

A Study of
1 Peter

Our Living Hope:
Jesus Christ
– Part 1



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"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, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." — 1 Peter 1:3-4(a)



BACKGROUND OF 1 AND 2 PETER

1 and 2 Peter are recognized as authoritative and as the work of the apostle Peter. The contents and character of the letter support his authorship and reflects the history and terminology of Peter's speeches in the Gospels and Acts.

1 Peter is a short letter and touches on various doctrines. It can be characterized as a letter of separation, of suffering and persecution, of suffering and glory, of hope, of pilgrimage, of courage, and as a letter dealing with the true grace of God. Peter says that he has written "encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God" (5:12).

For more information, see [Biblica.org](https://www.biblica.org)
"<https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/intro-to-1-peter/>"



Comparison to Paul's writings gives us date of writing:

1 Peter can be dated early 60(s) AD. It cannot be placed earlier than 60 since it shows familiarity with Paul's Epistles (such as Colossians and Ephesians, which are to be dated no earlier than 60 AD):

Peter's Epistles	Paul's Epistles
Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. (1 Peter 2:18)	Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; (Col 3:22)
Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; (1 Peter 3:1) For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: (1 Peter 3:5)	Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. (Ephesians 5:22) Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. (Ephesians 5:24)

Furthermore, it cannot be dated later than 67 or 68 AD, since Peter was martyred during Nero's reign.

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WHO WERE PETER'S AUDIENCE?

Peter was writing to Christians scattered throughout what today is Northern Turkey. He probably wrote from Rome (referred to as "Babylon" 1 Peter 5:13) just before Nero's persecution of Christians in that city in A.D. 64. But the pressure was already on these Christians of the early church: Believers were being slandered (1 Peter 2:12; 3:14-16; 4:14). Gentile Christians were criticized in an angry, abusive manner by their former partners in sin (1 Peter 4:4). Peter wrote to these Christians so they could know how to handle these trials that came upon them on account of their seeking to follow Christ: He continually points to Jesus as the example.

For more information, see Bible.org

["https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-1-hope-and-holiness-hostile-world-1-peter-11-2-introduction"](https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-1-hope-and-holiness-hostile-world-1-peter-11-2-introduction)



1 Peter 1

Greeting

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Note: Peter talks here about the Triune God (the Trinity). Each part of the Godhead has a part in our salvation.



Note about Sanctification And Holiness

First, Peter says that we are chosen "by the sanctifying work of the Spirit." (The same phrase is used in connection with election in 2 Thess. 2:13.) The word "sanctifying" means "setting apart" and looks here at the initial work of God's Spirit in taking a believer out of the world and setting him apart unto God in the community of God's elect people (Ramsey Michaels, Word Biblical Commentary, p. 11).

But, the word also has an active, ongoing sense that points to the process by which the Spirit progressively separates the believer unto God, in cooperation with our submission and active participation in the process (Simon Kistemaker, New Testament Commentary: Peter and Jude (Baker), pp. 36-37, 38). *Thus holiness is both positional and progressive.* It involves both the Spirit's sovereign work and our willing cooperation.



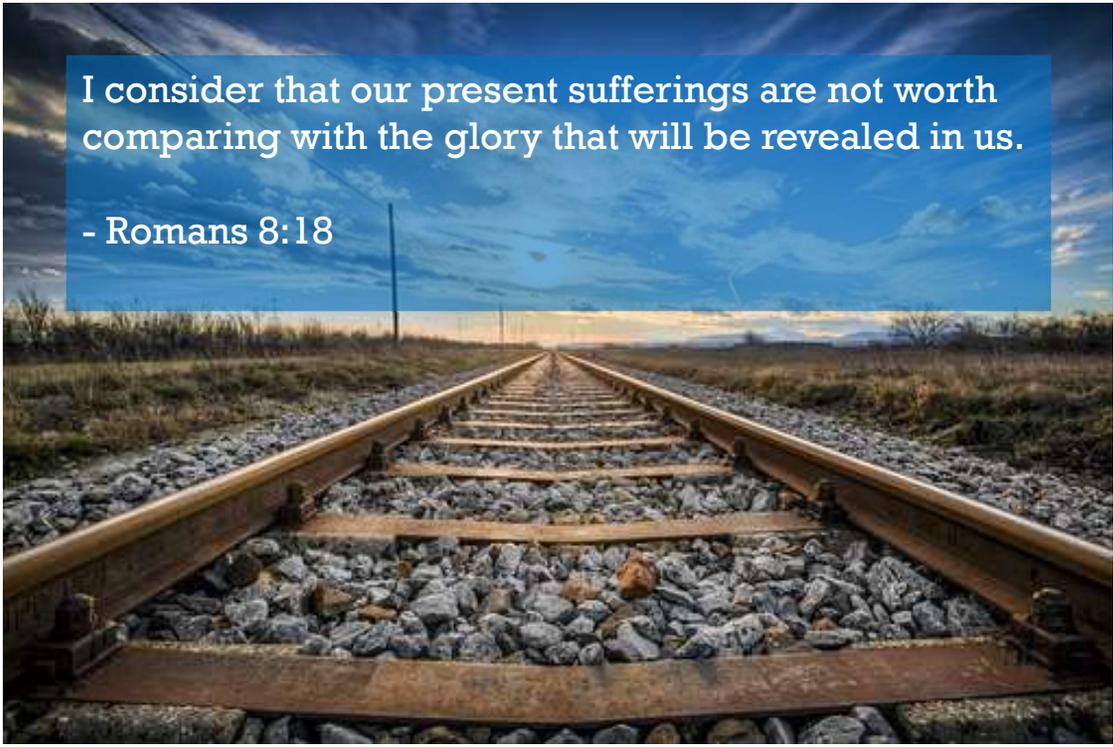
Praise to God for a Living Hope

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: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (See Also John 20:29)





I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

- Romans 8:18

Which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; *which things the angels desire to look into.*

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things,



We Can Live in Hope in a hostile
world because:

1. We are Chosen by God (1 Peter 1:2)
2. We are born again into a Resurrection like Jesus' (1 Peter 1:3)
3. We have Eternal Security (1 Peter 1:4-5)
4. Our Faith is Tried (Tested) and will be made manifest when we see Jesus (1 Peter 1:7)
5. The Grace of God was Prophesied for our benefit (1 Peter 1:12)



A Call to Holiness

13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (Greek word: anastrophe);

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:



18 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation (Greek word: anastrophe) received by tradition from your fathers;*

19 *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.



Side Note: "Anastrophe"

One of Peter's favorite words is the Greek word, anastrophe. He uses it six times in 1 Peter (1:15, 18; 2:12; 3:1, 2, 16) and twice in 2 Peter (2:7; 3:11). It is only used five other times in the entire New Testament. It means "way of life" or "behavior." The point is, as Christians our way of life, our conduct and behavior should stand out like a foreigner stands out in China. We're supposed to be different, as the King James translates 2:9, "a peculiar people." (You're probably thinking, "Yes, I've met many peculiar Christians!") But it doesn't mean weird, but distinct. Christians should stand out as godly people in a corrupt, ungodly world.

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22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.



We can live in hope
and live in holiness

6. Our hope on the day of Jesus' appearing will manifest the grace we have received
(1 Peter 1:13)
7. Our hope is in the value of Jesus' sacrifice, which is incorruptible (1 Peter 1:18-19)
8. Our souls are purified by obeying the truth and loving our brothers in the Spirit
(1 Peter 1:22)
9. We have the incorruptible seed of the word of God living in us which never fades
(1 Peter 1:23-25)



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