

Rejoicing with Joy Inexpressible

1 Peter 1:1-21

1 Peter was written by the apostle Peter between A.D. 60 and 65. His letter was written to believers who had been dispersed throughout the region now known as modern-day Turkey.

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2.



Pilgrim – one who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to reside there by the side of the natives; hence, a stranger; sojourning in a strange place, a foreigner. In the New Testament, metaphorically, in reference to heaven as the native country, one who sojourns on earth: so of Christians

Dispersion – a scattering, dispersion; of the Christians scattered abroad among the Gentiles; sojourners far away from home

1. Read Acts 8:1-4. What circumstances caused the dispersion or scattering of Christians among the nations?

2. In verse 2 of 1 Peter, Peter refers to these believers as “the elect.” Use verse 2 to clarify the following:

a. They were the “elect” according to what?

b. They were the “elect” in or by what?

c. They were the “elect” for what purpose?

d. Their “election” was made possible by what?

Elect – chosen by God to obtain salvation through Christ; hence, Christians are called “chosen or elect” of God

Foreknowledge – the all-knowing, omniscient nature of God whereby He knows reality before it is real, all things and events before they happen, and all people before they exist

Sanctification by the Spirit – a work of the Holy Spirit that sets apart the believer for God’s holy purposes

3. Read Exodus 24:3-8. What was the purpose behind sprinkling blood on the altar and the people?

4. **THINK:** Read Luke 22:20, 1 Corinthians 11:25, and Hebrews 12:24. What do you think Peter was referring to when he spoke of the sprinkling of Jesus’ blood?

5. Calvinist and Reformed Churches teach that God elected only “some” to be saved. Read the following verses and record what you learn from the Bible about God’s foreordained plan for salvation.

Acts 17:30

1 Timothy 2:4

1 Timothy 4:10

Romans 10:9-10

2 Peter 3:9

John 6:40

You can call them anything you wish, but the people who turn to Christ for salvation are the elect.

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J. Vernon McGee

In verse 2, Peter touches on four great doctrines of the Bible! The wonder of God's foreknowledge, the sanctifying work of the Spirit, the saving blood of Jesus, and the mystery of our wonderful and awesome triune God (Father, Son, and Spirit).

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.

6. Record everything these verses tell you about God the Father. Who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing. (Do not just copy the verses; break them apart and express in your own words the wonderful truths found in these verses.)

<i>Begotten us again</i> – to produce again, beget again, beget anew; metaphorically: thoroughly to change the mind of one so that he lives a new life and is conformed to the will of God
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It is difficult to wrap your head around the full meaning of these first five verses. To quote David, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.” As part of God’s great plan, before He even spoke the world into existence, He has begotten us again – given us new birth to a living hope and incorruptible inheritance!

7. Read the following verses and record what you learn about this inheritance.

1 Peter 1:4

2 Corinthians 4:17

Hebrews 11:10

Revelation 21:4

Psalms 16:5

8. **THINK:** What might have the promise of a living hope and incorruptible inheritance meant to these believers who had been forced to leave their homeland behind and flee to a foreign country?

9. **THINK HARDER:** How can this promise encourage you in your present circumstances?

10. Record the words of 1 Peter 1:5 while contemplating what the truth of this verse means for you personally.

Kept – to protect by guarding; watching and guarding to preserve one for the attainment of something
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11. Remember that these Christians had been scattered as a result of persecution. During Nero's reign in Rome, things worsened. What does it mean for you to know that, as a believer, you are being kept by the power of God both now and in the future?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-12.

12. Think back over your life. What things have caused you to rejoice greatly?

13. **THINK:** Verse six begins with, "In this you rejoice greatly." To what does the phrase "in this" refer? (v. 6)

14. Peter instructs his readers to rejoice greatly even though they are being grieved by various trials. What reason does he give as support for rejoicing even in difficult circumstances? (v. 7)

15.**THINK:** Why do you think faith is more valuable than financial resources to someone who is facing various trials?

16.Peter makes it clear that our faith can bring praise, honor, and glory to God. Record how the faith of each of these women glorified God in difficult circumstances.

The Widow: 1 Kings 17:8-16

Describe her difficult circumstances:

Describe her act of faith-based obedience:

Describe how this situation ended up being for the praise, honor, and glory of God:

Abigail: 1 Samuel 25:14-42

Describe her difficult circumstances:

Describe her faith-based actions:

Describe how her actions ended up being for the praise, honor,
and glory of God.

17. Read the following verses and record what you learn about joy
in the midst of trials. Remember to avoid simply copying the
verses. Take some time to really think through what each verse
is teaching you.

Matthew 5:11-12

John 15:9-11

Romans 8:28

James 1:2-4

18. What is the key to rejoicing in difficult times? (v. 8)

Believing – used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus, i.e., a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the Kingdom of God, conjoined with obedience to Christ

19. What is the outcome of “believing faith”? (v. 9)

The prophets asked about this salvation, while they prophesied about the grace of Christ that would come in the future, testified to the sufferings He would endure, and looked forward to the glories that would follow.

20. **THINK:** How can knowing that Jesus suffered various trials during His ministry on earth encourage you?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-21.

21. What instructions does Peter give to those facing various trials? (v. 13)

Gird up the loins – prepared; a metaphor derived from the practice of the Orientals, who, in order to be unimpeded in their movements, were accustomed, when about to start on a journey or engage in any work, to bind their long and flowing garments closely around their bodies and fasten them with a leather girdle

Mind – the faculty of understanding, feeling, desiring

Be Sober – to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect

22. **THINK:** In your own words, record what you think Peter meant by these instructions.

23. As obedient children, what are we called to do and why?
v. 15

Why?

v. 17

Why? (v. 18-19)

24. Record everything verses 15-21 tell us about God the Father and Jesus Christ.

God the Father:

Jesus:

25. Review 1 Peter 1:1-21 and recap the instructions given to believers in this chapter.

26. **THINK:** Describe a person who puts their faith and hope in God.

A Closer Look at Trials

1 Peter 1:6-7

Everyone encounters challenges at some stage of their life. When experiencing personal struggles, you may question why God permits suffering. The Bible emphasizes that trials are inevitable and serve a purpose in our growth. Maintaining the correct outlook during these times is crucial.

Having a clear understanding of who God is and His purpose for you is the first step in enduring the fiery trials that will come your way.

27. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What are the benefits of knowing God's Word?

28. How are you comforted in Psalm 23:4?

29. What promise is found in Hebrews 13:5?

30. How do these above verses prepare you to endure trials?

Trials are guaranteed in the life of a believer. Read the following verses and write down the clues that assure trials will come.

John 16:33c

James 1:2b

1 Peter 4:12

While trials may seem cruel or like punishment, they serve a great purpose in the believer's life. They are not to be confused with temptations. Temptations lead us to sin and come from either the devil or from ourselves.

31. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What does God do for you when you are tempted? **THINK:** What must you do in response to God's provision?

32. Read John 16:33 again. What promise is given in this verse? How will this provide you with hope in tribulations?

33. The great purpose of trials in our lives is found in Scripture. What do the following verses teach you about trials and/or the benefits of them?

Romans 8:18

2 Corinthians 4:17

James 1:3-4

1 Peter 1:3-4

34. Do not get discouraged in trials; they are designed to mature and grow you in your relationship with Jesus. God has promised to never leave or forsake you; He is right there with you in the

difficult times. Read Psalm 34:17 and finish your lesson thanking Him for trials and asking for the strength you need to endure.
