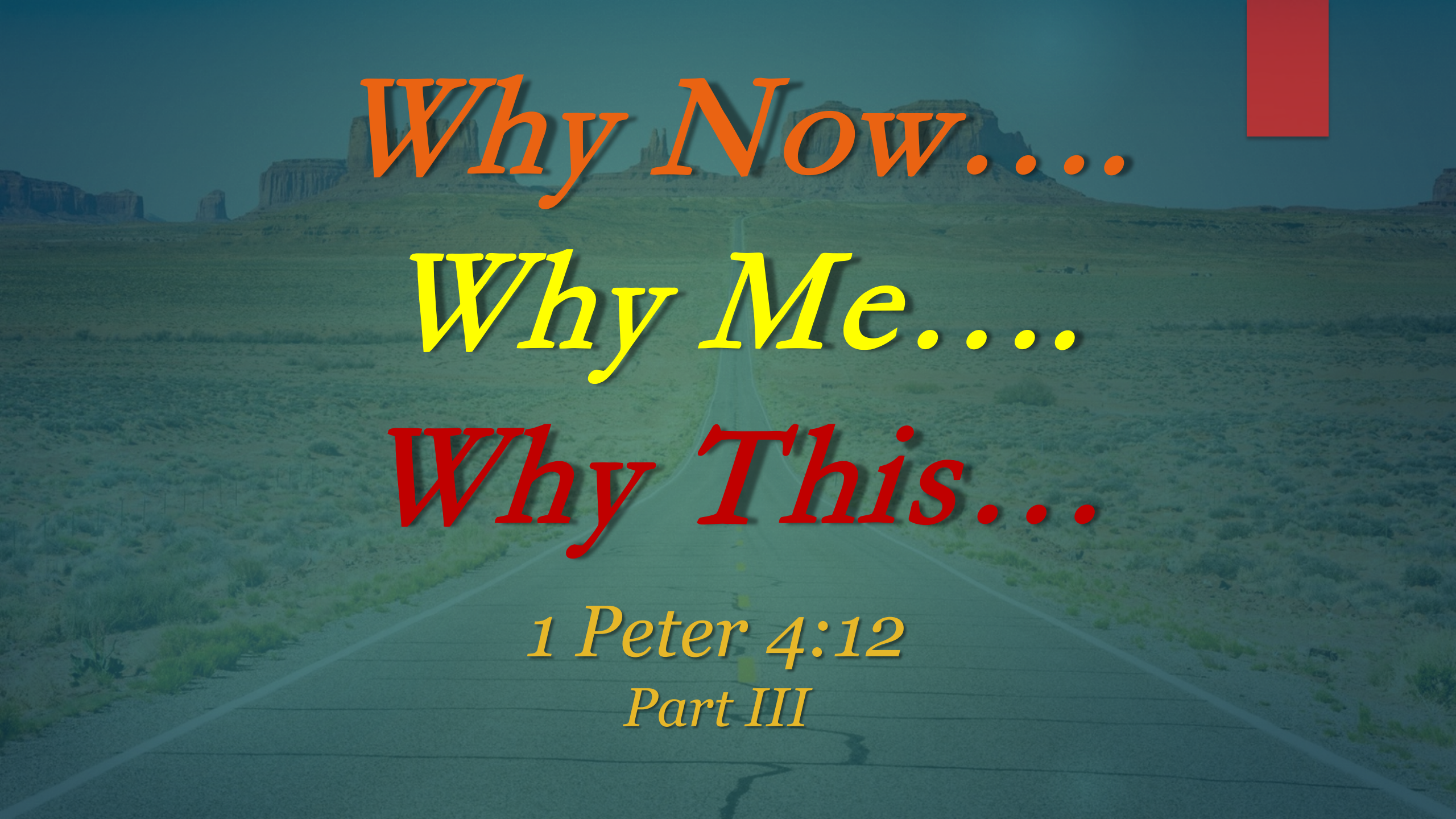


The background of the slide is a photograph of a desert landscape. A paved road with a yellow center line winds through the foreground and middle ground, leading towards a range of desert mountains in the distance. The sky is clear and blue. In the top right corner, there is a solid red vertical rectangle.

Why Now....

Why Me....

Why This...

1 Peter 4:12

Part III

Week One

Psalms 66:10-12 (NLT)

10 *YOU* have tested us, *O GOD*; *YOU* have purified us like silver.

11 *YOU* captured us in your net and laid the burden of slavery on our backs.

12 Then *YOU* put a leader over us. We went through fire and flood,

BUT YOU BROUGHT US TO A PLACE OF GREAT ABUNDANCE.

THE PAIN OF THE PATH

THE PURPOSE IN THE PROCESS

THE PROTECTION HE PROVIDED

OUR PRAISE FOR ARRIVING TO THIS PLACE



Last Week....

Why...Because It Is Necessary.....

Necessary For My Transition... Get Me Back In Track

Necessary For My Teaching..... Learn God's Word

Necessary For My Testimony.... A Witness To The World

Tonight

1 Peter 4:12 (ESV)

*12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial
WHEN IT COMES UPON YOU to test you,
as though something strange were happening TO YOU.*

Introduction

It is *common practice* for Christians to *THINK* that we are somehow *immune from suffering*.
We do not think that *Suffering and Salvation* should be in the same company...
This has been the argument throughout time...

JOB'S FRIENDS showed up in the midst of his suffering and said...*What did you do?*
You are a righteous man...This should not be happening to you...

Matthew 20:21 – The Mother of Zebedee's Sons came and asked Jesus for special seats
They wanted special seating *without the cost of suffering*... They desired to eat from
the table of Fame without sipping from the cup of suffering...

Matthew 16:21-23 – Jesus begins to show His disciples *all the things that he must suffer...*
be killed and be raised on the third day...Peter took him to the side and rebuked him...
This shall not happen to you...Jesus turned away from Peter and said, “*Get behind me Satan...*
you are an offense to me... You are not mindful of the things of God...
In other words, you have not read the Script... I MUST ENDURE THE SUFFERING

*DOES OUR PERSPECTIVE OF SUFFERING/TRIALS/TROUBLE
COME FROM THE BIBLE*

Introduction

*So The Word Of God Is Not Designed To Change Your Predicament
It Is Designed To Change Your Perspective*

THINK OF TRIALS/TROUBLE AS A SCHOOL OF TESTING AND LEARNING

*In the spiritual walk of life it is filled with **Pop Quizzes**... Everyday **God Gives** Pop Quizzes
They Are Designed To Test Your Faith*

*Be prepared to endure persecutions...why because suffering is **A Requirement of discipleship**
SUFFERING IS NOT AN ELECTIVE...*

***God Uses The School of Hard Knocks to:**
teach lessons, build character, develop humility, and deepen faith.*

Deuteronomy 8:2-4 (ESV)

*2 And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
4 Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.*

Manage Your Expectations

1 Peter 4:12 (ESV)

12 Beloved, **DO NOT BE SURPRISED** at the fiery trial **when it comes upon you** TO TEST YOU, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:12 (NKJV)

12 Beloved, **DO NOT THINK IT STRANGE** concerning the fiery trial WHICH IS TO TRY YOU, as though some strange thing happened to you;

DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN TROUBLE/TESTS/TRIALS SHOW UP AT YOUR DOOR...

The **ABSENCE** of satanic opposition would be strange...

Peter stresses **mental readiness**... The state of being **PREPARED** for every circumstance, situation, or condition....

The **NATURAL ATTITUDE** for a Christian is to look on persecution, trials, tribulations, and suffering **as unusual or strange**. We are surprised when we have to suffer or **go through** difficult dilemmas, strenuous situations, or crucial circumstances. Peter challenges us to consider it as **A NORMAL CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE**

“WHEN IT COMES UPON YOU” ~ ~ ~ “NOT IF”

Manage Your Expectations

1 Peter 4:12 (ESV)

12 Beloved, **DO NOT BE SURPRISED** at the fiery trial *when it comes upon you to test you,* as though something strange were happening to you.

My Expectations Are Strengthened Because I Know The Purpose

The Purpose Is To Test My Faith

When I Understand The Purpose,

I Know The Test Is Necessary And Temporary

1 Peter 1:6-7 (ESV)

6 In this you rejoice, *though now for a little while, IF NECESSARY,* *you have been grieved by various trials,* 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Job 23:10 (ESV)

10 But *he knows* the way that I take; *when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.*

Manage Your Expectations

I Expect Trials To Come ~ And I Expect That I Will Come Out

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

*13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. **AND GOD IS FAITHFUL. HE WILL NOT ALLOW** the temptation to be more than you can stand. **WHEN** you are tempted, **HE WILL SHOW YOU A WAY OUT SO THAT YOU CAN ENDURE.***

Daniel 3:14-18 (NLT)

14 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up?”

*15 I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. **And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?”***

*16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, **we do not need to defend ourselves before you.***

*17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. **He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.***

*18 **But even if he doesn’t,** we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, **that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”***

THEY HAD AN EXPECTATION THAT GOD WAS ABLE TO DELIVER

Maintain Your Joy

1 Peter 4:13 (ESV)

13 **BUT REJOICE** insofar as *you share Christ's sufferings*,
that you may also **REJOICE** and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Literally, Peter wrote, *Be constantly rejoicing*...The world cannot **understand** how difficult circumstances can **produce exceeding joy**, because the world has never experienced the grace of God ...

Only God can supernaturally give us **GREAT JOY** in the midst of trials. We may not rejoice in the trial itself, but we can rejoice in the ultimate good that will come out of it.

Rejoice in what the pain will accomplish...

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

2 Dear brothers and sisters, *when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.*

3 *For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.*

4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed,
you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

3 *We can rejoice*, too, *when we run into problems and trials*, *for we know that they help us develop endurance.*

4 *And endurance develops strength of character*, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Maintain Your Joy

*It is **A PRIVILEGE** to be **COUNTED WORTHY** to handle trouble, trials, and tribulations.
Can God trust you with Trouble...Can you still maintain your poise, posture, and praise
in the midst of persecution... Will You Still Fulfill Your Assignment Despite The Adversity?*

Acts 5:17-29 (NLT)

*17 The high priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, **were filled with jealousy**. 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. 19 But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, 20 “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!”*

*26 The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. 27 Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. 28 “Didn’t we tell you never again to teach in this man’s name?” he demanded. “Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!”
29 But Peter and the apostles replied, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.*

*41 The apostles left the high council **REJOICING**
that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.*



In Conclusion

In The Midst Of Testing, Trials, and Trouble

Manage My Expectations

Maintain My Joy