

Bible Study for February 15-21, 2021

Read: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Notes:

The book of 1 Peter was written for a variety of Christian congregations throughout what is today modern Turkey. In A.D. 64 the city of Rome was caught in a fire that blazed for 3 days and 3 nights, totally destroying almost 1/3 of the city. While many believed the ultimate culprit was emperor Nero (who was rumored to have loved rebuilding cities), the anger of the citizens was redirected to a scapegoat, the Christian community. The religion was declared illegal and its members came to be considered outlaws throughout the Roman empire. This letter was sent then to bolster the Christians who were experiencing a painful period. How could they rejoice in such a difficult time? Because of the great hope they have as followers of Christ.

Today's lesson points out that as God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

Questions to Ponder

What fears did you have as a child? How were you able to set them aside?

What fears motivate people today?

How does following Jesus as Lord free you from those fears?

What hope does the flood story add to this passage?

How does hope change your everyday behavior? Have you ever had someone ask about it?

What situation in your life seemed hopeless to you until God brought you hope?

What words do you use to give others hope?