

FIRST PETER

Conversational Version

Salutation

1:¹Peter, apostle of Jesus Christ^{Messiah}, to the Chosen who live as foreigners in the Dispersion throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²known by God the Father a long time ago, sanctified by *his* Spirit, sprinkled with Christ's blood, and obedient to him. Grace and peace many times over.

1 Pet 1:1-2

Gratitude for Heaven Offered

³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy, he gave us a living hope by resurrecting Jesus. ⁴He has reserved for us in heaven an inheritance that doesn't deteriorate, that can't be defiled, and won't fade away. ⁵Trusting his power protects us so we can receive the salvation that's ready for him to reveal in the end.

⁶With that to look forward to, rejoice, even though for a little while now, various trials may be bringing you grief. ⁷Your faith is worth more than gold that perishes. Testing that faith—as if by fire—leads to praising, exalting, and honoring Jesus Christ when he returns. ⁸Though you haven't seen him, you love him. Because you believe in him, your joy is so great and glorious that you can't express it. ⁹In the end, your faith will save your souls.

1 Pet 1:3-9

The Prophets' Ministry to Us

¹⁰Prophets who prophesied about the grace that *would come* to you searched out this salvation carefully. ¹¹They wanted to find out what time or what kind of time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating about his sufferings and subsequent glories. ¹²They learned that they weren't ministering these things to themselves, but to you. The Holy Spirit, sent from heaven, has announced those things now through your evangelists—things angels long to look into.

¹³So think straight and be serious. Put your hope completely in the grace that will come to you when Jesus Christ appears. ¹⁴Like obedient children, don't conform to the desires you lived by in your former ignorance; ¹⁵conform yourselves to the Holy One that called you to become holy in everything you do. ¹⁶Like scripture says, "***Be holy because I'm holy***" [Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7].

1 Pet 1:10-16

Hope Based on Spiritual Things

¹⁷You call him Father who judges impartially each person's work; so, like foreigners, live out your time here in fear. ¹⁸You weren't redeemed with corruptible things—silver or gold—from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. ¹⁹You were redeemed with the precious

blood of the unblemished Lamb. ²⁰Christ was foreknown before the founding of the world but was revealed in the last times. ²¹Through him you're faithful to God, who resurrected him and glorified him. So, your faith and hope lie in God. ²²You've cleaned up your lives by obeying the truth in brotherly love; continue to love each other with a pure heart. ²³You've been born again from incorruptible seed through God's living, lasting message:

²⁴*"Flesh is like grass;
its beauty is like blossoms in the grass.
The grass dries up;
the blossoms fall off;
but what the LORD says lasts forever"* [Is 40:6-8].

That's the message we presented to you.

1 Pet 1:17-25

The Cornerstone

²¹So, get rid of hate, deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, insults. ²Like newborn babies, be hungry for pure spiritual milk so you can grow up to salvation—³if you've tasted how good the Lord is. ⁴Come to him as to a living stone, rejected by people, but chosen and precious to God. ⁵Like living stones you're building yourselves up into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood that offers spiritual sacrifices to God through Christ. ⁶So it stands in scripture,

*"I'm laying a stone in Zion,
a precious cornerstone.
He won't disappoint the ones that trust in him"* [Is 28:16].

⁷To you believers *he*'s precious, but to disbelievers *he*'s

*"a stone the builders rejected
that has become the cornerstone"* [Ps 118:22];

⁸and

*"a stone they trip over,
a rock that makes them fall"* [Is 8:14].

They "trip" by disobeying the message—as they were allowed to do.

1 Pet 2:1-8

Living in Light of Who You Are

⁹But you're a chosen race [Is 43:20], a royal priesthood, a holy nation [Ex 19:6], a people that belongs to God. That's so you can present to others the excellence [Is 43:21] of the One that called you out of darkness into his amazing light.

¹⁰*"You that weren't a people at one time
are now God's people;
you that he hadn't shown mercy
have now received it"* [Hos 2:23].

1 Pet 2:9-10

¹¹I urge you, like foreigners here temporarily, to stay away from physical drives that fight against the soul. ¹²Keep your lifestyle good among the Gentiles so whatever they'd slander you for, when they observe the good things you do, they'll praise God in the end.

Societal Virtues

¹³Submit to human institutions for the Lord's sake—¹⁴to the king in authority or his governors sent to punish the bad and praise the good. ¹⁵God wants you to silence the ignorance of bad people by doing good. ¹⁶You're free, but freedom doesn't mean you can do as you please; you're God's servants. ¹⁷Respect everybody, love Christ's family, respect God, honor the king.

1 Pet 2:11-17

¹⁸Servants, defer to your masters with respect, not just the good and considerate ones, but the harsh ones *too*. ¹⁹This pleases God: suffering unjustly and bearing it for conscience sake toward him. ²⁰What's notable about suffering for sin and bearing it? But suffering for doing good and bearing it, pleases him. ²¹That's what he's called you to. Even Christ suffered; he did it for you and left footprints for you to step in. ²²He "*didn't sin or deceive*" [Is 53:9]. ²³When he was insulted, he didn't insult back. When he suffered, he didn't threaten. He turned himself over to the One who judges justly. ²⁴He humbly bore your sins in his body on the cross so you would live right; his wounds healed you. ²⁵You were wandering off like sheep, but you've returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Pet 2:18-25

Family Virtues

³:¹Wives, defer to your husbands so even if they don't believe the message, your conduct will win them over aside from it ²as they watch your innocent, respectful behavior. ³For beauty, don't rely on external things like elaborately braided hair or the gold or clothes you wear. ⁴Root your beauty in the inner self as in a gentle, quiet spirit; that's especially precious to God. ⁵That's the way holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves in respect for their husbands. ⁶Sarah respected Abraham and called him Sir [lord]. You're her daughters. if you do good and feel secure in your situation.

1 Pet 3:1-6

⁷Husbands, live with your wives with the understanding that they are weaker vessels. Honor them as fellow heirs of the grace of life so you don't hinder your prayers.

Interpersonal Virtues

⁸In conclusion, you need to be like-minded, sympathetic, tenderhearted, humble, with brotherly love. ⁹Don't return evil for evil or insult for insult; bless instead. You were called for that so you could inherit good fortune:

¹⁰*"Who wants to live
a long time and prosper?"*

*Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying.*

**¹¹Quit doing bad and do good;
look for peace and pursue it.**

**¹²The LORD watches over good people
and hears their prayers.**

He turns against

people that practice sin” [Ps 34:12-16].

1 Pet 3:7-12

¹³Who’s going to hurt you if you’re eager to do what’s good? ¹⁴Even if you suffer for it, you’re well off. Don’t be afraid of people’s evil, or let it get you down. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶Set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts. With gentleness and respect, be ready to answer anybody that asks you about the hope you have. Keep your conscience clear so whatever people slander you about, your good behavior in Christ will discredit them.

1 Pet 3:13-16

Suffering for Doing Good

¹⁷If God wills, it’s better to suffer for being good than for being bad. ¹⁸To bring you to God, Christ also suffered for sin once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. ¹⁹He went in the spirit and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰that disobeyed while God patiently waited for Noah to build the ark. In it, water saved a few people—eight. ²¹That’s like baptism saving you. It doesn’t wash off dirt, but appeals to God for a clear conscience because of Christ’s resurrection. ²²He’s ascended to God’s right hand in heaven with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

1 Pet 3:17-22

Good News Presented to the Dead

^{4:1}Christ suffered; so arm yourselves with the attitude he took, because suffering purifies from sin. ²You won’t be living the rest of your life by human desires, but by God’s will. ³You spent enough time following the pattern of life the Gentiles carry on: a lifestyle of sensuality, lust, drunkenness, revelry, drunken parties, disgusting idolatry. ⁴They’re surprised that you don’t run with them in that excessive, reckless living; and they slander you for it. ⁵They’ll give account to the One who’s set to judge the living and the dead. ⁶In that connection, the good news was presented even to the dead so they’d be judged like the living who live according to God in the spirit.

1 Pet 4:1-6

Living with Christ’s Return in Mind

⁷The end is close. Be sensible and serious in prayer. ⁸Especially, have ongoing love toward each other because love covers lots of sins. ⁹Be hospitable toward each other without grudges. ¹⁰Each of you needs to minister your gift to the others as good stewards of the grace God has shown in *these* different ways. If it’s speaking, speak as if God himself is speaking. ¹¹If

it's serving, do it wholeheartedly. That way you'll praise God through Christ. Glory and dominion belong to him forevermore. Amen.

1 Pet 4:7-11

Nothing Surprising About Suffering

12Don't be surprised at the fiery trial that's testing you, as if something strange is happening. **13**Instead, to the extent that you're sharing Christ's sufferings, be happy so you can be really happy when he appears in his glory. **14**If people dishonor you because of him, *you're* blessed; God's Spirit and honor rest on you. **15**Don't suffer as a murderer, thief, evildoer, intruder in other people's business. **16**If you suffer as a Christian, don't be ashamed; praise God in that name. **17**It's time to judge God's family. If judgment begins with us, what's going to happen to people that disbelieve God's good news?

18"*If good people are barely saved,*

where will godless people come in?" [Pro 11:31 LXX]

19So you that suffer according to God's will, entrust yourselves to the faithful creator by continuing to do what's right.

1 Pet 4:12-19

Urging Elders

5:1Elders, I'm a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings. I share in the glory that's going to be revealed. **2**Shepherd God's flock that's among you. Provide oversight, not because you have to, but because you want to; not to make money (which is shameful), but out of internal initiative. **3**Don't lord it over your charges; set an example for the flock. **4**When the Chief Shepherd appears, you'll receive a glorious crown that won't fade away.

1 Pet 5:1-4

Urging Younger People

5Young men, defer to the elders and dress in humility toward each other because

"God resists the proud

and gives grace to the humble" [Pro 3:34 LXX].

6So "humble" yourselves under God's strong hand, and he'll exalt you in due time.

7Place your cares on him because he cares about you. **8**Be serious-minded and alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around looking for somebody to devour. **9**Resist him firmly with faith; you know your fellow believers in the world are experiencing the same sufferings. **10**After you've suffered a little while, the all-gracious God that has called you into his eternal glory will confirm you, strengthen you, and establish you. **11**Dominion to him forever! Amen.

1 Pet 5:5-11

Closing Comments

12I've written you a few words by Silvanus *my* faithful brother, as I consider him. I wanted to encourage you and confirm to you that what you've received is in fact God's grace; stand firm in

it. ¹³The elect brotherhood in ‘Babylon’ greets you as does my son Mark. ¹⁴Greet each other with a loving kiss. Peace to all of you in Christ.

1 Pet 5:12-14

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