

1 Peter Lesson 3 Student Notes September 21, 2025

Peter, (author)

an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those (audience)

who are elect exiles of the Dispersion (where) in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

1. according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,

2. in the sanctification of the Spirit,

3. for obedience to Jesus Christ

4. and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you. (greeting)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! (reaffirms Christ's deity)

According to his great mercy, (why God did what He did)

He has caused us to be born again to a living hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (how it was done)

to an inheritance that is (what we received)

1. imperishable,

2. undefiled,

3. and unfading,

4. kept in heaven for you,

who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (description of those who believe)

In this you rejoice,

though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

SO THAT (why)

the tested genuineness of your faith

—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire— (describes faith)
may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (goal of testing)

Though you have not seen him, you love him.

Though you do not now see him, you believe in him AND rejoice with joy

that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (describes joy)

obtaining the outcome of your faith, = the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation,

the prophets who prophesied about the grace (who's grace) that was to be yours
searched and inquired carefully, (how did they look)

inquiring what person OR time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating

when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves BUT you,

in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the
good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven,

things into which angels long to look.

To Consider:

1. What is the main theme/thesis of this book?
2. What do you think is the purpose of God testing our faith? Does God know the results of the test?
3. How does the opening of this book help us to place it in the context of God's eternal plan?

Chapter 1

Verses 1-2: Greeting

Peter begins his letter by stating his authority as an apostle (Gal 2:8). An apostle is “a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with a message.” The apostles were given a specific mission by Christ to lay the foundation for His church (Eph 2:20). Therefore, it is appropriate for Peter to be instructing others in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

After stating his qualifications, Peter states his intended audience: “elect exiles of the dispersion.” Exile, sojourner, or foreigner is used only in 1 Peter (1:1 and 2:11) as well as Hebrews 13. In context the “exiles” in view are the nation of Israel. In the LXX Abraham refers to himself as an exile and foreigner when he requests land to bury Sarah after her death (Gen 23:4). Jews would see the comparison to their Patriarch Abraham and understand Peter is talking to them.

John, James and Peter all mention the Diaspora (John 7:35; James 1:1, 1 Peter 1:1). It specifically refers to the nation of Israel. The Diaspora or dispersion is a historical event that begins in the 4th century B.C. and culminates with the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 A.D. It’s clear Peter is writing to Jews that have been scattered all over Asia. The five areas Peter mentions are all in Asia Minor, present day Turkey, and part of the Roman Empire. Notice this was all according to the foreknowledge of God. God’s eternal plan of Redemption included the election of Israel and their subsequent dispersion to foreign lands.

Peter then goes on to narrow the audience from exiles of the diaspora with three more distinctives:

1. In the sanctification of the Spirit
2. For obedience to Jesus Christ
3. For sprinkling with His (Jesus Christ's) blood.

Peter is targeting those Jews who have put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Those who have been sanctified by the Spirit, not through the law. Those who are obedient to Jesus Christ by putting their faith in Him. Obviously at that time there was a large population of Jews who were not obedient to Jesus Christ. Finally, the blood to be sprinkled is the blood of Jesus Christ not the blood of animals (Lev 4:6,17;5:9; 16:14-19; Hebrews 9:11-14).

Peter offers them grace and peace to the fullest measure. What is the fullest measure of God's grace and peace? Can God's grace ever be exhausted?

Does this apply to us today if it is written to Jewish believers? Chinese and African believers, Galatians 3

Verses 3-9: Blessing Jesus Christ for the work He did for all believers/ identity truths

1. Verse 6-7: Thesis of the letter

Verse 3: Peter confirms the identity of Lord Jesus Christ as God's son. He specifically refers to Jesus as Lord and Christ, because Jesus is the Messiah that the God promised the Jews. Peter praises God for causing them to be born again to a living hope. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3-8 that he must be born again to see and enter the kingdom of heaven. God is the one who did the birthing work. The readers are born again to a living hope, all the Patriarchs have perished, but Jesus still remains. Peter qualifies this statement with two clauses:

1. According to his (God's) great mercy (reason) Ephesians 2:4
2. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (means) Romans 6:3-5

Verse 4: TO, what were they born again to? God did not give us a new life and leave them. Now that they have a new identity they have a new inheritance. The inheritance is part and

parcel of the new identity, because God chose to give them a new life He included an inheritance with this new life. Peter gives 4 clarifying remarks (3 adjectives and 1 verb) concerning this inheritance that all are in contrast to the inheritance we received from Adam:

1. Imperishable (αφθαρτος) immortal and uncorruptible
2. Undeiled (αμικτος) not defiled, unsoiled
3. Unfading (αμαραντον) not fading as in a perennial flower
4. Reserved (ετηρημένην) Perfect Passive Participle. It was reserved for them by God, and it cannot be undone, it is complete. "In heaven" where the reader cannot squander it before it is time to receive it, where no one can take it away, and where it could only be placed by God.

Verse 5: God is guarding them (Col. 3:3) until the time that the salvation will be revealed. Remember salvation includes 3 components: justification, sanctification, and glorification. The context of this verse leads us to consider glorification. God is guarding those who have been born again for a glorification that will be revealed in the last time. Access to that glorification comes through faith.

Verse 6-7: Peter has been building to this statement, which is the thesis of his letter. The rejoicing is a result of looking towards the living hope of Jesus, the inheritance, and the future glorification that is being guarded by God. **In trials we rejoice not that God can deliver me from the trial, but because of what God has already done.**

The trials are necessary "so that" a genuine faith will be revealed for the purpose of bringing glory and praise to Jesus, when He is revealed. Again, at the glorification Jesus will receive all the honor and praise because He will have perfected our faith (Heb 12:2). Genuine faith in Jesus and what He has accomplished on our behalf is more precious than gold. That faith just like gold is refined through fire (various trials). The impurities of faith need to be removed, places where our faith is in our own efforts or work. That faith brings no glory to Jesus because it is not genuine, in fact it pollutes the genuine faith, so thankfully God will allow trials to remove it.

Verse 8-9: Peter has seen Him, but like everyone else He does not see Him now. Loving, believing, and rejoicing in Christ does not require one to see Him, we can love because He first loved us by dying for us (1 John 4:19.) We believe and rejoice because we have heard of and experienced the new life that He has won for us.

Ψυχη the Greek word for soul refers to the essence of a human being, what makes that person an individual person. So, this salvation refers to all aspects of salvation, because our soul is not just a future form we will take, but it is our present identity now.

Verses 10-12: The mystery surrounding the time of the fulfillment of G.E.P.R.

Verse 10: Peter is clarifying the salvation that he just spoke about. Peter returns to the prophets of the Old Testament and states that they were studying and searching carefully to fully understand the grace that was promised. The Old Testament prophecies made it clear that it would be the “seed of a woman,” it would be the descendant of Abraham, and more specifically from the line of David. God’s plan did not change or need to be updated.

Verse 11: Specifically, they were searching for the occasion and person that was prophesied. When would the Messiah come and who would he be? In Malachi 4:4-6 God instructed Israel to await the coming of Elijah by remembering and following the law of Moses. Following the prophecies of Malachi there was a silent period of 400 years. Then John the Baptist arrived to prepare the way for the Messiah (Mark 1:1-4).

Notice the statement here of the “sufferings of Christ and His subsequent glories.” The sequence here is important, Christ’s suffering would precede His glory. The precedence is not in time but in sequence, one must occur before the other can occur (Hebrews 2:9-10). Isaiah 53’s prophecy clearly shows the necessity of the suffering of the Messiah. However, the nation of Israel became blind to this truth (John 12:40; Isaiah 6:10), which becomes clear in the next verse.

Verse 12: It was revealed to them (the prophets) that they were not serving themselves (the prophets and nation of Israel) but you (those who have put their faith in

Jesus Christ). Specifically in those truths that have been declared by the apostles who have preached the gospel of Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. All of those writers who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of Jesus's first and second coming. How the Messiah would suffer and die but would be resurrected. The subsequent glory that Christ would receive for His finished work on the cross, as well as the benefits those who believe in Him would receive. Peter's final description of this salvation is that it is unknown even to the angels. The Greek work here, παρακύψαι, describes the action of bending over or stooping down to get a good look at something. It is the angel's desire to get a better look at what Christ has done/is doing. This just reinforces that God's Eternal Plan of Redemption can only be revealed by God to His creation, creation is unable to decipher His plan on their own.