

## Introduction to 1 Peter

1 Peter 1:1-2

May 19, 2024

Pastor Gary Hollinger

### From Where was the letter written?

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. (5:13)

- 1) Babylon, a small military base in Egypt.
- 2) Babylon capitol of the ancient empire on the Euphrates River in modern day Iraq
- 3) Babylon was “code” for the city of Rome.

### When was the letter written? AD 63-65

### What was Peter’s purpose in writing? 1 Peter 5:12

With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. (5:12)

Key words: suffering, grace, glory

### Why did Peter write this letter?

A letter of pastoral encouragement in times of trouble and persecution.

### Who were the recipients?

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard *him*), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! (1 Peter 5:12 NASB)

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. (1Peter 2:11)

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. (Hebrews 11:13)

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. (1 Peter 1:14)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors... (1 Peter 1:18)

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:10)

For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. (1 Peter 4:3)

## **I. Peter writes to a mixed audience of both Jewish and (predominately) Gentiles believers. (v. 1)**

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (Ephesians 2:11-16)

## **II. Peter writes of the Trinitarian nature of our salvation. (v. 2)**

### **A. The Father chose to save some in eternity past.**

This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. (Acts 2:23)

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. (Romans 8:29-30)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been *called according to his purpose*. (Romans 8:28)

For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, *in accordance with His pleasure and will*— to the praise of His glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. (Ephesians 1:4-6)

In Him we were also chosen, having been *predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will*, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:11-12)

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, *nor of human decision* or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13)

*“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them*, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ *Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me*. (John 6:44-45)

The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, *but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me*. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10:24-30)

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:1-7)

### **B. The Spirit sanctifies (makes holy) in and over time.**

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

But you know that [Jesus] appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin. No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him.

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. (1 John 3:5-9)

And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. (Romans 8:30)

### **C. The Son saves through His blood, shed at the cross.**

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." (John 6:28-29)

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

(John 14:23-24)

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. (1 John 2:3-5)

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." (Exodus 24:7-8)

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

(Hebrews 9:11-14)

### **III. Peter closes his salutation with a pastoral blessing.**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:1-9)

### **IV. The elect are those that God has enabled to believe in Jesus.**

The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.  
(Deuteronomy 7:7-8)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last... (John 15:16a)

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” (Acts 9:15-16)

Before a word is on my tongue

you, LORD, know it completely...

...all the days ordained for me were written in your book

before one of them came to be. (Psalm 139:4, 16b)

The Lord works out everything to its proper end— even the wicked for a day of disaster.  
(Proverbs 16:14)

In him we were also chosen, having been *predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will*, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-12)