

Peter is revealing to these marginalized, rejected people that those viewed as **r**_____ will one day be shown to be **v**_____. Both Noah and Jesus were victorious and vindicated. And so will all those be who trust in Jesus and suffer for His sake.

1 Peter 3:18

(Peter now understands and believes in something he once denied. See Matthew 16:16-22.) As we saw in 1 Peter 2:20-23, the just, righteous, sinless One suffered. The One who _____ than anyone else _____ than anyone else. Yet this was God's will for Him: "Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief;" (Isaiah 53:10a, ESV)

Peter supports in 3:18-22 what he's been saying in 3:13-17 and what he's about to say in 4:1-19. Sometimes it is God's will that we suffer for doing good (3:17 and 4:19). This was the Father's will for Jesus, who endured that suffering by continually entrusting himself to the Father (2:23). And we can and should do the same (4:19).

From the very start, sin demanded death. The smell of slaughtered animals reminds us of this. That odor of death in the air reminds us that sin demands death. The countless animal sacrifices were all a preview of what was to come and what only Christ could accomplish. They could never do what Christ could and did accomplish. (See Hebrews 9-10.)

His **s**_____ sacrifice was **s**_____ and **s**_____. It was all that will ever be needed to remove God's wrath and return you to God. It never needs to be **r**_____. It can never be **d**_____.

If you trust in this Jesus, then the guilt of your sin is **t**_____
g_____, and God's wrath against you because of your sin is **c**_____
e_____.

Jesus' sacrifice was completely sufficient. He died once for the sins of **all t**_____ and for the sins of **all p**_____. See 1 Timothy 2:3-6a and 1 John 2:1-2.

As we saw in 1 Peter 1:18-19 and 2:24-25, the pure One gave His precious blood to **r**_____ us and to **r**_____ us. He died to bring us to Himself.

The pain and shame and sadness and horror of the cross-death of Jesus of Nazareth was not the end of His story. His story didn't stop when He died.

1 Peter 3:19-21

What's clear here:

- God was **p**_____ as the ark was being **p**_____ (3:20) and Noah was **p**_____ (2 Peter 2:5).
- After many decades of warning, the deadly judgment finally came, and only ___ ___ were saved from the Flood.
- Only those 8 people who had **b**_____ God's Word were kept safe from the Flood by hiding in the boat.
- Baptism saves/rescues us from something (but what?).
- Nobody thinks of baptism as a physical bath. Baptism is always done for religious reasons, not for hygienic ones.

Therefore, a better reading (a reading justified by comparing the Greek with Isaiah 4:4, 1 Peter 2:11, 2 Peter 2:10 and 18) of 3:21a is this: “Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of filth (ῥύπος) from the flesh (σάρξ).” “(Moral) filth from the flesh (sinful nature)” seems to be the meaning Peter had in mind. In the **first** half of 3:21, Peter is telling us what Christian water baptism is **not**. It is not the removal of sin. In the **second** half of 3:21, Peter is telling us what Christian water baptism **is**.

1 Peter 3:22

(See Ephesians 1:20-22.) Suffering and death was not the last word for Jesus, and it won't be the last word for those who believe God's Word and follow Him. Wearing the “Jesus jersey” (being baptized as a believer) and openly following Him may draw insults and result in rejection, but just wait. Those who trust in and love Jesus will also share in His victory. Jesus' story, in many ways, becomes our story. Suffering and death will never be the last word for His own.

The ridiculed will be **r**_____.

The despised will be **d**_____.

The victimized will be **v**_____.

So be baptized if you understand and believe the Gospel and are ready to follow Jesus. Join a church. Wear His name. Bear the shame. **Be among the blessed few.**

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

-1 Peter 3:14 (ESV)

The Blessed Few

1 Peter 3:18-22

In Noah's day, to be a believer was to be among “the few.”

“God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared... Noah, a preacher of righteousness...” (See 1 Peter 3:20 and 2 Peter 2:5.) When the Flood swept over the world, only 8 people were rescued from the watery grave. Noah was vindicated after decades of ridicule. The validity of Noah's faith was proven once the flood of judgment finally came. “Only 8 people were right. Everyone else was wrong.” Only 8 people survived. Everyone else died. “Beware of your love of numbers.” The majority view can be mistaken. The crowd can be wrong.

In Peter's day, to be a Christian was to be among “the few.”

It is estimated that as few as 10,000 people out of approximately 60,000,000 people living in the Roman Empire in the second half of the 1st century A.D. (before 100 A.D.) were Christians. (It would still only be about .001% of the population if it was 60,000.) Christianity did not dominate the Roman Empire when Peter wrote to these Christians. The Christians were a tiny percentage of the population. They were a minority group. To be a Christian when Peter wrote these words was to be an outsider, to be viewed with suspicion, not taken seriously, laughed at, left out, and maybe worse. If you pledged your allegiance to Jesus Christ, then you signed up to suffer. You expected to experience losses, such as the loss of respect, position, employment, and maybe even your life. It was risky to follow Jesus. At times, it was life-threatening.