

SCRIPTURE STUDY GUIDE

***Faith Through the Fire***

*Through Much Tribulation*

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*Anchor Passage: 1 Peter 1:6-9 (KJV)*

*With passages from Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Jeremiah, the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles*

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## I. STUDY OVERVIEW

### Framing Questions

What do the Scriptures record when the righteous see the wicked prosper, yet the faithful are afflicted? What do the Scriptures state about how disciples of Christ are to endure tribulation, trust God, and continue in the faith?

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### Purpose

This study gathers passages that speak directly to tribulation, testing, patience, trust, worry, and the apparent prosperity of the wicked. It follows the wording of the text so the reader can trace what the verses state about suffering, endurance, refinement, prayer, and steadfastness.

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### Scriptural Context

These passages come from wisdom, the Gospels, Acts, and the epistles. Together they show repeated patterns of affliction, waiting, refinement, prayer, continuance, and trust before the Lord.

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## II. ANCHOR PASSAGE

### 1 Peter 1:6-9 (KJV)

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*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

**Factual Observations:** The passage places rejoicing beside heaviness, and faith beside manifold temptations. The trial of faith is compared to gold that is tried with fire.

**Pattern Notes:** Repeated sequence: rejoicing, heaviness, trial, believing, receiving. Repeated faith wording: “trial of your faith,” “yet believing,” “the end of your faith.” Time wording appears: “now for a season” and “at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

### III. PROGRESSIVE PASSAGE STUDY

#### 1. When the Righteous Are Troubled by the Prosperity of the Wicked

**Psalm 73:2-3, 12-13, 17 (KJV)**

*But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked... Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency... Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.*

**Jeremiah 12:1 (KJV)**

*Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?*

**Factual Observations:** In Psalm 73 the speaker says, “I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked,” and later says, “Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.” In Jeremiah 12:1, the prophet asks, “Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper?”

**Pattern Notes:** Repeated contrast: wicked prosper, righteous are troubled. Repeated seeing and understanding pattern: “I saw,” then later “understood.” Both passages contain direct questions before later recognition of God’s judgment.

#### 2. Tribulation Is Plainly Stated in the Path of Disciples

**John 16:33 (KJV)**

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

**Acts 14:21-22 (KJV)**

*And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

**Factual Observations:** Jesus states, “In the world ye shall have tribulation.” Acts states, “we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”

**Pattern Notes:** Repeated certainty wording: “shall have,” “must through.” Repeated response wording: peace, good cheer, continue in the faith. Sequence in Acts: preached → taught → returned → confirmed → exhorted → continue.

### 3. Tribulation Produces a Sequence in the Believer

#### James 1:2-4 (KJV)

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

#### Romans 5:3-5 (KJV)

*And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

**Factual Observations:** James joins temptations, trying of faith, patience, and a perfect work. Romans joins tribulations, patience, experience, and hope in order.

**Pattern Notes:** Repeated chain wording: “worketh,” then the next result follows. Repeated response wording: “count it all joy,” “we glory in tribulations also.” Clear sequence pattern: tribulation or trying → patience → experience → hope → love of God shed abroad in our hearts.

### 4. The Faithful Are to Trust the Lord Instead of Yielding to Fret and Worry

#### Psalms 37:1-7 (KJV)

*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*

#### Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

#### Matthew 6:31-34 (KJV)

*Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

**Factual Observations:** Psalm 37 repeats “fret not,” while also repeating “trust,” “commit,” “rest,” and “wait patiently.” Proverbs forbids leaning on one’s own understanding and commands trust in the Lord. Matthew places “take no thought” beside “your heavenly Father knoweth.”

**Pattern Notes:** Repeated contrast: fret not ↔ trust in the Lord. Repeated action sequence in Psalm 37: trust → do good → delight → commit → rest → wait. Repeated knowledge pattern in Matthew: the Father knows, therefore the hearers are told not to take thought.

## 5. The Righteous May Be Afflicted, Yet the Lord Is Named as Deliverer and Keeper

### **Job 1:20-22 (KJV)**

*Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*

### **Job 2:9-10 (KJV)**

*Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.*

### **Psalm 34:17-19 (KJV)**

*The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.*

### **2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (KJV)**

*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.*

**Factual Observations:** Job’s affliction is followed by worship and by the statement that he did not sin with his lips. Psalm 34 plainly states, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous.” 2 Corinthians places severe pressure beside repeated preservation.

**Pattern Notes:** Repeated contrast wording in 2 Corinthians: troubled, yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. Repeated righteous affliction and divine nearness pattern in Psalm 34. Repeated restraint pattern in Job: he suffers, speaks, and does not charge God foolishly.

## 6. Prayer, Care, and Watchfulness in Anxious Seasons

### **Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV)**

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

**1 Peter 5:6-10 (KJV)**

*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

**Factual Observations:** Philippians joins prayer, supplication, thanksgiving, requests, and peace. 1 Peter joins humility, casting care, vigilance, resistance, afflictions, and later strengthening.

**Pattern Notes:** Repeated action commands: humble yourselves → cast → be sober → be vigilant → resist. Repeated time wording: “in due time” and “after that ye have suffered a while.” Sequence pattern: care cast upon God → vigilance in affliction → steadfast resistance → then strengthening.

**IV. PATTERN & STRUCTURAL MAP**

**Present affliction, later outcome:** The passages repeatedly place present affliction beside later outcome. The wording often moves from trouble to endurance, from prayer to peace, from care to trust, and from suffering to strengthening.

**Contrast pattern:** The wicked may prosper in the present, while the righteous are called not to fret, not to envy, and not to lean on their own understanding.

**Command under pressure:** The verses repeatedly call for trust, continuance, patience, prayer, watchfulness, and steadfastness while tribulation is still present.

**V. CROSS-REFERENCE CONNECTIONS**

- Psalm 73:2-17 ↔ Jeremiah 12:1-3 — Why do the wicked prosper?
- John 16:33 ↔ Acts 14:21-22 — Tribulation plainly stated in the path
- James 1:2-4 ↔ Romans 5:3-5 — Trying and tribulation worketh patience
- Psalm 37:1-7 ↔ Proverbs 3:5-6 — Fret not, trust and commit
- Proverbs 3:5-6 ↔ Matthew 6:31-34 — Lean not, take no thought
- Job 1:20-22; 2:9-10 ↔ Psalm 34:17-19 — Affliction and divine nearness
- Philippians 4:6-7 ↔ 1 Peter 5:6-10 — Prayer, care, and peace
- 1 Peter 1:6-9 ↔ 1 Peter 5:6-10 — Trial and strengthening

**VI. KEY OBSERVATIONS**

- The wicked may prosper “for a season” in the sight of the righteous.
- The righteous are plainly said to have “many” afflictions (Psalm 34:19).
- Jesus says, “In the world ye shall have tribulation” (John 16:33).

- Acts says believers “must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).
- The trying of faith is linked with patience (James 1:3; Romans 5:3).
- The trial of faith is compared to gold tried with fire (1 Peter 1:7).
- The repeated answer to fret and worry is trust, prayer, waiting, and steadfastness.
- Several passages place present trouble beside future outcome.

## VII. WARNINGS & REBUKES

### **Psalm 37:1 (KJV)**

*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.*

### **Proverbs 3:5 (KJV)**

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

### **Matthew 6:34 (KJV)**

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

### **1 Peter 5:8 (KJV)**

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*

## VIII. PROMISES OF GOD

### **Psalm 37:3-6 (KJV)**

*Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*

### **Proverbs 3:6 (KJV)**

*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

### **Psalm 34:17 (KJV)**

*The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.*

**Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV)**

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

**1 Peter 5:10 (KJV)**

*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

## IX. TIERED STUDY QUESTIONS

### LEVEL 1 — OBSERVATION

1. In 1 Peter 1:6-9, what words are used for suffering, faith, joy, and outcome?
2. In Psalm 37:1-7, how many direct commands are given before the words “wait patiently”?
3. In Romans 5:3-5, what sequence follows tribulation?
4. In 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, list each pair of contrast statements.
5. In Matthew 6:31-34, what repeated phrase addresses anxious thought?

### LEVEL 2 — COMPARISON

1. Compare Psalm 73:2-17 and Jeremiah 12:1-3. What similar question appears in both passages?
2. Compare John 16:33 and Acts 14:21-22. What certain statements are made about tribulation?
3. Compare James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5. What repeated word links both passages?
4. Compare Philippians 4:6-7 and 1 Peter 5:6-10. What actions are commanded when care and pressure are present?
5. Compare Job 1:20-22 with Job 2:9-10. What does the text repeat about Job’s speech and conduct?

### LEVEL 3 — TEXTUAL SYNTHESIS

1. Trace the sequence from “manifold temptations” in 1 Peter 1:6-9 to “after that ye have suffered a while” in 1 Peter 5:10.
2. Trace the movement from “fret not thyself” in Psalm 37:1-7 to “lean not unto thine own understanding” in Proverbs 3:5-6.
3. Trace the pattern from “tribulation” in John 16:33 and Acts 14:22 to “patience” in James 1:3 and Romans 5:3.
4. Trace how Psalm 34:17-19 and Philippians 4:6-7 place trouble beside divine hearing, peace, or deliverance.

## X. WHAT THE VERSES STATE

- The righteous may see the prosperity of the wicked.
- The prosperity of the wicked can trouble the faithful.
- Jesus states that His disciples shall have tribulation in the world.
- Believers are exhorted to continue in the faith through much tribulation.
- The trying of faith worketh patience.
- Tribulation worketh patience, and patience is followed by further results.
- The trial of faith is compared to gold tried with fire.
- The righteous are said to have many afflictions.
- The Lord is said to hear, to be nigh, to deliver, and to keep.
- The repeated commands in trouble are trust, commit, rest, wait, pray, cast care, be sober, be vigilant, and resist stedfast in the faith.
- The texts repeatedly place present suffering beside future outcome.

## XI. FULL SCRIPTURE INDEX

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Matthew 6:31-34

John 16:33

Acts 14:21-22

Romans 5:3-5

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Philippians 4:6-7

James 1:2-4

1 Peter 1:6-9

1 Peter 5:6-10

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