

## THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER

### I. God's Elect – His Chosen People in the New Covenant Age

(1 Pet. 1:2-12; 5:10; Isa. 65:9, 15, 22; Rom. 2:28-29; 8:33; Col. 3:12; Rev. 17:14)

- A. God's election is irrevocable (Rom. 9:11; 11:29)
- B. Chosen before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4-6)
- C. According to foreknowledge of God the Father (Acts 2:23; Eph. 1:4-8)
  - 1. In sanctification of the Spirit (2 Thess. 2:13-14)
  - 2. Unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:2b)
- D. Pilgrims and dispersed
  - 1. Here we have no continuing city (Heb. 13:14; 11:9-10; Col. 3:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:13-14; John 17:14-20)
  - 2. Dispersed (in today's term: totally divided)
- E. Begotten <born again> by God our Father to a living hope (1 Pet. 1:3, 23; John 3:3-6; 1:12-13)
  - 1. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
  - 2. Of incorruptible seed through the living and abiding word of God (1 Pet. 1:23-25)
  - 3. To an inheritance incorruptible and unfading, kept (carefully guarded) in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4; Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 3:28-29)
- F. Guarded by the power of God (1 Pet. 1:5)
  - 1. Through faith unto salvation (1 Pet. 1:9; Rom. 8:23b; 13:11; Heb. 9:28)
  - 2. Ready (fully prepared) to be revealed at the last time <the day of judgment, the day of the Lord's return> (1 Pet. 1:7b, 13)

### II. Our Faith Must Go through Manifold Trials <Sufferings> Today (1 Pet. 1:6-9; see point IX)

- A. Faith is much more precious than gold which perishes

- B. Going through fire to prove its genuineness  
(Jam. 1:3-4; 1 Tim. 1:5; Mal. 3:2-4; Ps. 66:10-12)
  - 1. To remove all the impurities (e.g., defilement of the spirit and the flesh) – as with gold ore
  - 2. Resulting in praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:7)
- C. The end <goal, consummation> of faith (1 Pet. 1:9) –  
**the salvation of our souls**
  - 1. The preciousness of this salvation (1 Pet. 1:10-12)
    - a. Inquired and searched carefully and diligently by the Spirit of Christ in the prophets of old
      - i. Concerning the sufferings of Christ
      - ii. And the glories that would follow
    - b. Preached to us as the gospel by the Holy Spirit through those sent by God
  - 2. Typified by the flood and the ark during Noah's time – an antitype of baptism (1 Pet. 3:18-22; Rom. 6:3-11)
    - a. Saved through water (1 Pet. 3:20)
      - i. Not the washing away (removal) of the filth of the flesh (Heb. 9:10)
      - ii. But the plea to God for a good conscience
        - a) The death of our Lord with His precious blood cleansed our conscience (Heb. 9:9, 14; 10:22)
        - b) The need to exercise (to strive, to labor, to take pain) to always have a conscience void of offense toward God and men (Acts 23:1; 24:16; 2 Cor. 1:12; 2 Tim. 1:3; Heb. 13:18)
        - c) The Holy Spirit bears witness with our conscience (Rom. 9:1)
        - d) Holding our faith with a good conscience – to avoid shipwreck concerning the faith (1 Tim. 1:19; 3:9)

- e) Serving God with a pure conscience  
(Acts 23:1; 2 Tim. 1:3)
- f) Caring for others' conscience in the sight of God (2 Cor. 4:2; 5:11; 1 Cor. 10:29)
- g) Enduring sufferings with a good conscience toward God (1 Pet. 2:19; 3:14-16)
- h) Avoid having a weak conscience  
(1 Cor. 8:7-12)
- i) Warning regarding having the conscience defiled and seared with a hot iron  
(1 Tim. 4:2; Tit. 1:15-16)
- b. The flood – the judgment of the ungodly world  
(2 Pet. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:18; 2:23-24; Is. 53:4-8)
  - i. Jesus bore our sins and judgment in His own body on the cross
  - ii. We were baptized into His death – united with Him in His death (we have been crucified with Christ)
- c. The ark of Noah – signifies the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead
  - i. Christ is risen for our justification  
(Rom. 4:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:12-20)
  - ii. We are united with Him in His resurrection – to walk in the newness of life and to serve in the newness of the spirit (to live is Christ)
- 3. Purifying our souls by obeying the truth through the Spirit (1 Pet. 1:22a; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23)
- 4. Trusting our Lord Jesus Christ as the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls (1 Pet. 2:25)
- 5. Going through suffering according to God's will  
(1 Pet. 4:19)
  - a. Committing our souls to God as to a faithful Creator

- b. In well-doing – dedication, prayers, patience and endurance
- 6. Exercising to deny and afflict our soul-life today (Matt. 16:24-26)
- 7. Being saved to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25)
  - a. Christ our great heavenly High Priest
  - b. Always making intercession for us before the Father
  - c. Able to help us (Heb. 2:16-18; 4:15-16; 5:2, 8-9)
- 8. Result of salvation of our soul: fully conformed and transformed into the image of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29; Gal. 4:19; 2 Cor. 3:18)

### **III. Our Cooperation (1 Pet. 1:13-14, 17-20)**

- A. Girding up the loins of our mind – be sober
- B. Resting our hope fully (completely, without wavering; see Jam. 1:6-8) upon the grace
  - 1. The reward
  - 2. At the coming of Jesus Christ
- C. Being as obedient children (v. 14)
- D. Conducting ourselves throughout the time of our stay here in the fear of God (1 Pet. 1:17)
- E. Having always a fresh appreciation of our redemption (1 Pet. 1:18-20; Mt. 20:28; Rev. 5:9; Acts 20:28)
  - 1. Treasure the precious blood of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:19b-20)
  - 2. The Lamb of God – without blemish and without spot
    - a. Foreordained before the foundation of the world
    - b. Slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8)
    - c. Manifested in time for us (Gal. 4:4-5)
    - d. As if He was just freshly crucified before your eyes (Gal. 3:1)

### **IV. Be Holy in All Our Conduct – A Command of God**

(1 Pet. 1:15-16; Lev. 11:44; Mt. 5:48)

- A. Result of our cooperation

- B. "As He who called you is holy"
  - 1. Holiness – the divine nature of our heavenly Father (2 Pet. 1:3-4)
  - 2. "Be holy" is a command especially for the priests (Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 20:7)
- C. Pursue holiness that we may see and know God (Heb. 12:14)
  - 1. Perfect holiness in the fear of God – purging out all defilement (2 Cor. 6:17-18; 7:1; 1 Pet. 1:17)
  - 2. Do not despise the chastening of the Father of spirits (Heb. 12:5-10)
  - 3. Be sanctified completely by the God of peace (1 Thess. 5:23)
  - 4. Our hearts must be established blameless in holiness at the second coming of Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 3:13; 2 Pet. 3:11-12)

**V. The Importance of the Living Word of God Which Abides Forever** (1 Pet. 1:23-25; Jam. 1:21)

- A. The Word is God Himself (John 1:1; 1 John 1:1-2; Rev. 19:13)
  - 1. The creating word (John 1:3; Heb 11:3; Ps. 33:6; 2 Pet. 3:5)
  - 2. The divine life and light are in the word (John 1:4; 6:63)
  - 3. Jesus – the incarnated Word of God (John 1:14, 16; 7:17)
    - a. Full of glory, grace, and truth
    - b. His name is called: The Word of God (Rev. 19:13)
- B. The regenerating word
- C. An incorruptible seed of life implanted into our hearts (John 6:63, 68; 1:1-4; Jam. 1:21; Mt. 13:3, 8, 19-23)
- D. The living water of life in the word (Eph. 5:26-27)
- E. Nourishment for our spiritual life and growth (Mt. 4:4)
  - 1. Pure milk for the children (1 Pet. 2:2)

2. Pure solid food for the matured – without leaven (Heb. 5:14)
3. That we all may grow unto salvation
4. To save us to the uttermost – to be perfect, mature, fully transformed and become part of the firstfruits
5. A necessary condition in order to eat the living word (1 Pet. 2:1-3)
  - a. Laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking
  - b. Being pure and simple as newborn babes
  - c. Then we can taste the goodness of the Lord
6. A summary concerning the word of God (Ps. 19:7-14)

**VI. Zion – the Ultimate Will of God to Be Accomplished on Earth**  
(1 Pet. 2:4-10; Mt. 16:16-19; 6:9-10)

- A. God's heavenly kingdom (Heb 12:22-29)
  1. The city of the living God, the city of the great King (Ps. 48; 99; 110)
  2. The heavenly Jerusalem
  3. The unshakeable kingdom
- B. Jesus Christ – the living stone and the chief cornerstone (Job. 38:6; Ps. 118:22; Isa. 28:16; Zech. 10:4)
  1. Chosen (elect) by God and precious
  2. For the building up of Zion – God's kingdom of priests (Exod. 19:5)
  3. Rejected by men – those who are unbelieving and disobedient
    - a. A rock of stumbling and offense (Rom. 9:32-33; 1 Cor. 1:23)
    - b. Whoever falls on this stone will be broken; on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder (Mt. 21:42-45)
- C. Precious to the believers, who are transformed into living stones (changing of Simon's name to Peter <a stone>)
  1. Being built up into a spiritual house

2. A holy and royal priesthood
  - a. To offer up spiritual sacrifices
  - b. Acceptable to God through Jesus Christ
3. A chosen generation (race)
4. A holy nation (Exod. 19:5; Deut. 7:6; 14:2)
5. God's own special people – God's possession (Eph. 1:14; Tit. 2:14)
  - a. Those who have obtained mercy
  - b. Called out of darkness
  - c. Transferred into His marvelous light
  - d. To proclaim (declare) the excellent virtues of God

## **VII. Practical Admonishments (Instructions) from the Apostle**

(1 Pet. 2:11-20; 3:1-18)

- A. To abstain from fleshly lusts
- B. To have an honest and good manner of life among the Gentiles
  1. That with well doing we may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men
  2. As free, yet not using liberty as a cloak of vice, but as bondservants of God
- C. To submit to proper government appointed by God
  1. For the punishment of evildoers
  2. For the praise of them that do well
  3. Fear God; honor the king
- D. To honor (respect) all men (where respect is due); love the brotherhood (the brethren in the church)
- E. Concerning the relationship between servants and masters (vv. 2:18-20)
- F. The spiritual and practical relationship between husbands and wives (vv. 3:1-7)
  1. Submission of the wives – example of Sarah
    - a. Chaste conduct:
      - i. Not with outward adornment: arranging the hair, wearing gold or putting on fine apparel

- ii. But the hidden person of the heart – with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit
- iii. Which is very precious in the sight of God
- 2. Husbands must dwell with their wives with understanding:
  - a. Giving honor to the wife as to the weaker vessel
  - b. As being heirs together of the grace of life
  - c. That their prayers may not be hindered
- G. The summary (general conclusion) of the exhortation (vv. 3:8-18)

### **VIII. Exhortation Regarding the Services in God's House**

(1 Pet. 4:8-11)

- A. Having fervent love for one another
  - 1. Love will cover a multitude of sins
  - 2. Be hospitable without grumbling
- B. Be good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Pet. 4:10; Eph. 4:7)
- C. The different gifts (1 Pet. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:4-11)
- D. Concerning the elders (1 Pet. 5:1-4)
- E. Concerning the younger people (1 Pet. 5:5-6)
- F. Warning concerning the devil, our adversary (1 Pet. 5:8-9)
  - 1. Like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour
  - 2. Resist him and be steadfast in the faith

### **IX. The Suffering of Jesus Christ – an Example for Us to Follow**

(1 Pet. 2:20-25; 3:17-19; 4:12-19)

- A. Suffering is an integral part of all services in God's house
- B. Without sufferings, there is no perfecting – even our Lord was made perfect through sufferings (Heb. 2:10; 5:7-9)
- C. But with us, sufferings and trials equal chastisement and judgment (Heb. 12:5-13)
- D. **Judgment begins now at the house of God** (1 Pet. 4:12-19)
  - 1. For us the believers, the time of judgment begins NOW
  - 2. Judgment here refers to the severe trial and suffering that the saints were faced with

3. Scarcely saved means saved through much hardship and difficulties (Prov. 11:31)
4. The end of all things is at hand (1 Pet. 4:7; Rom. 13:11-13; Heb. 10:25b, 37-39; Phil. 4:5; Jam. 5:8-9)
- E. Partakers of Christ's sufferings and glory (1 Pet. 4:13; Jam. 1:2-3)
  1. Since Christ suffered for us in the flesh (1 Pet. 4:1-6; 3:18-22; 2:21) – being put to death in the flesh
    - a. We must arm ourselves with the same mind
    - b. He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin (singular) (Rom. 6:3-12)
    - c. Follow His example and footsteps (1 Pet. 2:21-25)
  2. Rejoice because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon those who endure sufferings
  3. The purpose of our going through various sufferings:
    - a. To perfect us – to be fully mature and without defect (blameless, without spot or wrinkle)
    - b. To establish us – to make us firm and unshakeable in our Christian life, faith, and truth
    - c. To strengthen us – to overcome all obstacles
    - d. To be fully rooted and grounded in Christ (Eph. 3:17-20) – to make us worthy of the coming reward – the eternal glory
      - i. God is glorified through our sufferings (1 Pet. 4:14) – the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon the ones suffering reproach for the name of Christ
      - ii. Glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:7; 4:13; 5:1b, 4)
      - iii. We will rejoice with exceeding joy at the revelation of His glory

**X. Final Greetings (1 Pet. 5:12-14)**

## Improved translations with footnotes

for 1 Peter 3:18-22; 4:6

1 Peter 3:18-22

“For Christ also suffered once<sup>1</sup> for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit<sup>2</sup>,

by Whom also He went during the days of Noah<sup>3</sup> and preached (*through Noah*)<sup>4</sup> to the spirits<sup>5</sup>,

who at that time<sup>6</sup> were disobedient (*and were then put*) in prison<sup>7</sup>, when once the Divine longsuffering waited, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water,

which is also an antitype of baptism – not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the plea to God for a good conscience – which now saves us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,<sup>8</sup>

who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.”

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<sup>1</sup> See Heb. 7:27; 9:27; 10:12

<sup>2</sup> i.e. the Spirit of the LORD (see Gen. 6:3)

<sup>3</sup> The phrase “during the days of Noah” appears in verse 20 in the original text, but was moved to verse 19 for clarity.

<sup>4</sup> The Spirit of Christ preaches through men (Eph. 2:17; 1 Pet. 1:11-12) – in this case through Noah, the preacher of righteousness (cf. 2 Pet. 2:5).

<sup>5</sup> Angelic beings; i.e. sons of God (cf. Job 1:6; Heb. 1:14)

<sup>6</sup> Or: formerly (cf. 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6)

<sup>7</sup> The phrase “in prison” appears in verse 19 in the original text, but was moved to verse 20 for clarity (cf. 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6).

<sup>8</sup> See Rom. 6:3-11

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## 1 Peter 4:6

To this end the gospel was preached also to those who are (*now*) dead<sup>1</sup>, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh<sup>2</sup>, but live according to God in the spirit.

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<sup>1</sup> i.e., while they were still alive

<sup>2</sup> i.e., they were killed/martyred by the Gentiles mentioned in verses 3-4

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