

31 July 2016

He did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah... then the Lord knows how to the godly from trials (2 Peter 2:4-9)
 Hard times are never punishment. Look beyond what is taken from you to what the Lord is trying to give you.

God does not punish you for sin. He saves you from it.
 God does not punish you for your sins, but by them. (Ruth Graham)

God me for hard times. Genesis 6:9-22
 1. 6:9 2. 6:14-16 3. 19-22
 We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:4-10)

God takes me hard times. Genesis 7:1-24
 ‘I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart! I have overcome the world.’ (John 16:33)

There came a voice from heaven, saying, You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. (Mark 1:11-12) [Deuteronomy 8:2, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5]

God takes me hard times. Genesis 8:1-22
 Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (1 Peter 4:12)
 Consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

Praise our God, from all peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard; He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. For You, God, tested us; You refined us like silver.	You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let people trample our heads; we went through fire and water, but You brought us to a spacious place.
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Psalm 66:8-12

This week's prayer priorities

- Praise God because He is...
- Thank God because He...
- Ask God because He is...

For personal reflection, or as discussion starters

1. What has been the toughest thing you have experienced this week?
2. Ruth Graham once said, "God does not punish us for our sins, but by them." What do you think she was trying to say?
3. Read Genesis 6:9. What was Noah's preparation for the tasks ahead, and how did these qualities prepare him?
4. Noah was given the basic dimension of the ark - but no details. Before you begin a task, do you need more details, or less?
5. Read Matthew 28:18-20. Once again, God gives broad parameters but little detail. What are the basic components of the Great Commission? How can we achieve it when we are not told how to?
6. Read Genesis 6:18-22 and Ephesians 2:10. Why do you think God delegates so much responsibility to us?
7. Read John 16:33. How many promises can you find? Why do we need each of them? How can we get greater enjoyment from them?

Watch it again: www.lifechurchpanania.org [then select Full Screen]
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