

First Peter

1 Pet. 1:3-8

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1 Pet. 1:1 “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ...”

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This epistle claims that the Apostle Peter wrote it (1:1). Since there is only one Peter who was an apostle, we may be confident of the identity of the writer. There is only one Peter that the entire New Testament mentioned.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Theologically, this epistle is *eschatological* (dealing with the end times).

As James is an exposition of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5—7, 1 Peter expounds some of the same themes that Jesus taught in His discipleship discourse in Matthew 10.

PURPOSE

Peter stated his reason for writing, namely, to encourage his readers, who were facing persecution for their faith, to "stand firm" (5:12).

MESSAGE

One writer has identified five major motifs in 1 Peter. These are:

- (1) The believer's behavior,
- (2) The believer's unfair circumstances,
- (3) The believer's deference,
- (4) The believer's motivation by Christ's example, and
- (5) The believer's anticipation of future glory.

Introduction, 1:1-2

- A. Peter's Autograph, 1:1a
- B. Peter's Authority, 1:1b
- C. Peter's Audience, 1:1c
- D. Peter's Acknowledgement, 1:2a-c

1. Their standing, 1:2a
2. Their sanctification, 1:2b
3. Their salvation, 1:2c

E. Peter's Assurance, 1:2d-e

1. God's abundant provision for them, 1:2d
2. God's abiding protection for them, 1:2e

1 Pet. 2:11 Dearly **beloved**, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

1 Pet. 4:12 **Beloved**, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

I. THE QUESTION OF SALVATION, 1:3-8

A. We have an expectant hope, 1:3-4

1. Of a triumphant exit from the grave, 1:3

a. The source of this expectation, 1:3a “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

b. The security of this expectation, 1:3b-c

(1) Guaranteed by a superlative mercy, 1:3b “...which according to his abundant mercy...”

(2) Guaranteed by a spiritual miracle, 1:3c “...hath begotten us again unto a lively hope...”

Jn. 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: **because I live, ye shall live also.**

c. The substance of this expectation, 1:3d “...by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

2. Of a triumphant entrance to glory, 1:4

a. Revelations have been made to us, 1:4a-c

(1) Our inheritance is incapable of decay, 1:4a “To an inheritance incorruptible...”

(2) Our inheritance is incapable of defilement, 1:4b “...and undefiled...”

(3) Our inheritance is incapable of default, 1:4c “...and that fadeth not away...”

εἰς κληρονομίαν ἄφθαρτον καὶ ἀμίαντον καὶ ἀμάραντον, τετηρημένην
ἐν οὐρανοῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς
to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading reserved in
[the] heavens for us

Each Greek word begins with the same letter and ends with the same syllable:

"incorruptible" (*aphtharton*),

"undefiled" (*amianton*),

"fadeth not away," (*amaranton*)

b. Reservations have been made for us, 1:4d

“...reserved **in heaven** for you,”

1 Cor. 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not **inherit the kingdom of God**? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall **inherit the kingdom of God**.

Gal. 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not **inherit the kingdom of God**.

Eph. 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any **inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God**.

B. We have an experiential faith, 1:5-7

1. It sees beyond the temporal side of life, 1:5

a. As to the present, 1:5a “Who are kept by the power of God **through faith...**”

Original Word: φρουρέω

Transliteration: phroureó

Definition: I guard, keep, as by a military guard.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5432.htm>

b. As to the prospect, 1:5b “...unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

1 Jn. 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and **it doth not yet appear what we shall be**: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And every man that hath **this hope** in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

2. It soars beyond the temptation side of life, 1:6

- a. Happy beyond present circumstances, 1:6a “Wherein ye greatly rejoice...”
- b. Harassed by present circumstances, 1:6b “...though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:”

Original Word: πειρασμός

Transliteration: peirasmos

Definition: (a) trial, probation, testing, being tried, (b) temptation, (c) calamity, affliction.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3986.htm>

3. It sings beyond the testing side of life, 1:7
(We see...)

- a. A precious faith developed by the trial, 1:7a “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth...”
- b. A purging fire devouring in the trial, 1:7b “...though it be tried with fire...”
- c. A priceless find discovered beyond the trial, 1:7c-d
 - (1) What! 1:7c “...might be found unto praise and honour and glory...”

Rom. 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that **we may be also glorified together.**

Col. 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, **then shall ye also appear with him in glory.**

1 Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do,
do all to the glory of God.

Eph. 1:12 That **we should be to the praise of his glory**, who first
trusted in Christ.

(2) When! 1:7d "...at the appearing of Jesus Christ

C. We have an expressive love, 1:8

1. What our love dares, 1:8a "Whom having not seen, ye
love..."

2. What our love does, 1:8b-d

a. Its undaunted belief, 1:8b "...in whom, though now ye see
him not, yet believing..."

b. Its undying bliss, 1:8c-d

(1) Gladness beyond all words, 1:8c "...ye rejoice with joy unspeakable..."

(2) Glory beyond all words, 1:8d "...and full of glory:"

Conclusion

Phil. 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And **the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, shall **keep** your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and **the God of peace** shall be with you.