I) V1-4 INTRO: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in
This letter was written to believers who were enduring intense persecution
For this reason, Peter wrote them a letter in order to encourage them

II) *Time of writing*: It is believed 1 Pe was written around the years 64-65 AD
By that time, the gospel had spread out from Jerusalem for 30 years (Ac 1:8)

THE CENTRAL THEME

III) *Key word*: Suffering, because this epistle deals with persecution
Believers were suffering persecution so Peter wrote this letter to encourage them

IV) *Key chapter*: 4, which provides teaching concerning *how to handle persecution*

DEVELOP

V) Persecution for being identified with Jesus and living a righteous life is inevitable
Jn 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, *they will also persecute you*

VI) These are the words of *our wounded healer*
Is 53:3 spoke of Jesus and said He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with gried and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him
For some reason we Christians have the idea that we shouidn't be persecuted

VII) We forget that this is something that has been promised to us
Phil 1:29 It has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to beliee in Him, but also to suffer for Him

VIII) Jesus said that opposition would arise and told us what to expect
Mt 5:11-12 Blessed are you when people *revile you*, *persecute* you and *falsely say* all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your *reward in heaven*, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

THREE EXPRESSIONS

IX) *Revile*: *Viciously mock you:* literally, get in your face
Persecute: Speaks of chasing or driving you away; attacking
Falsely say: Gossip about you, making false accusations about you
Pr 25:18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.

I) This is one of those promises that we really don't want to receive
Phil 1:29 it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to ***believe*** in Him, but also ***to suffer for Him***

II) Not only is it a gift of grace to ***believe***, but it is also a gift of grace to ***endure***

III) Difficulties and times of persecution are part of the life of the believer
This is part of what we all will experience if we are followers of Jesus
2 Ti 3:12 all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

IV) The believers were enduring very difficult times so Peter wrote to encourage them
The gospel has traveled out of Jerusalem and is being preached in the world
Peter now writes to some who have received the message in other lands
BEGIN STUDY

V) V1-2 ***Peter*** an apostle of Jesus Christ to the pilgrims of the ***Dispersion***
Letters began with the writer, the recipients, and then a blessing
This was a letter written by the apostle Peter, one of the original twelve

VI) This letter is to the ***pilgrims*** of the Dispersion (Living in modern Turkey)
Pilgrims of the ***diaspora*** originally spoke of Jews living outside of Israel

VII) James uses the same word to speak of Jews living outside of Israel
Jas 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes ***in the Dispersion***: Greetings.

VIII) At this time around 1 million lived in Israel, 4 million were scattered abroad
Background: The city of Rome had been burned and the Romans had been devastated. Everything had been destroyed, including their religious temples, shrines household idols. This had shaken them, because it had been made obvious that their gods could not protect them, but also were victims of something they could not control. Their anger was intensified when they began to believe Nero had burned the city in order to satisfy his insane lust to build. Nero circulated the rumor that it was the Christians who set the fire. The Romans already opposed Christians because they associated with Jews and because they opposed Roman culture. As a result, vicious persecution broke out against the believers and spread throughout the Empire. The regions mentioned in the introduction represent areas in ***modern northern Turkey***.

I) Peter used a term normally reserved for Jews, and transfered it to the Church

WHAT IS A PILGRIM?

II) ***Pilgrim***: One who comes from a foreign country into a land to reside in
It speaks of sojourning in a strange place, ***as a foreigner***
In the NT, heaven is ***the native country*** and the pilgrim a temporary resident

III) We are a community living outside of our native land (Heaven), temporarily
The earth is not our home, ***we are just passing through*** (Mr. Natural/pic)
Phil. 3:20 Our citizenship ***is in heaven.*** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ

IV) V2 ***Elect*** according to the foreknowledge of God
We are chosen by God to be His own special people

V) This is our God ***Who wants all men saved*** Jn 3:16, 2 Pe 3:9
Is 46:10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

VI) This would bring a special comfort to them as they were undergoing persecution

VII) V2 In ***sanctification*** of the Spirit for ***obedience*** and ***sprinkling of the blood*** of Jesus
The HS applies redemption to believers, purifying and setting apart to serve God

VIII) It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin
1 Jn 1:7 If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and ***the blood*** of Jesus Christ His Son ***cleanses us from all sin***

WHY BLOOD?

IX) In the OT, the sacrificial system was built on the shedding of blood
Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh ***is in the blood***, and I have given it for you on the altar to ***make atonement*** for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement (to cover over) for the soul (one's life)

X) Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for our sins, shedding His blood for us
He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29)
As the true Passover lamb, Jesus covered our sins by His blood

XI) This was a one time for all time sacrifice that covered us, never to be repeated

I) Heb 9:13-14 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

II) He doesn't just clean up an old life, but gives a completely new life (2 Co5:17)
We are *set apart* and freed from sin and given the ability to obey Jesus
Ro 6:22 But now that *you have been set free from sin* and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and *the result* is eternal life.

III) Grace and Peace be Multiplied

IV) V3 *Blessed* be the God and Father of *our* Lord Jesus Christ
Blessed speaks of God being entitled to receive praise from man
Ps 41:13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

V) Peter is making it clear that He is worthy of all praise

VI) He is *the God* and *Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ
This speaks of the special relationship that God the Father has with His Son

VII) Paul also uses this expression
2 Co 1:3 *Blessed be God*, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort

VIII) In the trinity, there is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
God is identified as the Father of the Son, Jesus
It also personalizes our relationship with God, through our Lord Jesus

IX) V3 Who according to His abundant mercy has *begotten us again* to a living hope
Jesus' resurrection provides hope for us
Ro 8:11 But if the Spirit of him who raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he who raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.

I) V4 To an inheritance ***incorruptible*** and ***undefiled*** and that ***does not fade away***
God chose Abraham, and gave him an inheritance of ***land***, Israel
Gen. 12:1-2 The LORD had said to Abram, Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go ***to the land I will show you***. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

II) God has given us an inheritance: Fellowship ***in Heaven*** with Jesus
Mt 25:34 Then the King will say to those on his right, `Come, you who are blessed by my Father; ***take your inheritance***, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.
Col. 1:5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that ***is stored up for you in heaven*** and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel

III) Heaven for believers is a sure thing, as real of the land Abraham was to inherit
Heb 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward ***to the city*** with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

IV) ***Incorruptible***: Unlike things of this age, it does not rot or decay, it is permanent
Mt 6:20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
Undefiled, ***does not fade away***, ***reserved:*** Spotless, doesn't wither away, guarded

V) Heaven is ***the most secure place*** in the universe: Nothing evil can ever enter in
Rev 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
Rev. 22:14-15 Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. ***Outside are the dogs***, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

VI) V5 Who are kept by ***the power*** of God ***through (the channel) faith*** for ***salvation***
Believers are under the guardianship of the power of God, by faith

VII) ***Kept***: Protected by a military guard standing watch to ensure safety

I) We who are the heirs of Heaven are protected by God
Though we are under attack, we will not be defeated by the enemy
2 Co 4:8-9 *We are* hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed-

II) *Kept by the power of God:* Imagine this for just a moment
What *power* is greater than the power of God?
Jer 32:27 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; *is anything* too difficult for Me

JESUS SAID

III) Jn 10:27-30 My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

IV) We can trust God because God never fails
Heb 7:25 He is able *to save* (deliver; protect) to the *uttermost* (for all time) those who come to God through Him, since He *always* (at all times) lives to intercede for them.

V) This power of God is available on behalf of the believer *by faith*
To *believe* is our part, the supply of *power* is of God
1 Jn 5:4 Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—*our faith*

VI) God is pictured as a soldier escorting people through hostile territory, delivering them to safety and freedom behind friendly lines

THE PICTURE

VII) *Faith* in God puts us in the place to experience the *keeping power* of God
God's keeping power is provided to deliver us to His goal: *Final salvation*

VIII) V5 We are kept through faith for *a salvation* ready to be revealed in *the last time*
Ready: prepared to be revealed *in the last time*
The inheritance is prepared for you but its glories are *not yet fully revealed* to us

IX) V5 *The last time*: Until your life has gone its entire route
Believers won't receive all the benefits of salvation until everything is completed
We receive the fulness of our inheritance at the end, in a new heaven and earth
At that time we will experience the perfect peace that we so long for

I) V6 In this you ***greatly rejoice*** though now ***for a little while*** if need be you have been
We rejoice in knowing that ***He keeps*** and delivers the one He saves
Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus

II) Because of this we can rejoice in the midst of difficult and painful times
Suffering is never denied by the Christian, but is recognized as being temporary
This causes us to rejoice, because we know it is temporary and results in good

III) V6 They are enduring ***various trials*** and have become grieved (distressed) by them
Though grieved God ***can use the suffering*** to benefit those He loves
The difficulty can be a vehicle for us to grow in our spiritual maturity

IV) As we read and study this letter we will be exposed to their various trials
Physical persecution, verbal assaults, gossip, economic pressures, spiritual heaviness, marital struggles, child related problems, sickness, parental pressures, job pressures, neighbors, etc

V) V7 That the genuineness of your faith being much more precious than gold that
This explains the words ***if need be*** (V6)

VI) Peter tells them what their trials will produce: purified faith
When endured, trials produce praise and honor to Jesus, bringing Him glory

VII) Gold is valuable, but faith is more valuable than ***gold that perishes***
In our testings, God uses them to *purify* us and seasons us producing real faith
Pr 17:3 The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD tries the hearts

FIRST

VIII) Trials have a purpose because they reveal what is really within us
Jer 12:3 But You O Lord know me; You have seen me, and You have tested my heart toward You
Ps 139:23 Search me O God and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts

SPURGEON

IX) Trials teach us ***what*** we are; they dig up the soil, and ***let us see*** what we are made of

SECOND

X) They strengthen us, teaching us to wait on the Lord with faith and hope

I) Ps 40:1-3 I waited patiently for the Lord and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our God; many will see it and fear and will trust in the Lord

THIRD

II) You learn something about the love and goodness of God

Jas 5:11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful

III) Notice your faith will be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus

PRAISE

IV) *Praise* refers to *the approval Christians* will receive from the Judge

We receive *praise* (commendation, approval) because our faith is genuine

Mt 25:21 His lord said unto him, *Well done*, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter you into the joy of your lord.

HONOR

V) *Honor* refers to honor that God will give to His children in His Kingdom

IT speaks of His approval of our service to Him, and our rewards we receive

Jn 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will My Father honor.

GLORY

VI) *Glory* refers to our participation in the future life, filled with radiance and glory

Ro 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

WHEN DOES THIS HAPPEN

VII) This occurs at the *revelation* of Jesus Christ (The Second Coming)

1 Co 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

VIII) V8 Whom *having not seen* you love. Though now you do not see Him yet believing

These were either 2nd generation believers, or those who had never seen Him

Though they had yet to see Him, one day they most certainly would

Job 19:27 I myself will see him *with my own eyes*-- I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

I) They never physically saw Jesus but they loved Him, even as we do
They relied on the truth of the gospel and its promises
Jn 20:26-31 But these are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name.

II) V8 The fruit of faith is joy inexpressible and full of glory
The joy believers have when grasping the reality of salvation is beyond words
2 Co 9:15 Thanks be to God for His unspeakable (indescribable) gift!
Without the ability to put into words all that He is and has done!

III) God gave His Son for us and pours the blessings as well as eternal life!

IV) V9 Receiving the end of your faith the salvation of your souls
The *end of* our faith speaks of the goal of our faith, simply stated: Salvation (V5)

V) The salvation he speaks of is something we have, now
It is something that we experience in this present age and enjoy, today

VI) It is also something that *looks to the future*

VII) The anticipation and promise to be with Jesus forever causes great joy
No more sorrow, no more pain, disappointments, loss, sickness, funerals
Ps 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is fullness of joy*; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

VIII) Like the centurion's question to Paul: What must I do to be saved?
The answer: Turn away from your sin, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ