

The Bitter Waters Made Sweet

Sunday, December 28th, 2025

I PETER 4:12-13

¹²Beloved, think it not strange concerning the **fiery trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

4451 » **purosis** {poo'-ro-sis}

-- burning (2)

-- fiery trial (1) [3]

- 1) A burning: the burning by which metals are roasted and reduced; by a figure drawn from a refiners fire; calamities or trials that test the character

EXODUS 15:1-4

¹Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. ²The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. ³The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name. ⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

EXODUS 15:20,21

²⁰And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. ²¹And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

EXODUS 15:22-26

²²So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. ²³And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? ²⁵And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, ²⁶And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

53-0327 - ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH 3

147) After the big song was over, the big shout, and having a hallelujah, big time, they started through the wilderness, and led them right straight to bitter waters. Isn't that strange? Oh, my. Right into temptation, right into where the waters was bitter and they couldn't drink. They had nothing to eat, nothing to eat, and the waters were bitter. And, look, that stream of Marah, "bitter waters," lays right in God's path He was leading His children. Isn't it strange? Look like God would've bypassed that, but He led them right straight up to that water.

59-0920 - PLANTING THE VINE AND WHERE TO PLANT IT

E-26) ...Now, water represents Life. We know that Moses, in the wilderness he smote the rock and it gave forth waters of life to a perishing people.

57-0901E - HEBREWS CHAPTER FOUR

23) Now notice. Then, they come to the Wilderness of Sin. The waters were "bitter," Marah. Why did God lead them to bitter waters? Looks like He'd have led them to good water. But He led them to bitter waters so He could prove their faith. He likes to do it. He likes to let tribulations come on you, show He can show you His love and His power. How can people, today, who doesn't believe in the miracle-working of God... When tribulations come, they just give up and go on. But we believe that "God works miracles."

60-0417S - I KNOW

43) And why does God let troubles come? God harnesses trouble, puts bits in its mouth, and makes it obey Him, and those troubles bring us into a closer fellowship with God.

JAMES 1:2-4

²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh **patience**. ⁴But let **patience** have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5281 » **hupomone** {hoop-om-on-ay'}

-- patience (29)

-- enduring (1)

-- patient continuance (1)

-- patient waiting (1) [32]

1) Steadfastness, constancy, endurance: in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings: patiently, and steadfastly.

2) A patient, steadfast waiting for

3) A patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance

63-0412M - THE WORLD IS FALLING APART

62) We want everything just, everything, so we can take it easy, and retire, and take life easy. Life wasn't intended to be easy. Life is a struggle. Anything that's got life is a struggling. Look at the trees, how they struggle. Look at everything that's got life; it's a struggle. And when we try to get some kind of a system that takes it easy, then we're wrong. And we know there's something wrong.

I CORINTHIANS 10:13

¹³There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

53-1201 - GOD'S PROVIDED WAY

E-54) ...There down now, when they marched out under there, they didn't have... They got marching orders; they started out. When they crossed the bridge, went across, God made a bridge through the bottom of the sea for them. When they got over there, when they needed something to drink, the water's all run out, there was a pool there. But the water was bitter; they couldn't drink it. God had a provided tree. He just walked over there, cut the tree down, throwed it into the pool, drink all you want to. God has a provided way.

54-0330 - REDEMPTION IN COMPLETENESS IN JOY

155) Now, when they were there, and the waters were bitter and they couldn't drink, God provided a way. A little old tree swinging there on the bank, Moses just cut it down and threw it in the water, changed the whole thing to good, sweet water.

Now, when you come up against one of your bitter waters, or something another like that, there's a tree tonight, spiritually speaking, hanging over Golgotha or the world tonight, that'll sweeten any bitter waters that you may be led by. That's right. That Calvary will sweeten any experience. Many times we get into hard places, and wonder how. But I shut my eyes sometime, and think, "Yonder on Golgotha, where my Redeemer bled and died for my life..." then my trial seemed so little. I just throw aside and walk on. It makes it sweet. It sweetens every experience I ever had.

63-0728 - CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD REVEALED

429) Now remember, He is that Tree of Life, contrary to "the serpent's seed," you see. He's that Seed, "the woman's Seed," the Tree of Life in the garden. "And lest they put forth their hands and move this Tree, they'd eat that Tree and live forever." And He's the only Tree that can be taken, that you can live forever. His Word is Life. And that be the Word then, the Word of God which Eve turned down in the garden of Eden; then here is Christ, the Word, made manifest. And when He come on earth, He was the Tree of Life. Do you believe that? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] And Rome, what did they do? He had to be chopped down. And He was put on a tree of disgrace, "cursed is he that hang on a tree," become a curse for the human race.

II KINGS 4:38-41

³⁸And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets. ³⁹And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage: for they knew them not. ⁴⁰So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof. ⁴¹But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot.

65-0220 - GOD'S CHOSEN PLACE OF WORSHIP

78) The meal offering was Christ. Every burr had to be set the same, and every little piece of meal had to be ground the same, for the meal offering. Showing, that, He is the healer. He substitutes, and takes away death, and puts Life; by the two laws. Hallelujah! Where death is, one place; when Christ comes in, Life comes in. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. And where there was death, there became Life, because that Christ was brought in, the meal offering.

60-0310 - ELIJAH AND THE MEAL OFFERING

72) You remember when some of the schools up there didn't know the difference between gourds and peas, and throwed some wild gourds in a pottage of peas, to cook, and they cried out, "There's death in the pot."

Elijah got a handful of meal, cast it into the pot, and said, "Eat." What did the meal do? The meal in the pot changed it from death to life, from a death-giving resource to a life-giving resource. That's the same thing it is tonight, when there's death in your vessel. Christ, throwed into your vessel, brings you from death unto Life. Christ makes the difference. Coming into the human heart, oh, He gives a peace that passes understanding. And also It gives Life Eternal, "He that believeth on the Son has Eternal Life, and shall never perish."

62-0720 - A TESTIMONY ON THE SEA

E-32) It must have been getting late. They'd had a great meeting that day. The sun was going down, setting across the little Galilee lake. And they was all tired, they were worn out, a great day meeting peoples. (I'm making this a drama so children can catch it.) And everybody was weary and tired.

I can see the great brawny back of that big fisherman, as he tugged at the boat, pushing it out across the sand until he got it in the water so that it would float under the--in the water, climbed up into the stern of the boat, and took his seat by the side of his brother, Andrew. And all on the bank--there must have been thousands of people, all, some of them wiping their eyes from tears and saying, "Come back. See us again. Bring Him back again."

62-0720 - A TESTIMONY ON THE SEA

E-35) ...But this was real smooth. It was a beautiful day, and the--and the old sea was just as quiet, not a riffle in it. And what a pleasure it must have been to dip those oars down into that fresh water, and bend those backs to that, and just in time, each oar. It's like a rhythm. Then they'd make two or three oars, and somebody would stop, and all them wave good-bye, and on and on till the little group on the bank begin to get smaller and smaller. And to them, the little boat got smaller as they went out. Finally, they were past seeing each other, out into the sea. The sun was getting well down now, just red streaks up in the sky from the sun, from the distant Galilean mountains.

62-0720 - A TESTIMONY ON THE SEA

E-38) And after while young John must've turned around and said, "I would like to testify while we're resting here." You know how it is. After you've had a meeting, something has happened, thrills you, you must testify about it. You've got to tell somebody about it. So young John said, "I'd like to give a testimony. That is one thing: that after today we can say truly that we're not following a false prophet. It certainly was convincing to anyone today to see that we are not falling a fal--following a false prophet, as many teachers of our days are telling us that we are. We're following a Man that don't belong to any great organization. He condemns them and so forth. And they tell us that we're just off on the deep end, but we're not. For I can clearly remember when I was a little boy." (Now, we're going to listen to a testimony meeting. Let's join in with them now, thinking of ourself.) John says, "When I was a little boy, I can remember when my mama would get me on the porch.

62-0720 - A TESTIMONY ON THE SEA

E-40) "And I remember Mama telling us--telling me, rather, as she rocked me, she said, 'Listen, John, my little boy, always believe God. One day when our people were slaves down in Egypt, great Jehovah God sent His prophet down there. Following, we did, a Pillar of Fire, our people, and they come out in the wilderness without anything, just what clothes they had on. And God brought bread down every night and laid it out on the ground. And our people eat bread in that wilderness for forty years.'"

"And I used to be enthused as a little boy. I said, 'Mama, does God have a whole big row of ovens up there in heaven, and a bunch of Angels working night work, that they get up there, and bake all this bread, and run down, and lay it on the ground?'"

"She'd say, 'No, son. You understand as a child. God doesn't have to have bake ovens. God is a Creator. And all that God had to do was just speak the Word, and the bread fell on the earth.'"

E-41) "And now, my brethren," he said, "today when I seen them bring that little boy up there with those five little biscuits and two fishes, and I seen Him break that bread, and multiply that to feed five thousand people, I knowed that was no false prophet. He had to be associated with Jehovah God, because here again, the very God that we believe in was right here doing His same works again. He was creating bread. It must be the same God that led our people into this land. Sure."

62-0720 - A TESTIMONY ON THE SEA

E-69) Oh, the testimony meeting was just getting stirred up good. Oh, everything was... And you know, the devil happened to look down across the hill and found them without Jesus. They'd went off without Him. That's when the devil had his chance. He said, "Now, I've got my opportunity to sink them, because they'd gone off without their master."

62-0720 - A TESTIMONY ON THE SEA

E-77) All hopes was gone. But you know what? He was still watching them. The Bible said He climbed up the mountain. And He was standing up there watching them, seeing what they was in trouble. I'm so glad that grace is still in existence. If it wasn't, we'd all be gone.

62-0720 A TESTIMONY ON THE SEA

E-78) What happened? When the dark hour come along, that they realized they had not had Him with them. And the first thing you know, here He come walking to them on the sea, the only thing that could help them. And what did they do? They cried out. They were scared of Him. Now, listen close. I'm closing.

They were afraid, scared of the only thing that could help them, because it looked spooky. They said, "He's a spirit. That's a spirit walking on the water. Nothing could do that but a spirit." Oooh, they were scared. And the only hopes they had, they was afraid of. That's the same thing tonight. The hope of the coming of the Lord Jesus is appearing amongst the people. And when they see it they want to call it mental telepathy; they want to call it fortunetelling; they want to call it every kind of a devil that can be called; and it's the only thing that can help you. What was the voice that come from Him? "Fear not. Be of a good courage. It's I." Looked kinda scary at first, but, "It is I. Be not afraid."

Now, we've had a lot of testimony meetings, and we see what's happening to the church. Don't be scared. He's still God. He's just as much God as He ever was. Do you believe that? The same testimony that He was of them in that day, we can believe that Him being the same testimony to us today. Can't you believe that?

JOHN 6:18-21

¹⁸And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. ¹⁹So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. ²⁰But he saith unto them, **It is I; be not afraid.** ²¹Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

HEBREWS 13:5-6

⁵Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. ⁶So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

JOHN 14:18-20

¹⁸I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. ²⁰At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

57-0309E - JEHOVAH JIREH

E-39) ...And maybe tonight, that you're sick, just to have a little child training, just a little testing. Don't be discouraged. God's on the throne. He knows all things. If were truly borned of the Spirit of God, everything's working together for our good. He's going to make everything right. He promised He would. He swore He would. And He's got to keep that Word. He's kept it now for oh, thousands of years to every believer. Would you be any exception? No, sir. We're no exception.

RUTH 1:19-22

¹⁹So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi? ²⁰And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? ²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

RUTH 4:13-16

¹³So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. ¹⁴And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. ¹⁵And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. ¹⁶And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

REVELATION 10:8-11

⁸And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. ⁹And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. ¹⁰And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. ¹¹And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

61-0618 - REVELATION CHAPTER FIVE 2

100) And this sevenfold Book of seven redemption plans has been brought to us, and that's what this Book holds. Now, we're going to get over in the 10th chapter where this mighty Angel proclaims something that... and He had a little Book that John had to eat. And when he did, he got it into his belly and it was bitter, but in his lips it was sweet.

When you have to digest It, then it gets bitter, everybody's against you, everybody telling "You're a holy roller, you're this, that, or the other." See? "You're off your head." So, it's hard to digest It; but when you're testifying of His Glory, It's sweet in your lips. That's all. See? And when you stand up in a meeting, you say, "Glory to God! Halle-... " Oh, when you're going through that great seige, it's hard; but then when you're out of that great seige you can testify of it, then It's sweet in the lips.

PSALM 103:1-5

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: ³Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; ⁴Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; ⁵Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.