



**IN**

**THE**

**FORGE**

**HOW SUFFERING**

**SHAPES US**

I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY  
THE EARTH  
BUT ALSO THE HEAVENS

SO THAT ONLY  
UNSHAKABLE THINGS WILL  
REMAIN

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Hebrews 12:26b, 27b

# SUFFERING BECAUSE GOD PERMITTED SATAN OR IS DOING IT HIMSELF

1. So that God can be glorified when he heals us or relieves our suffering (Jn 9:3)
2. God is discipling us (Heb 12:5-11)
3. God is preparing us (Lk 22:31)
4. We have obeyed God (Job 1:8, 12), which includes taking up our cross (Matt 16:24, Heb 11)

# SUFFERING BECAUSE OF FREE WILL

1. We've turned from God and embraced death (Gen 3:1-10; Deut 30:19,20)
2. Others are sinning; sometimes against us (*starting with Gen 4:8 and throughout the bible*)
3. The world has turned from God and become dark and confused (Rom 1:19-32)
4. The earth is cursed because of ancient sin (Gen 3:16-23; 4:7)

# A contemporary forge



# IN THE FORGE

Often the bible refers to suffering as being like a furnace, refining fire, or crucible. In our present-day world, we would refer to such things as a forge (a forge is a furnace for melting or refining metal). Here are some verses that show how God and His people use this image of a forge to understand suffering.

I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering. Is 48:10

I will melt you down and skim off your slag. I will remove all your impurities. Is 1:25b

I will bring that group through the fire  
and make them pure.

I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. Zech 13:9a

You have tested us, O God;  
you have purified us like silver. Ps 66:10

Therefore, this is what the  
LORD of Heaven's Armies says:  
"See, I will melt them down in a crucible  
and test them like metal.  
What else can I do with my people? Jer 9:7

For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal... He will sit like a refiner of silver,  
burning away the dross. Mal 2:2b, 3a

Fire tests the purity of silver and gold,  
but the LORD tests the heart. Prov 17:3

These trials will show that your faith is genuine.  
It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold...  
So when your faith remains strong through many trials,  
it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day  
when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world...

Don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through,  
as if something strange were happening to you.  
Instead, be very glad for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering,  
so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory  
when it is revealed to all the world.

1 Pet 1:6b, 7. 4:12, 13