



House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"Buried to Bloom: Why Suffering isn't the End"

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Sometimes the hardest part of walking with God is trusting Him when the outcome feels completely upside down. We pray for breakthrough, but face hardship. We obey, and still suffer. It feels like everything is being buried—our dreams, our peace, maybe even our faith. Peter writes to believers who are being faithful... and still paying a price for it. But instead of giving them escape, he gives them perspective. He says: You're not being buried to die. You're being buried to bloom.

In this powerful, poetic passage, Peter points us to Yeshua's suffering, to Noah's faithfulness in a decaying world, and to the promise of new life through immersion. It's a story of transformation: how what looks like loss becomes the very seed of victory. If you feel like you're underground—forgotten, pressed, or left in the dark, know that God is doing something beneath the surface. He hasn't lost you. He's planting you.

1. PLANTED IN SUFFERING: HE WAS BURIED SO WE COULD BLOOM

"For Messiah once suffered for sins also—the righteous for the unrighteous—in order to bring you to God." These words hit like a thunderclap. Yeshua's suffering wasn't incidental. It was intentional. He didn't suffer because He lost power—He suffered *on purpose* to bring us to God. The perfectly righteous One was buried like a criminal, misunderstood by the world and betrayed by men, so that we—the guilty, the lost, the hurting—could walk in open access to the Father. His suffering was the seed that bloomed into resurrection life—not just for Himself, but for all who would believe.

So when we suffer for doing good—when we endure pain for obeying Him—we're not off-track. We're right in the center of the garden. It doesn't feel like it. Suffering never does. But Peter wants us to lift our eyes and see the pattern: Messiah was planted in death and raised in glory. If He is the vine and we are the branches, shouldn't we expect that some parts of our story will mirror His? You are not abandoned in the dirt—you are rooted. God knows what He planted in you, and He knows exactly when it will bloom.

2. PROCLAIMING FROM THE UNDERGROUND: KEEP PREACHING WHILE YOU'RE BURIED

Peter includes a puzzling detail: that Yeshua, after being made alive by the Spirit, went and "preached to the spirits in prison." Scholars debate the exact mechanics, but the theological thrust is clear—*death didn't stop His mission*. Even in the depths, Yeshua proclaimed victory. And then Peter ties that moment back to Noah—a man who preached righteousness for years while being ignored by everyone around him. He wasn't popular, he wasn't applauded, but he kept building, kept warning, and ultimately, God honored his obedience.

If you're in a season that feels like burial—hidden, overlooked, unseen—don't stop proclaiming. You may feel like your obedience isn't producing fruit. But obedience is the root, not the flower. Like Noah, you may not see results right away. Like Yeshua, you may

feel like you're shouting into darkness. But truth always has an audience—even if it's only heaven for now. God is not asking you to win the world. He's asking you to be faithful with the message. Even if you feel underground, your voice still echoes in eternity. Keep preaching. Keep loving. Keep trusting. Bloom is coming.

3. RAISED TO OVERFLOW: YOU WERE MEANT FOR MORE THAN SURVIVAL

Peter now turns to immersion—not just as a religious ritual, but as a living picture. Just like the floodwaters lifted Noah and his family to safety while cleansing the earth, immersion symbolizes the rescue God gives to us through Yeshua. It's not about outward washing—it's the inward commitment: a pledge to God from a clean conscience. When we're immersed, we're identifying with Messiah's burial and resurrection. We go under like seeds... and rise like shoots breaking through soil, filled with new life. That's not survival. That's transformation.

But it doesn't stop at being raised. Peter closes this section by reminding us that the risen Messiah is now at the right hand of God—with all authorities, powers, and dominions under His feet. That's the overflow. We weren't saved just to survive the storm—we were raised to walk in victory, to live with courage, and to proclaim His name with authority. Don't let the soil of suffering make you forget the sunlight of resurrection. If you're in Messiah, your life carries resurrection power. You're not just buried—you're blooming. You're not just saved—you're sent.

CONCLUSION

You may feel overwhelmed, buried under the weight of grief, opposition, or confusion. But take heart—burial is not the end for those who are in Messiah. Yeshua suffered, but He rose. He preached, and He triumphed. The same Spirit who raised Him lives in you. If you're in a season of pain for doing what's right, you're not abandoned—you're aligned with the Savior. Let His life overflow from yours. Choose today to keep walking in faith, to keep proclaiming hope, and to let His victory shape your vision.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think Peter points to Messiah's suffering as an encouragement to believers who are suffering?
2. How can we shift our mindset to see suffering as part of our mission rather than a detour?
3. What does Peter's reference to Noah and the flood teach us about endurance and faithfulness?
4. How can we let the "overflow" of our salvation bring life to those around us?
5. What does it mean to live as someone who has been raised to new life in Messiah?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, thank You for sending Yeshua to suffer once and for all for our sins—to bring us to You. In our seasons of hardship, help us see Your purpose and walk in hope. Fill us with the resurrection life of Your Spirit, that we might overflow with Your love, truth, and goodness in a broken world. Use our suffering to draw others to You, and remind us daily that the victory has already been won. Strengthen us to follow You boldly, joyfully, and faithfully, even through the flood. In Yeshua's name—Amen.