

# **“Keep Running the Gospel Race”**

**1 Peter 3:18-4:6**

Lord's Day – June 19, 2022 - Chas Morse













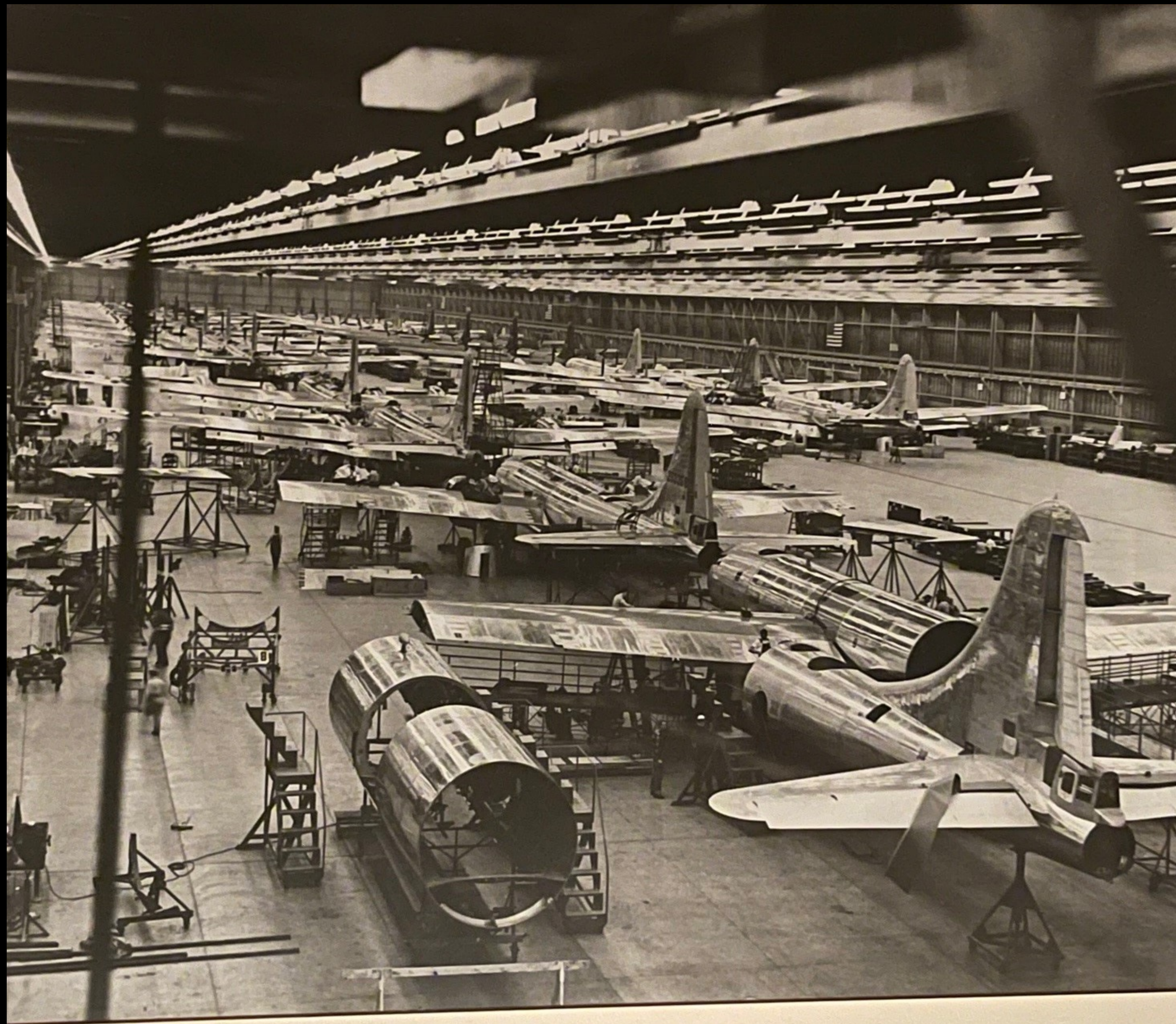
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LOOKING EAST WITH GREAT DOOR AT  
END OF MAIN ASSEMBLY BAY IN  
BACKGROUND. BOEING B-29S.











# 1 Peter - Book Outline:

## **Salutation** (1:1-2)

### I. Suffering Christians Should Remember Their Great Salvation (1:3-2:10)

- A. Certainty of Salvation (1:3-12)
- B. Consequences of Salvation (1:13-2:10)
  - 1. Priority of Holiness (1:13-23)
  - 2. Power of the Word (1:24-2:3)
  - 3. Priesthood of Believers (2:4-10,12)

### **II. Suffering Christians Should Remember Their Example Before Men (2:11-4:6)**

- A. Living Honorably Before Unbeliever (2:11-3:7)
- B. Living Honorably Before Believers (3:8-17)
- C. **Living Honorably Before Persecution (3:18-4:6)- Today's Text**

### III. Suffering Christians Should Remember Their Lord's Promised Return (4:7-5:11)

- A. Responsibilities of Christian Living (4:9-11)
- B. Reality of Christian Suffering (4:12-19)
- C. Requirements for Christian Leadership (5:1-4)
- D. Realization of Christian Victory (5:5-11)

## **Conclusion** (5:12-14)



I. Theme: What is the overall theme statement for Peter's Letter?

“Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.” (4:19)



# Section Outline

**I. Future Focus** – Post Salvation. The believer's salvation and future glorification should be our chief motivation while serving our Lord Jesus Christ during this very short earthly existence. (1 Peter 3:18–22)

**II. Former Focus** – Pre-Salvation Focus. Since our Savior suffered and died because of our sin, we too should refrain from sin as we suffer for God while doing His will during rest of our earthly stay. (4:1-6)



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# Nero Persecutes The Christians, 64 A.D.

"Therefore, to stop the rumor [that he had set Rome on fire], he [Emperor Nero] falsely charged with guilt, and punished with the most fearful tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were [generally] hated for their enormities. Christus, the founder of that name, was put to death as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea, in the reign of Tiberius, but the pernicious superstition - repressed for a time, broke out yet again, not only through Judea, - where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also, whither all things horrible and disgraceful flow from all quarters, as to a common receptacle, and where they are encouraged. **Accordingly first those were arrested who confessed they were Christians; next on their information, a vast multitude were convicted, not so much on the charge of burning the city, as of "hating the human race."**

The following account was written by the Roman historian Tacitus in his book Annals published a few years after the event. Tacitus was a young boy living in Rome during the time of the persecutions.







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“In their very deaths they were **made the subjects of sport**: for they were **covered with the hides of wild beasts**, and **worried to death by dogs**, or **nailed to crosses**, or **set fire to**, and when the day waned, **burned to serve for the evening lights**. Nero offered his own garden players for the spectacle, and exhibited a Circensian game, indiscriminately mingling with the common people in the dress of a charioteer, or else standing in his chariot.”

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- I. Future Focus – Post Salvation. The believer's salvation and future glorification should be our chief motivation while serving our Lord Jesus Christ during this very short earthly existence. (1 Peter 3:18–22)**
  - A. The Example of Christ (3:18-22)**
  - B. The Example of Noah (3:18-22)**



# Choices for Understanding

## 1 Peter 3:19-20

**1) Some believe Peter here referred to the descent of Christ's Spirit into hades between His death and resurrection to offer people who lived before the Flood **a second chance** for salvation. However, this interpretation has no scriptural support.**

**In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary:  
An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 2, p. 851). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.**



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## 1 Peter 3:19-20

2) Others say this passage refers to Christ's descent into hell after His crucifixion to **proclaim His victory** to the imprisoned fallen angels referred to in 2 Peter 2:4-5, equating them with "the sons of God" Moses wrote about (Gen. 6:1-2).

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# Choices for Understanding

## 1 Peter 3:19-20

**3) Later he described Noah as “a preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5). The Spirit of Christ preached through Noah to the ungodly humans who, at the time of Peter’s writing, were “spirits in prison” awaiting final judgment.**

**The problem remains as to when Christ preached to these “spirits.” Peter’s explanation of the resurrection of Christ (3:18) “by the Spirit” brought to mind that the preincarnate Christ was actually in Noah, ministering through him, by means of the Holy Spirit. Peter (1:11) referred to the “**Spirit of Christ**” in the **Old Testament prophets**.**

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# Immediate Applications

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- 2) Noah was a righteous man living in a wicked world; Peter exhorts his readers to live godly while living in a wicked world; We are commanded by God to righteously and live soberly while we live in a hostile environment. (3:13-14; 16-17; 4:3-4)**



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- 3) Noah boldly witnessed and proclaimed the gospel to a scoffing, wicked and hostile generation; Peter encourages the readers of his day to be good witnesses to those in their spheres of influence willing to suffer to bring others to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ; We are commanded to do the same, despite the opposition that we may encounter. (3:14, 16-17)**



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- 4) Noah realized that worldwide judgement was coming soon (120 years soon); Peter reminds all believers that's God's second judgment is coming soon too. (4:5,7; 2 Peter 3:10)**



# Section Outline

**II. Former Focus – Pre-Salvation Focus. Since our Savior suffered and died because of our sin, we too should refrain from sin as we suffer for God while doing His will during rest of our earthly stay. (4:1-8)**

**A. The Example of Christ (4:1-2)**

**B. The Example of Your Pagan Life (4:3-6)**







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- 4) Unbelievers are warned by God that His second judgment is coming soon. Even now, God is patiently waiting for unbelievers to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ before the cosmos is destroyed by fire. (4:5,7; 2 Peter 3:9-10; Revelation 21:)**