

1 PETER 1:1-2:10, 5:12-13

BACKGROUND

- Authorship – Though some question that Peter is the author of this letter because “The Greek is too good” to have been written by a Galilean fisherman, Michaels concludes “Aside from the four Gospels and the letters of Paul, the external attestation for 1 Peter is as strong, or stronger than that for any other NT book.”
- Date and origin – Most think “Babylon” in 1 Peter 5:13 implies Peter is writing from Rome. Since Peter mentions Mark, but not Paul, most think the letter was written after Paul’s first imprisonment 60-62 and before Peter’s martyrdom under Nero, sometime between the great fire of 64 and Nero’s death in 68.
- Audience – Primarily Gentile (1 Peter 1:18, 2:10, 4:3, Romans 9:22-26) believers expelled from Rome by Claudius (Acts 18:1-4) to modern-day Turkey (1:1).
- Outline
 1. Greetings to the elect exiles (1 Peter 1:1-2)
 2. Called to salvation as Exiles (1 Peter 1:3-2:10)
 3. Living as exiles in the world (1 Peter 2:11-4:11)
 4. Persevering in suffering (1 Peter 4:12-5:11)
 5. Closing (1 Peter 5:12-14)

REJOICING IN OUR ELECTION – 1 PETER 1:1-2

- Peter appropriates language that was previously reserved exclusively for the covenant people of Israel.
- “We need to be reminded to see ourselves as exiles. People living temporarily in another country, though they may need to learn a different language and conform to certain laws, they have their true home and allegiance elsewhere.” – Angus MacLeay
- The Trinitarian nature of our election – According the foreknowledge of God the Father, In the sanctification of the Spirit, For [the purpose of] obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood.
- “Obedience and sprinkling” alludes to the Mosaic covenant (Exodus 24:3-8)

REJOICING IN OUR NEW BIRTH – 1 PETER 1:3-5

- Blessed be God! – He is great in mercy, causes us to be born again, gives us a living hope, raised Jesus from the dead, promises an indestructible inheritance and is keeping that inheritance for us. – John Piper
- “New birth...redefines one’s status both in society (in terms of alienation) and in the kingdom (in terms of a share of eternal inheritance).” – Karen Jobes
- “Just as our inheritance is being guarded for us, we too are being guarded for it.” –Piper
- Our inheritance of salvation (i.e., final deliverance) will be revealed in the last time, but it has already been made ready because of Jesus death and resurrection! (John 14:1-14)

REJOICING IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS – 1 PETER 1:6-9

- You rejoice in this
 - although* you have had to suffer grief
for a little while now
in all kinds of trials
in order that the genuineness of your faith...may be found...;
 - although* you have not seen him, yet you love him;
 - although* you do not see him now, yet you believe in him;You rejoice with a glorified joy beyond words
because you are obtaining the goal of faith, your salvation. (Jobes)
- Our faith will receive praise and honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Peter is not looking at the future but the here and now; one could literally render “obtaining” (*komizomenoi*), “presently receiving for yourselves”. – John MacArthur.

REJOICING IN OUR PRIVILEGED PLACE IN REDEMPTIVE HISTORY – 1 PETER 1:8-12

- “It is easy for us to become discouraged...and so to wish that we were in a different situation. Yet Peter teaches us that in fact the Christian is in such an amazing privileged situation.” – MacLeay
- The grace that was to be yours was promised from the beginning!
- Prophets and angels longed to see God’s plan of salvation unfold.
- The sufferings and glories of Christ were prophesied by the “Spirit of Christ”

HOPE FULLY AND BE HOLY – 1 PETER 1:13-16

- “Without the indicative of what God does [verses 1-12], the imperative is addressed to a helpless sinner, the victim of his illusions, it becomes a commandment that crushes or that drives to vain and presumptuous efforts.” – Benetreau
- “[F]uture hope in the NT is based on something that has already happened in the past, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” – Jobes
- Our hope should lead to holiness!
- Gird up the loins of your mind – “This is a deliberately vivid phrase. In the east, men wore long flowing robes which impeded fast progress or strenuous action. Round the waist they wore a broad belt or girdle; and when strenuous action was necessary they shortened the long robe by pulling it up within the belt in order to give them freedom of movement... Peter is telling his people that they must be ready for the most strenuous mental endeavor.” – Barclay
- “Peter assumes that the OT writings are authoritative and normative for his Christian readers, regardless of their previous ethnic origin. He makes no distinction between the Jewish and Gentile Christian in his application, nor does the span of time between Leviticus and his letter mitigate the relevance of God’s ancient revelation of himself. By quoting from Leviticus [19:2], Peter establishes the principle that the holiness to which the Christian is called in Christ is consistent with God’s character as revealed in the ancient covenant with Israel. However Peter does not enjoin on his Christian readers the specifics of the Levitical religion of ancient Israel...Peter’s example is instructive for hermeneutics today as Christians seek to submit to the authority of the OT, yet without seeking a priest to examine the mildew in the bathroom.” – Jobes

CONDUCT YOURSELVES IN REVERENT FEAR – 1 PETER 1:17-21

- Why conduct ourselves in reverent fear?
 1. God judges impartially according to each one’s deeds (v. 17)
 2. We were ransomed...with the precious blood of Christ (vv. 18-19)

LOVE ONE ANOTHER EARNESTLY – 1 PETER 1:22-2:3

- God’s Word preached brought new life (1:23-25)
- New life is to be marked by love “at full stretch” (1:22, 2:1)
- New life is to be marked by growth – through feeding on God’s Word (1:22, 2:2-3)
- Recurring themes – Perishable vs. imperishable (1 Peter 1:4,7,18,23) and New birth (1 Peter 1:3,23, 2:3)

AS YOU COME TO HIM – 1 PETER 2:4-10

- We come to a person, not a place!
- Peter (“the rock”) refers to Jesus as a “living stone”, who like us was rejected.
- What are we chosen for?
 1. being built up as a spiritual house (temple)
 2. to be a holy priesthood
 3. to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ
- Our identity in Christ – A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s special possession, a people who have received God’s mercy.