

INTRODUCTION

"Through" - into one side and out the other; from beginning to end; to completion.

We ask ourselves, "Will I ever get through this?" **Yes!**

(Deut. 2:7) "walking through this great wilderness ... you lacked nothing"
(Psalm 23:4) "though I walk through the valley ... for thou art with me"
(Psa. 66:6) "they went through the flood on foot ... we rejoice in him"
(Psa. 66:12) "we went through fire and through water: but you brought us out ... "
(Psa. 106:9-10) "so he led them through the depths ... saved them"
(Isaiah 43:2-3) "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you: and when you walk through the
fire, you shall not be burned ... for I am the Lord thy God ... thy Savior"
(Job 29:3) "... and when by his light I walked through darkness"

Trials compared to a refiner's fire:

(Job 23:10) "... when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold"
(Psalm 66:10) "For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried"

(Malachi 3:3) "And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver:
and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver,
that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness"

4 LESSONS FROM THE REFINER AND HIS FIRE

1. GOD CARES - "He shall sit as a refiner"

The refiner does not want his metal destroyed; rather, wants to increase its value.

Hymn #507 Does Jesus Care?"

2. GOD CLEANSES - "and purge them"

The refining process gets the "dross" (scum) out, purges; not consume the gold.

3. GOD CONTROLS - "sit"

The refiner stays with the process, watches, regulates.

(1 Cor. 10:13) "God is faithful, who will not allow you ... "

4. GOD KNOWS WHEN THE WORK IS DONE - "that they may offer ... "

(Rms. 8:29; Rms. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:49; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:10)