

## Who We Are 1 Peter 1:1-2

# 1 PETER

PEOPLE OF PURPOSE  
IN A WORLD OF CHAOS

It's never easy being an ex-pat, living far from home in an unfamiliar and sometimes inhospitable place. But that's what we do every day as followers of Jesus. We live as citizens of heaven on this fallen earth. We represent Jesus and his vision for life in a culture going in a very different direction. It's not an easy life, but it's a good one, and the Epistle of 1 Peter helps us to live it. It tells us who we are, and why we're here, and how to stand firm as *people of purpose in a world of chaos*. And we can't even read two verses without being encouraged about all that God is and does for us. No matter where we are, he is with us and for us *forever*.

1. Have you ever lived as an ex-pat in another country? What was it like? What felt most comfortable to you? What felt most uncomfortable?
2. Living as “kingdom ex-pats” in this fallen world, it's easy to stray in one way or another. We either compromise with the world and absorb too much of it, or we condemn the world and withdraw too much from it. Which is your tendency?
3. What is one aspect of the *zeitgeist*—“the spirit of the age,” the atmosphere of this fallen world—that you find particularly oppressive these days?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. How does this lift your spirit and encourage you?
5. What do you think is the significance of the whole Trinity's presence in this passage?
6. Which of these grounds of your identity as an “elect exile” means the most to you? Why?
  - *...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father*
  - *...in the sanctification of the Spirit*
  - *...for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood*
7. Do you get hung up on the words “for obedience”? How can we happily embrace this purpose statement?
8. Think about the final part of the greeting: “May grace and peace be multiplied to you.” Is that an empty salutation or a powerful blessing? In what ways can you see it coming true in your life?

Close by slowly and meditatively reading Psalm 40:1-8.  
Note verse 5: “You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds  
and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!”