

Introductory Notes: The book is believed to be written by Peter, Jesus' fisherman disciple, in AD 62-63, while in Rome and during the time of Nero's reign. Peter encourages his readers to remain faithful and endure suffering and persecution --- knowing that God will vindicate them! Thus, we should be full of hope, even while living under distress!

(1) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 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: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, 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.

(6) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith --- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire --- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

(8) 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith: the salvation of our souls.

(10) Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicated 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.

Think on these things:

- 1) The "Dispersion" is a reference to Christian Jews who fled Israel because of persecution, settling in safety in different parts of the world. They contributed to the spread of the Gospel by simply being who they were where they resettled in life. Let's put some understanding to the "elect":

They are **foreknown** by God the Father, **sanctified** by the Holy Spirit,

and living in **obedience** to Jesus Christ (v. 2). Are you of the elect?

- 2) Our new lives as Christians begin with what (v. 3, John 3:1-18)? **Being born again**.

According to Romans 12:2, this involves: **Being transformed by renewed minds so that by testing we may discern God's perfect will for our lives**.

According to Galatians 2:20, this means: **Dying to self and letting Christ live through us by faith**.

- 3) This comes as a result from what? Consider also Ephesians 2:4-10. **God's great mercy (grace)**.

- 4) V. 4 speaks of an inheritance, as did Jesus (John 14:1-6). This place for you, for me, how is it described to us? Who ensures that this is true?

Our heavenly inheritance is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.” John adds that Jesus is the one preparing our rooms for us in God’s house (mansion) so that we may be where He is.

- 5) Who, or what, guards a Christian (v. 5)? **God’s power guards our inheritance, gained by faith.**

- 6) Sadly, this truth doesn’t mean we avoid life difficulties. How does Peter describe the value of facing hard times and trials in v. 7? See also James 1:2-4. How important to God --- and you --- is your “tested faith”?

Peter says our faith is being tested by various trials so that it can be proven genuine --- which God considers very precious --- and results in Christ’s glory and honor at the 2nd Coming. James adds that testing produces steadfastness of faith, with the full effect being completeness and perfection. We lack nothing. Who wouldn’t want to be attested by God as a genuine believer, considered by Him as reliable and steady, while bringing honor and glory to Jesus, our Savior?!

- 7) According to v. 9, what is the outcome of faith? How are we today identified as especially blessed (vs. 8-9)?

The “outcome” of our faith is the salvation of our souls. And, without ever seeing Jesus, we love and believe in Him, and He fills our lives with inexpressible joy and His glory.

- 8) From verses 10-12, did the prophets of the Bible --- or even the angels in heaven --- understand the words they wrote down about Jesus being the suffering Christ who was then glorified? What was revealed to them (v. 11)? Do you know any prophecies about Jesus having to suffer as God’s Messiah from the Old Testament? Read about Jesus and angels in Hebrews 1:1-7, 13-14.

No, they did not fully understand the words God had them write down. They, “searched and inquired...what person or time...(and) when.” God only informed them that they were serving the Christian era, not their own lifetimes (v. 12a). Angels, likewise, longed to look into these revelations (v. 12b).

Some notable passages on the “suffering” Christ are found in Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22.

From Hebrews, we learn that Jesus is NOT some kind of ascended or special angel. He is God the Son, the exact representation of God the Father, radiating His glory and nature among mankind, and upholding the universe by His Word. God the Father commands angels to worship Him. As Jesus saves men, angels now must also serve those responding to salvation.

People and situations I want to pray for this week: