

24:34).

† Because of that approaching crisis, believers were urged to stay spiritually alert (Luke 21:36).

† Clear thinking and prayer were essential for navigating the turbulent events ahead (Colossians 4:2).

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another deeply, because love covers a large number of sins.

† Peter echoes the teaching of Proverbs about love covering offenses (Proverbs 10:12).

† Love within the Christian community was critical during times of persecution (John 13:34-35).

† Genuine love promotes forgiveness and unity among believers (Colossians 3:13-14).

1 Peter 4:9

Show hospitality to one another without complaining.

† Hospitality was vital for traveling believers and persecuted Christians in the early church (Romans 12:13).

† Peter stresses that hospitality should be sincere, not done reluctantly (Hebrews 13:2).

† Many early believers depended on fellow Christians for shelter and support (Acts 2:44-45).

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you've received to serve others, faithfully managing God's grace in its many forms.

† Spiritual gifts were given to build up the church community (1 Corinthians 12:7).

† Peter emphasizes stewardship, believers were responsible for how they used what God gave them (Romans 12:6-8).

† Service within the body reflected God's grace working through different people (Ephesians 4:11-12).

1 Peter 4:11

If anyone speaks, they should speak as one delivering the words of God. If anyone serves, they should do it with the strength God supplies, so that in everything God may be honored through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and power forever.

† Teaching and serving both require reliance on God's strength, not human ability (2 Corinthians 4:7).

† The goal of all ministry is that God receives the glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).

† Christ remains the source of authority and power for the church (Ephesians 3:20-21).

1 Peter 4:12

Dear friends, don't be surprised by the fiery trial you're going through, as if something unusual were happening to you.

† Persecution was expected for believers living in a hostile environment (John 16:33).

† Peter reminds them that trials refine faith just like fire refines metal (1 Peter 1:6-7).

† These hardships were part of the testing that strengthened the church (James 1:2-3).

1 Peter 4:13

Instead, rejoice that you share in Christ's sufferings, so that you may also rejoice with great joy when His glory is revealed.

† Sharing in Christ's suffering also means sharing in His victory (Romans 8:17).

† Peter points forward to the revealing of Christ's glory in judgment and vindication (Matthew 24:30).

† The faithful would rejoice when Christ was revealed in power during that generation (Luke 21:27-28).

1 Peter 4:14

If you're insulted because of the name of Christ, you're blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

† Being insulted for Christ's name was seen as a mark of blessing (Matthew 5:11-12).

† The presence of God's Spirit confirmed their identity as God's people (Romans 8:16).

† Early Christians often suffered public shame but were honored by God (Acts 5:41).

1 Peter 4:15

Make sure none of you suffers as a murderer, thief, criminal, or someone who interferes in other people's affairs.

† Peter distinguishes suffering for righteousness from suffering caused by wrongdoing (1 Peter 2:20).

† Believers were called to live upright lives before outsiders (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).

† True Christian suffering must never come from sinful behavior (Romans 13:13).

1 Peter 4:16

But if anyone suffers as a Christian, they shouldn't be ashamed, but should glorify God for carrying that name.

† The name Christian originally came from outsiders but became a badge of honor for believers (Acts 11:26).

† Peter encourages believers to embrace their identity in Christ even when persecuted (Philippians 1:29).

† Suffering for Christ glorifies God when endured faithfully (2 Timothy 2:12).

1 Peter 4:17

Because it's time for judgment to begin with the household of God, and if it begins with us first, what will the outcome be for those who refuse to obey the gospel of God?

† Peter refers to the coming covenant judgment that would begin with Israel (Ezekiel 9:6).

† The household of God referred to the covenant community experiencing purification first (Malachi 3:1-3).

† This aligns with the approaching destruction of Jerusalem, which began with the people who had received the covenant (Matthew 23:35-36).

1 Peter 4:18

And if the righteous are saved with difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?

† Peter quotes from Proverbs to emphasize how serious God's judgment is (Proverbs 11:31).

† If the faithful endured trials to be delivered, the fate of the rebellious would be far worse (Luke 23:31).

† The contrast highlights the danger of rejecting the gospel (Hebrews 10:26-27).

1 Peter 4:19

So those who suffer according to God's will should entrust their lives to a faithful Creator while continuing to do what is right.

† Trusting God in suffering reflects the same faith Christ showed on the cross (Luke 23:46).

† Peter calls believers to continue doing good even under pressure (Galatians 6:9).

† Faithful endurance was the mark of true discipleship in the early church (Revelation 14:12).

Historical References

† Eusebius recorded that many early Christians faced persecution but continued faithfully, trusting God's promises

during the years leading up to Jerusalem's destruction.

† Tacitus wrote about Christians being accused and mistreated by Roman society, confirming the hostility believers faced.

† Clement of Rome described how the early church endured suffering yet remained steadfast in faith and love.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Believers today are still called to leave behind the lifestyle of the world and live according to God's will.

† When people oppose us for following Christ, it shouldn't surprise us because the same thing happened to the early church.

† Our responsibility is to stay faithful, love one another, and trust God no matter what pressure comes.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why does Peter say the end was near?

A: Peter was speaking about the approaching end of the old covenant system and the coming judgment on Jerusalem.

Matthew 24:34

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

Q: What does it mean that judgment begins with the household of God?

A: God first judged the covenant people who had received His law and prophets.

Ezekiel 9:6

Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark, and you shall start from My sanctuary.

Q: Why were believers suffering?

A: Their changed lives and loyalty to Christ put them in conflict with the surrounding culture.

John 15:18

If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.

Q: Why does Peter tell believers not to be surprised by fiery trials?

A: Because suffering for following Christ was expected and part of sharing in His path.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world.

Q: What does it mean that love covers a large number of sins?

A: Genuine love leads believers to forgive and overlook offenses instead of fueling division.

Proverbs 10:12

Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.

Q: Why does Peter emphasize serving others with the gifts God gives?

A: Because every believer receives grace from God to strengthen the body of Christ and help others.

1 Corinthians 12:7

But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Q: What does it mean to entrust our lives to a faithful Creator?

A: It means continuing to do what is right while trusting God to care for us even during hardship.

Psalms 37:5

Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 1 Peter 4; Matthew 24:34; Hebrews 12:2-3; Romans 6:6-7; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; John 15:18-19; Romans 14:12; James 5:8-9; Matthew 16:27-28; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Luke 21:36; Proverbs 10:12; Colossians 3:13-14; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11-12; John 16:33; Romans 8:17; Matthew 5:11-12; Acts 5:41; Ezekiel 9:6; Malachi 3:1-3; Luke 23:31; Hebrews 10:26-27; Revelation 14:12.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Annals; Clement of Rome, First Epistle to the Corinthians.

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