

The Purpose of Our Suffering — Part 1

When our children reach the age of 10 or 11 years old they should be able to judge themselves, making sure they have a good conscience before they come to the morning and evening sacrifices. This is good training for them — they'll be priests in our Father's house. Someday they will have to face Bar Mitzvah, when the parents present their children who are truly ready and have come to the age of accountability. At that time they are held accountable for their sins (around 12 years old). Some parents won't be able to present their children because they won't be ready. What is a Jewish Bar Mitzvah like?

Hananyah — It is just a tradition — memorizing a lot of prayers and reciting them. It doesn't matter what your life is like.

Mt 24:14 — This is telling us when the end will come so we won't be surprised. It will come upon a people who are able to bear witness of the Kingdom of God. It's an actual kingdom like the kingdom of Israel, a fellowship of tribes, the twelve tribes, a nation which is based on Mt 21:43 and 1 Pet 2:9. Old Israel was supposed to be a kingdom of priests — a royal priesthood. The witness of the gospel, the good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed to every nation as a witness and *then* the end will come. It is an absolute impossibility that it will come right now — not until the witness goes out. That's why we have to teach our children (like Seth and Shoshanna) to endure pain and hardship so that they'll be prepared for the tribulation to come.

2 Tim 2:12-13 — This is referring to the time when our Master will return to be King on the earth. He's our King right now, and only those who know Him as King and honor Him and are under His rule and allow Him to guide their life will be worthy to rule with Him in the next age when He returns to be King over the whole earth. Remember what it says in 2 Tim 2:11 — “if we died with Him” — have we died with Him? Have we actually died? No pretense? If we have, we'll live eternally with Him — *the* live in 2 Tim 2:11 is *eternal* life. When do we die with Him? At baptism, when we confess Him and die to ourselves. We have to die to our old life as much as He died when He was crucified. Our life has to equal His life — no less, no more. We no longer live by our old life (Rom 6:3,5,6). If we died with Him, we'll live with Him. Baptism is our death with Him. Did we die with Him? In 1976 when I read Rom 6 at Derush's baptism he said, “It's getting all too clear.” We must die with Him.

2 Tim 2:11 is talking about our death and burial. You bury dead things — it's not a ritual — when you want to die to your old self and you want Him to live in you. There's no way He'll take up residence in you unless you give up your own agenda, what you want to do, your aspirations. We are dead men — we died to sin. Verse 12 — If we endure with Him, we'll reign with Him. If we've died with Him, we'll have eternal life with Him. If we endure, we'll reign with Him when He comes back to earth.

Mt 24:3 — The disciples said, “Tell us when the end of the age will be?” They wanted to know when the end would come. Are we home yet? The age is still going on. Verses 2-8 — Many will come to mislead us. Birth pains are going to come — are you ready for that? Are you going to endure with Him when it happens? Verses 9-13 — Which will you do — endure with our Master or at that time betray one another? Most people's love will grow cold because lawlessness will increased. *Lawlessness* is having your own agenda. *Rasha* is the state of being filled with restless self will — you don't want to be confined to one place and you control your own life. The one *who endures* until the end of this age *will be saved*. Are you saved? What does endure mean? ENDURE — to carry on through despite hardships, to suffer patiently without yielding, to undergo (Mt 24:13). The word “saved” here means that your soul is being saved, or we would be asked to earn our eternal life. This is not talking about eternal life here, it's talking about the salvation of your soul. We have to receive the word implanted (Jms 1:21) and get rid of all lawlessness, to be upgraded. To be made suitable for Messiah all the wrinkles in our garments have to be ironed out. You have to make sure you're listening so you can judge yourself rightly. We can't have sin in our life. We can't overlook it and sweep it under the rug. Our sins have to be covered by His blood. If they are covered you're as good as He is — if they are not, you're still a sinner and have to die for your sins. Which one are you?

If we actually died with Him in baptism our eternal life is secure, *but* there are still sins we have to confess

and renounce — it's according to how we judge ourselves. If you don't confess your sin and you know that you're sinning, you'd better check your relationship with our Master! The Day of Atonement is coming — Yom Kippur — it's the day when we make sure that every last sin has been judged. If we go on year by year until our Master returns, carrying on through with Him despite the hardships, remaining in Him until the end, we will reign with Him. Acts 14:22 says we have to go *through* it. It is through *many* tribulations that we must enter the Kingdom of God. If we're not *going through* it, something's wrong. We don't just tolerate it, but we have to go through it to the other side and come out clean. Acts 14:22 — Paul went and encouraged them with the word because they were suffering through some things and they thought something was wrong. They had to go *through* tribulation.

Some people leave the Edah because they don't endure through hard times. All who endure through the hardships are saved. Someone who betrays us and leaves isn't the seed of Abraham. If they are true sons they'll return and pick up their cross. They leave because one day they don't pick up their cross (Lk 9:23). If you don't pick up your cross, pretty soon you're tolerating sin in your life and you become dull and you'll start complaining and a root of bitterness will spring up and one day you'll think it's a good idea to leave the Body because it isn't good enough for you.

Endure despite hardship. ENDURE — to bear up against, to suffer with, to undergo patiently *patiently*, patiently! To UNDERGO — to keep on going under the weight of it — to keep on keeping on, but patiently, not just with a bad attitude. Those who continue in Him, remain in Him and suffer with Him will be saved. Through them the witness of the kingdom will come, and you will be part of that witness.

It will startle and astonish the whole world that a people would endure so much because they love their Master. The world will be absolutely astonished that a people *will* endure so much hardship and not betray their Master. They will put our heads in the guillotine and tell us to deny Yahshua and live. What will you do then? If you say, "I love Him!" your head will be cut off. Will you deny Him? If you deny Him He will deny you (2 Tim 2:12). They'll say, "You won't be decapitated if you deny knowing Him." They're going to try to take away the vow we made at baptism — when we said, "Yahshua is my Sovereign!"

Are you going to stand with our Master when your head is being put in the guillotine or will you betray Him to save your life? If you know that there is nothing preventing you from having a good conscience, then you will have confidence that when your head is severed from your body and you give up your life for Him, that you will be with Him in His presence. When your head is put in the guillotine and you say, "Yahshua is my Sovereign!" and the blade swings down and your head is decapitated from your body, your head falls down instantly. If you have died with Him you won't fear because the next thing you see will be our Master! You will be absent from the Body, and present with Him (2 Cor 5:8; Rev 20:4-6).

That's what it means to follow our Master, Yahshua ha Mashiyach, and endure until the end. That is what we have to suffer and go through — we are the people who have been chosen for this very purpose — we are going to see it coming upon our generation. People need to know this before they are baptized. We speak to them and say, "Are you ready for it? Are you willing to experience the trials and tribulations, the testings, sufferings and *persecution* that will come upon us? You still have time to leave." If you're not willing to go through suffering and endure with Him until the end, then it would be better for you to *leave now* so you won't be associated with us because you'll have to die for our Master Yahshua. If you won't die for Him, then maybe you've never known Him (Phil 3:10).

When your head is severed and falls off and your body dies, your spirit will be with our Master and your soul will live eternally and you'll come back to reign with Him.