

“The Theology of Suffering: Reasons for Believer’s Suffering (2)”

**Current Message series: Scope Limited to Believer’s Suffering:
A Defective Understanding of Suffering
Restricts Spiritual Growth to Full Maturity in Christ**

Today: Four Reasons for Believer’s Suffering

- I. 1st Reason: Punishment for Sin and Corrective Discipline**
 - A. God’s Dealings with Israel, His Chosen Nation**
 - B. God’s Dealings with Individuals: David**
 - C. God’s Dealings with the Nations**
- II. 2nd Reason: Discipline with Purpose to Develop Personal Character – Jacob (Genesis 25, 27-33)**
 - A. The Conniving Jacob**
 - B. The Devious Laban (Genesis 31:36-42): Jacob Suffered Unfair Treatment**
 - C. The Wrestling Match at Peniel (Genesis 32:22-31)**
- III. 3rd Reason: Suffering/Persecution by the Wicked – New Testament Examples**
 - A. Stephen – The 1st Martyr in the Church Age (Acts 7:51-53)**
 - B. Peter and James – Persecuted by King Herod (Acts 12)**
 - C. Paul’s Sufferings**
 - D. Persecutions Throughout the Last 20 centuries (John 15:18-21)**
- IV. 4th Reason: Suffering/Persecution Serves to Accomplish God’s Purpose – Joseph (Genesis 37, 39-50)**
 - A. Sold as a Slave and Falsely Accused of Rape: Joseph remained True to God**
 - B. Gift of Interpreting Dreams: Elevated to Egypt’s Prime Minister**
 - C. Preservation of the Covenant People of God (Genesis 50:19-20)**

Time for Christians to Remember Jesus’ Word to “Watch and Pray”

Joseph is a Type of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

Reflection: Are You Suffering? Why?

**Suffering can help one gain a Deeper Insight into who he is, and who God is
(Psalm 119:71)**

Suffering is Profitable for God’s children...

Key terms: Theology of Suffering; Reasons for Suffering; Consequence of Sin; Develop Character; Persecution; to Accomplish God’s Purpose