

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 133. Better times coming

**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** 1 Peter 5:10-11

And the God of grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.



**LOOKING FURTHER:** 1 Peter 5:6-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

When ending a talk, a letter or a book, it is often a good idea to reinforce the most important point you want to make. The speaker or writer may ask themselves, 'If the reader only remembers one thing I have said, what do I want it to be?'

As Peter brings his letter to a close, he remembers that many of his readers are going through hard times and he wants to encourage and reassure them. He reminds them of the promises of God they can hold on to when times are hard. It is not always easy to receive encouragement when we are feeling really down. We can wonder whether the person trying to encourage us has the faintest idea what we are going through. Peter reminds his readers that their fellow Christians around the world are having the same problems they are.

So Peter ends with a positive message that his readers can hold on to however bad things seem. He reminds us that God is 'the God of all grace,' and what God will do for us depends on His love and generosity, not what we deserve. Once we have chosen to trust Him, God calls us 'to his eternal glory in Christ.' God has invited us personally and by name to share in His blessings. Even if we are going through a hard time, it is temporary and God Himself will restore us – make things right again – to how He always wanted them to be. It does not depend on our knowledge or skill. It is the work of God!

'May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.' (2 Thessalonians 2.16-17).

### Reflections:

- Think of other promises in the Bible that have helped you; many Bibles, including those given out by Chaplaincy, have an index to help you find promises and encouragements for particular situations. Maybe you could start to collect a list of them in a notebook or prayer journal?
- You are in a good place to understand the struggles others are going through. Who might you encourage this week?
- If you are suffering a hard time at the moment, ask someone to pray with you. This could be a Christian friend, a chaplain, or you could call the *Prayer Line* number below.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



# GOD OF ALL GRACE

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

