

“Judgement at the Household of God”– 1 Peter 4:12-19

- **Author:** Peter the apostle (v1). Written via Silvanus as amanuensis/secretary (1 Pet 5:12).
- **Time:** Peter wrote this epistle near end of his life in the early/mid 60s AD while persecution under Nero is present (1 Pet 2:20, 4:12) but will later intensify. Eventually, Peter himself will be martyred.
- **Theme:** Believers are “elect exiles” -- though they are in this world, it is not their home (1 Pet 4:1-11). Being chosen and set apart by God as holy, we are to live w/ our neighbors confidently (Jer 29:7, Jn 17:5, Jn 18:36, Phil 3:20, Heb 13:14, Rev 18:4) even as we suffer (Mt 5:11-12, Acts 7:52, 1 Pet 1:6).
 - 12 – Peter stresses that suffering ought not come as a *surprise* to us since Jesus Himself suffered even though He was completely sinless and righteous (1 Pet 2:22). He prepared His disciples to face the same sort of suffering, just as the faithful OT prophets also endured (Mt 5:20-12, Jn 16:33, Acts 14:21-23, Rom 8:17, Phil 1:29, 2 Tim 3:12, 1 Pet 5:10).
 - App: Trials are not to be minimized; indeed, they are *fiery* (Eph 6:16). *Preparation* involves *expectations*, both now and later (1 Cor 15:58, 2 Cor 4:16-18, Rev 21:4)!
 - 13 – “Sharing” in the way of Christ Himself truly is an honor. Hence, James can say “count it all joy” as we face trials (Jas 1:2). This is also what Paul meant when he said he rejoiced in his filling up “what is lacking” in Christ’s sufferings” in Col 1:24 – not that Christ’s suffering lack any quality needed for atonement but that the Triune God’s design is that the church should be made *like Christ*, both as it pertains to His cross and His crown (Rom 8:37, 2 Cor 1:5, Rev 1:9).
 - 14-15 – The “Spirit of glory”/ (“and of power”)/ “and of God” (v14) is contrasted with the condemnation of sin resting upon us (v15). The resting of the Spirit is a thread found throughout redemptive history (i.e., Num 11:25-26, Isa 11:2, 2 Cor 2:9). Since we have been set free from sin’s penalty and power by Christ. Hence, we *ought to live* by the Holy Spirit’s power in the reality of our union with Christ (Jn 15:5, Rom 6:11, Gal 2:20, Eph 1:3-4, Col 3:1).
 - App: The Lord’s table ought to especially encourage us in times of trial. Remember, the *glory of God* rests on His church (2 Chron 7:1-6, Ps 24:10, 102:12-17, Isa 60:1-2).
 - 16 – Glorifying God by being rightly called a Christian (being a “little Christ”) is not shameful (Acts 5:41, 9:15-16, 11:26). App: We must always remember of those called to be holy that it is *sin* that is shameful, not Christlikeness (Isa 28:16, Jer 6:15, Rom 6:21, 10:11, 1 Pet 2:6)!
 - 17-18 – The “judgment at the household of God” is not wrath or condemnation (Rom 8:1, 1 Jn 1:9), but a testing/purification for God’s glory and our good (Ps 119:67-71, Heb 12:7). The suffering of unbelievers is much different. The argument Peter is making is from the lesser to the greater: If believers suffer, what will happen to those who refuse to bow the knee to Christ (Ps 2:9-12, Prov 11:31, Mk 9:48, Rom 2:5, Eph 5:6, Phil 2:1-9, Heb 10:31, Rev 22:19-20)?
 - App: What does the purifying power of suffering look like in Christ’s church? How are we called to be thankful for discipline even when it is painful (Heb 12:11, Rev 3:19)?
 - 19 – Like Jesus, we are called to *entrust* ourselves to our faithful Creator (1 Pet 2:20-25). Peter calls God our “Creator” here to stress both His *mighty power* and the *righteous judgment* that is coming in the future (cf. 1 Pet 4:11, “to Him belong glory and dominion”).
 - App: The Triune God will most certainly vindicate all those who are killed for the sake of Christ (Mk 8:35, Lk 21:16-17, Rev 6:9-11). He has the ability and has promised to bring it about most perfectly for all those with faith in Him (Rom 8:18, 8:37-39).