

<b>Book</b>	1-Peter
<b>Study</b>	Study 3
<b>Topic</b>	Processing Suffering – Producing Gold
<b>Reference</b>	1 Peter 1:6-12
<b>Date</b>	17 April 2019
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1 Peter 1:6-12 (ESV) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

It is fact that everybody suffers. You suffer maybe you did something wrong, retributive justice or may be the random suffering, but suffering is important because we want to find out what's the meaning. Why do we have to suffer? Why do we live in a world that has got suffering? The meaning is important because if you have a worldview that doesn't take into account suffering, you are going to lose credibility and as far as society is concerned there will be social unrest.

Some people say, life is a beautiful struggle. But the important thing is how do we actually deal with the pain. It hits us both young and old. Suffering happens to all of us in every stage of life. You never come to a stage in life where you are so use to it that its okay to suffer, you are like Superman. Every suffering is new. Our world isn't quite use to suffering. If you go back in the Middle Ages, 20% of infants die before the age of 1, 50% die before the age of 10. In almost every other household there was death. Nowadays, we can't handle that. We hide death. The only time we see death when somebody dies in a crematorium or a house and quickly pass by, you see or don't see.

I am going to go through some of the ways in which we as a society handle death. On one hand, you look at the self-transcendent view, pain and suffering is because of unfulfilled desires. Basically, they are illusions. If you hot unfulfilled desires, you want to be rich but you can't be rich. You want to have sexuality but you can't have and so therefore you do all sorts of things, life goes bad. So the solution is to

prevent evil or suffering is to have no desire, change in consciousness, calmness of soul and this is basically the Buddhist or the stoic idea. Ranindranath Tagore, a hindu mystic writes, *"Let me not beg for the stilling of my pain but for the heart to conquer it."* He is admitting that there is pain but he wants to conquer it.

- Suffering is temporary As the Self is not affected
- Nothing is only good or bad; . Everything, including pain and suffering, is given by God/ The Ultimate.
- Embrace suffering as a way to progress on his spiritual path

This is how they view it. This is another one, *"Contacts with matter make us feel heat and cold, pleasure and pain. Arjuna, you must learn to endure fleeting things—they come and go! When these cannot torment a man, When suffering and joy are equal for him and he has courage, he is fit for immortality".20*

So according to them, suffering is a way by which they can achieve immortality. What you have to do is detach yourself from this suffering. How do you do that? Yoga, prayer and meditation. So suffering is an illusion. It is not real, it really cannot hit you. So therefore you detach from it. This is one way of dealing with it.

#### Eightfold Path

- The First Truth is that **suffering**, pain, and misery exist in life.
- The Second Truth is that this **suffering** is caused by selfish craving and personal desire
- The Fourth Truth is that the way to overcome this misery is through the Eightfold Path

Which is basically right mindfulness, thought, understanding, meditation, speech, effort, action and living. Through these things you overcome but the problem in this situation is that they owner is on you. You got to have the right path, you got to have the right thought, you got to have the right understanding to overcome this suffering. The moralistic view, others believe that the world is controlled by fate or gods as it were and if man does bad things life will go bad. If you do good things, life goes well. This is karma. Everybody has got to pay for it. It is like mathematics, one side should balance the other side.

The other one is the fatalistic idea. Now the meaning is found in submission to one's faith without complaint. God or gods decide what sort of a day you are going to have. So god or gods decide what is good and bad and if it good you enjoy it, if it is bad you endure and when you endure god will honor you. Muslims and pagan religions in Europe they buy into this. Let me read for you some hadiths

*No fatigue, nor disease, nor sorrow, nor sadness, nor hurt, nor distress befalls a Muslim, even if it were the prick he receives from a thorn, but that Allah expiates some of his sins for that. (Al-Bukhari)*

Which means suffering comes because of your sin and you are paying for your sin by suffering.

*No Muslim is afflicted with any harm but for that Allah will remove his sins as the leaves of tree fall down. (Al-Bukhari)*

So therefore suffering is related to the expiation or paying off of your sin. That means the more you sin the more you have to pay off by suffering.

*If Allah wants to do good to somebody, He afflicts him with trials. (Al-Bukhari)*

*If I deprive My slave of his two beloved things (his two eyes) and he remains patient, I will let him enter Paradise in compensation for them. (Al-Bukhari)*

So according to this view, god is fatalistic. He is like torturing you and the more you bear his torture then he allows you into heaven as it were. So it is a kind of a fatalistic idea of what God is. The Shiite view is, *'Sufferings of this world ultimately serve to cleanse the man from sins, and to bring him nearer to Allah in the hereafter.* This is why you can see often the Shiite Muslims will take the whip and whip themselves BECAUSE they are whipping themselves to pay for their sins. So this is from the idea of atonement, which is built into this religion.

### **Western Idea of Suffering:**

Western idea is Darwinian.

- Suffering has no meaning at all, we are all victims, it is interruption
- Life is empty and pointless, because we are all evolved from molecules. We are no different from the grasshopper.
- You create your own meaning
- Try to be avoided at all costs
- Use experts to overcome suffering.

So therefore you depend on

- Doctors, business people, psychologist,
- Manage, reduce your, stress , trauma, avoid negative thoughts, have supportive relationships, take time off, exercise.
- Look for cause of pain and eliminate it, corruption you eliminate, eliminate broken families
- You work towards a better society

That's exactly what the western peoples look at. The only problem is that when something bad happens and you can't prevent it then the whole worldview falls apart. We can see a whole rush of people turning towards religion after 9/11. So secular world has greater problems with suffering because they turn to advocate for social causes for justice but in fact most of these in the past have been championed by religious movements. They also have no firm agreement of standards for right and wrong. Science tells us how people live but not how they ought to live.

### Response of Culture to Suffering

	Moralistic	Self Transcendent	Fatalistic	Dualistic
Cause	Wrong Doing	Illusion	Destiny	Cosmic Conflict
Response	Doing Good	Detachment	Endurance	Purified faithfulness
Resolution	Eternal Bliss	Enlightenment	Glory and Honor	Triumph of the Light

### Christian Approach to Suffering

It is completely different from all those world views. Those world views are prevalent in the society in which we live. Unless you understand those world views then you can't interact with your friends and many of your friends would have a mixture of a moralistic world view and combined with some Western ideas all mixed in. So it helps you make sense.

What is the Christian approach to suffering?

One of the biggest problems if you suffer, there are only three possibilities:

- God doesn't care
- God is not good
- God is not able

These are some of the problems that whenever we encounter suffering, this is something that we are going to have to deal with, especially if you are a Christian. It is very important to deal with suffering.

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

By saying the word 'in this' Peter is actually referring backwards to study 1 and 2, which we have gone through, which is basically that. In Study 1 and 2, he looked at election, we are elected by God, foreknown by God. We have a new birth. We are born again to a divine hope. We have eternal security. Now he is going backwards to the spiritual realities of which we have been sealed with. So when you are suffering, the first focus is to refocus on spiritual reality. So what Peter is saying is that you need to look back at the spiritual realities on which you live in. That's the most important thing that we could do when pain that comes upon you. Think about your eternal life, think about the fact that God will never let you go. Think about how his power holds you.

The second thing is, you have a situation in which you are rejoicing but on the other hand you are grieved by various trials. The word grieved here describes turbulent waters. It means you are sad; you react. So basically say, if I am suffering, I should suppress it, suppress the pain, keep the stiff upper lip. Being a Christian doesn't mean that you have to keep smiling every time, a lot of the times you don't really feel like that.

Keep a smiling face is a total unrealistic response because it is not real. The other way is man when you are suffering nobody knows. If we look at the Book of Job who was suffering.

Job 3:1-3 (ESV) After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 2 And Job said: 3 "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.'

Job 16:7-9 (ESV) Surely now God has worn me out; he has made desolate all my company. 8 And he has shriveled me up, which is a witness against me, and my leanness has risen up against me; it testifies to my face. 9 He has torn me in his wrath and hated me; he has gnashed his teeth at me; my adversary sharpens his eyes against me.

Job 17:1 (ESV) My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the graveyard is ready for me.

Job is actually expressing it out to God.

Job 1:20-22 (ESV) Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." 22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

He expresses his pain and sorrow and confusion but he keeps his conscious clear. He did not sin or charge God with wrong. In fact 1 Peter chapter 3 says,

1 Peter 3:16-17 (ESV) having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

So basically you can suffer but you do not sin. Here is Job's proper response to suffering when God confronts him,

Job 42:5-6 (ESV) had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; 6 therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Actually the correct response in suffering is basically to repent. There is a passage in Luke

Luke 13:1-5 (ESV) There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Here we have got two groups of people and catastrophe happened to them. Then the question is, which one deserve death more. Basically what they are saying is that, either you are killed by Pilate or you are killed by Tower, the question is that the comparison of personal responsibility. Who is the greater sinner, if the tower fall on you or Pilate took and gutted you? The idea is that there is an issue of personal responsibility. There is an illusion of control. Ellen Langer, a professor in psychology writes, *"This illusion may be induced by introducing competition, choice, stimulus or response familiarity or passive or active involvement in a chance situation"*

What she is trying to say is that, we all like to think we are in control. So when you have got two sets of people dying, one being killed by Pilate and one fell on, you are wondering in your worldview who was the greatest sinner, who did something that deserve to be killed by Pilate compared to the tower falling on them. We are in an illusion of control. So good things or bad things, we feel that we've got to be somehow in control.

### Falling Apart:

We self-pity, God let me down, I am very upset, I go drinking or maybe you have sex with another woman. Why? Because God is like that. I don't care about his morals anymore and so therefore I basically fall apart or I take the drugs.

## You Respond by Blaming God:

This is losing faith in God because God didn't come through and this is particular dangerous today, because we live in an environment of a kind of prosperity gospel that puts promises that God did not really make.

### 1. *The Abrahamic covenant is a means to material entitlement*

For example, they believe that the Abrahamic covenant is a means to material entitlement. That means I am a child of Abraham and so therefore Abraham got rich, so I must also get rich. Because the promise goes to me. If you look at Galatians,

Galatians 3:13-14 (ESV) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

But they forgot to read so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. It is through faith, it is not necessary material blessing.

### 2. *Jesus's atonement extends to the "sin" of material poverty*

The second one is that Jesus's atonement extends to the sin of material poverty. So therefore because Jesus died on the cross, by his wounds we are healed and we are healed of everything. All our illnesses, all our sins and even the sin of poverty. Everything was paid on the cross and if it is paid on the cross, therefore we should basically gain.

### 3. *Christians give in order to gain material compensation from God*

The churches always challenge their congregation, you come to the church you challenge them to give to God, you base it on this particular verse,

Mark 10:29-31 (ESV) 29 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

They read only this part, you will receive a hundredfold, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and lands, but they don't read persecution. Gloria Copeland writes in her book, God's Will is Prosperity, *Give \$10 and receive \$1,000. Give \$1,000 and receive \$100,000*. This mathematics is fantastic. This is how they take scripture and basically turn it around. Jesus actually say,

Luke 6:34-36 (ESV) And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, **expecting nothing in return**, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

So here we actually have in some of the churches that have quick pro code, if you give to God, God gives to you, which is very-very dangerous.

#### ***4. Faith is a self-generated spiritual force that leads to prosperity.***

So basically if you have faith then you can turn everything around. If poverty is sin and you have authority over that sin you could just bring your faith and change your life. Creflo Dollar is one of the preachers of prosperity gospel. He says, *“When we pray, believing that we have already received what we are praying, God has no choice but to make our prayers come to pass. . . . It is a key to getting results as a Christian.”*

So these are all distortions because the idea is that prosperity is a measure of your spirituality. If you are a poor pastor, sorry you must be cursed by God and you don't have enough faith. So this is linked.

Pastor Elly Achok Alare lives outside Nigeria. He was part of this movement infected by the Americans. He believed in spiritual warfare, so he was on spiritual warfare all the time because the devil is causing poverty, sin and illness. He engaged in beliefs like Believer's Authority. We have victory over Satan, so therefore I can cast out Satan. I can believe in faith, God's will for everybody is to be healthy and wealthy because the atonement has achieved that on the cross. One day they had a baby and the baby's name was Winifred. That baby actually died. Now when that baby died, he and his wife struggled because all the friends came around with his teaching. They told him you might have sin in your life. So they went in and look, for months and months he tore himself a part. So everybody was praying for deliverance for him. Then he had another son, Robin and within the first few hours Robin was having complications, difficulty to breath and all that. So they were really panicking. They didn't go to the doctors. So they bring everybody to come and pray, all the friends came and pray. They had a word of faith. They believe that this is a spiritual warfare. They were casting all sorts of demons out. Some of them even even prophesied that he is going to stay alive. The mother herself prophesied about that. Now based on that of course you will believe, but later on during the night the child turned even worse and then somebody else came up with a word of faith, this one God is telling me better go hospital. So they went to hospital. Within the few hours the child died. They brought the child back to the wife. The wife said, I am going to breastfeed the child even the child is dead, because her prophecy from God was that I saw the child as an older man and look at how he writes,



*I screamed from the deepest recesses of my being that dark morning as my wife and I fought over Robin's body. We had believed in our power over death itself. Prayer for our son's resurrection from the dead became a circus that only served to fortify our pain. As my world collapsed, chaotic feelings assailed me. At one point I screamed at God in disappointment that he'd failed me again. I had exercised tremendous faith; how could he let this happen?*

This is a real testimony from a pastor who really struggled.

*As a crusade preacher, I had impressed on people both the immense value of their contribution to their salvation and their ongoing effort to keep their salvation. I insisted that right living, right believing, and right confessing would obligate God to do as we desired.*

I tell you at the bottom of our hearts many of us believe that because when suffering hits us we say; I have been a good Christian and when this happens to us subconsciously. His final understanding was this,

*The kingdom of God unfolded in my heart as I put my faith in the finished work of the Savior, who became lovelier and more valuable to me than anything on earth. My desire for health and wealth lost its sway. I desired Jesus. My desire for health and wealth lost its sway. I desired Jesus*

The problem with health and wealth gospel is that it focuses on things, God's hand rather than God's face. He actually turned around to the finished work of Jesus. You don't have to try with your faith, you just have to trust in the finished work of Christ. So suffering is part of the Christian experience.

Acts 14:21-22 (ESV) When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Romans 8:16-17 (ESV) he Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Philippians 3:10-11 (ESV) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

So therefore there a lot of scriptures that talk about suffering and we conveniently ignore them.

Suffering extenuates the glory in the end. Tiger Woods won his 4<sup>th</sup> Masters in 2005. He recently won his 5<sup>th</sup> Masters after a very long time. The joy on his face was unimaginable. It extenuated.

### Joy in Suffering

**Acts 16:25 (ESV) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them,**

So the actual paradigm of Christian faith is actually rejoicing and suffering at the same time, which means you can cry and you can rejoice at the same time. Whereas other world views are one dimensional. So a Christian is actually sadder and happier. You are sadder because the holier you are the more of the brokenness of life you see in your own life and life of others, Christ humbles you. You got the emotional freedom to admit sin freely because you are perfectly loved by God. You don't have to deny your sin anymore. You are able to cry because you accept that you are a sinner. On the other hand you are absolutely happier because you are perfectly loved by God, perfectly received grace and you've got your eternal inheritance that will never go away. So we are actually in a contradiction, we rejoice and we cry at the same time, which is very-very natural.

### 3. Focus on eternity

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

So the suffering that you actually have now compared to eternity is actually very-very short period of time.

### 4. Focus on the sovereignty of God

If God is sovereign it means that every single trial that actually falls upon your life whether it is by cancer or whether accident or somebody comes and robs you and shoots you and leaves you paralyze, you have to realize they are not beyond the control of God. John Newton says, *"Everything is necessary that he sends, nothing can be necessary that He withholds "*

It means the suffering that you actually have today, whatever particular form of suffering it is, it is somehow necessary. It means it is not an accident, God wasn't sleeping, it is absolutely necessary. If you think about that suffering being absolutely necessary for you, your attitude towards suffering changes. Then the stuff that you want and you didn't get, you don't need. This is belief on the sovereignty of God. So why does it look so bad and chaotic and terrible? Because it is his plan not yours. We all like to be in control, but when God is in control it is actually His plan. So life is terrible in suffering because somebody else is driving and you don't like the fact that

God is driving, it looks chaotic and terrible because he is driving it. So these are some of the reasons.

This is God's sovereign purpose

Hebrews 12:9-13 (ESV) Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems **painful rather than pleasant**, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed

So basically understand that we need to live righteous wise in response to God's purpose.

5. Proves genuineness of faith and refines it

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Your faith is basically far more precious than gold. We might know all sorts of doctrines and if it just stays in our mind, it does impact on us. It is very difficult for knowledge to go from brain to heart and only suffering does that job.

If we look at the analogy of gold. Suffering is basically the heat of the furnace, it heats up the impure gold. When it heats up the impure gold, it does two things, the dross which is the impure stuff floats up to the top where it can be skimmed away. So there is a process where there is a separation, the heat produces a separation and when you separate you separate impurities, the things that you lie upon, your reputation, your wealth, people's approval. On a normal day we can say that we depend on Jesus Christ but when the trial come and your job is threatened and tomorrow you may not have a job you fall apart. Why do you fall apart? Because these things are more important to you than God.

So when suffering comes, there is a separation process. You can say in your mind that God is first but in your heart all those other things are first. So therefore separation process is when your job is threatened, this separates out and you actually know whether these are important to you or your pure gold.

So the whole process is that the theoretical faith that you have is going to be cemented when the fire of trial comes into your life. That's why Christians grow

through suffering. If you look at the story of Jacob where he wrestles with God. this nasty fellow when comes in contact with God and he wrestles with God and this wrestling is actually symbolic about the fact that he actually encounters the whole of God. All the stuff he tries to get from God, to overcome God and get his way and finally he loses the battle and realize that the only way I can get ahead is to actually surrender to God and hang on to God. So hanging on to God, your breakthrough comes when you move from trying to overcome God but actually refusing to let go and that's what happens when we are actually suffering. When God becomes the center of our affection when we desire to commune with him, we have confidence in him, we submit to him and our greatest interest is in the glory and honour.

So when we are actually suffering,

1. It humbles us, so that we know yourself
2. It teaches us not to idolize and over invest in many things, because if you look at your feelings today, what makes you happy, what makes you sad, what makes you worried, what makes you less confident, is all those other things and you live your life up and down and you can't live like that. You need something stable.
3. It greatly enhances your intimacy, experience of and dependence on God's love and presence. Because as you go closer to God, when the suffering drives you towards that then God becomes bigger and bigger in your life and not only that it makes you more wise and compassionate towards others.

In summary, when suffering come

1. Focus on our spiritual realities
2. Understand Christians are subject to grief and joy and don't be afraid to express it to God
3. Focus on eternity
4. Find comfort in His Sovereign power
5. God is producing gold

So compared to other people, if you are somebody out there you will suffer, life is an illusion, suppress it, you have done wrong, you got to pay for your sins or it is destiny and you have lack of faith. But the real approach is that, when you are suffering it is an opportunity to produce gold. You mourn, you grieve, you repent and you grow closer to God. That's what happens, so our view of suffering is completely different. While the world will ignore, suppress, get devastated with or have to pay for their sins we produce gold. John 15 says, God prunes the fruitful branch. If you are not fruitful God will burn you, but he prunes you. The more fruitful you are the more he prunes. The pruning process is the fire process. It sends this knowledge down to heart. As human beings that's the only way we are going to learn.

## The Gold

1 Peter 1:8-9 (ESV) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is what faith in God is. Faith in God isn't saying the sinner's prayer and got ticket to heaven. It is about loving someone you do not see, believing in someone you have never seen, being filled with joy which is inexpressible and filled with glory on someone which you have never seen. When you reach that stage, that's a reflection on true faith. We should be working on our goals for the next job, this or that, all those things aren't important. That's what you should be looking it to producing this kind of gold, so that our faith is real. When your faith is real, it says

**9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

He is not saying you gain or you earn your salvation but it is proof that you are saved. When you rejoice in Jesus Christ who you have never seen.

1 Peter 1:10-11 (ESV) Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, **11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

What does this means is that this wonderful salvation that we have, the prophets were actually in the Old Testament prophesying hopefully that Christ will come and they will be saved and as far as they saw is just the big mountain. Christ suffering, Christ glory and the world will end. That's the Old Testament view, but when Christ came it was revealed to them, they were not serving themselves but you, the church.

1 Peter 1:12 (ESV) It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

So you climb up to the crucifixion and suffering of Jesus Christ, you look at another mountain that Christ is coming again. The final glory is postponed to this part and so this is the New Testament view. The gospel tells us that this idea that we are saved through suffering, hope, pain and glory. This is the time which is consistent with church history.