**The First General Epistle of Peter**

**1 Peter Chapter 1**

1Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,[[1]](#footnote-19545) to the resident aliens of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are the chosen ones 2according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in holiness produced by the spirit for obedience and sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy has given us new birth to a living hope by means of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from among the dead, 4to an inheritance *that is* imperishable and undefiled and unfading, which is being kept in heaven for you, 5the ones who, through trust, are being guarded by the power of God for a salvation *that is* ready to be revealed at the end time *of the age*.

6You rejoice in this, even though now for a little while, you must suffer various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your trust—*which is* more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire—will be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ. 8Although you have not seen him, you love him; although you do not see him now but believe *in him*, you rejoice greatly with inexpressible and glorious joy, 9because you are attaining the goal of your trust—the salvation of your souls.

10Concerning this salvation, the prophets (who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you) searched diligently for and made careful inquiry, 11inquiring about what time or what sort of circumstance the spirit of Christ in them was indicating when it testified beforehand about the sufferings *appointed* for Christ and the glories *that would come* after them. 12It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves—but you—in the things that have now been announced to you by those who proclaimed the good news to you by the holy spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13Therefore, having prepared your mind for action[[2]](#footnote-24009) and being clearheaded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the appearing of Jesus Christ. 14As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former desires *you had* in your ignorance, 15but as the one who called you is holy, you yourselves must also be holy in all your way of life, 16for it is written, Be holy, for I am holy.[[3]](#footnote-30743)

17And since you call on him as Father, the one who judges impartially according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourning.

18For you know that you were not redeemed from your pointless way of life—*the life* handed down from your fathers—by corruptible things such as silver or gold, 19but by the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20For he was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was revealed in *these* last times for your sake. 21Through him you trust in God, who raised him from among the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

22Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have sincere affection for *God’s* family, love one another fervently from a pure heart, 23*for* you have been born again—not from perishable seed but from imperishable—through the living and enduring word of God. 24For “all flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,” 25but the word of the Lord endures forever.[[4]](#footnote-26585) And this is the word—the good news that was proclaimed to you.

**1 Peter Chapter 2**

1Therefore, put away all malice, and all deceit, and hypocrisy, and envy, and all slander. 2Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word,[[5]](#footnote-12646) so that by it you grow up in your salvation 3now that you have tasted that the Lord is kind. 4And coming to him, a living stone rejected by people but chosen *and* precious in the sight of God, 5you yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up *into* a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices *that are* acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.[[6]](#footnote-13662) 6For it stands in Scripture: Look! I lay in Zion a chosen *and* precious cornerstone. And whoever believes in him will absolutely not be put to shame.[[7]](#footnote-25224) 7This precious *stone*, then, is for you who believe; but for those who do not believe, the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,[[8]](#footnote-16785) 8and a stone over which they stumble, and a rock over which they fall.[[9]](#footnote-16271) They stumble because they are disobedient to the word; to this *result* they were also appointed. 9But you are a chosen people,[[10]](#footnote-29276) a royal priesthood,[[11]](#footnote-13684) a holy nation,[[12]](#footnote-21974) a people for *God’s own* possession,[[13]](#footnote-32430) so that you can proclaim the glorious attributes of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; *at one time* you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and temporary residents, to keep away from fleshly desires that wage war against the soul, 12*and* make sure your way of life among the Gentiles is good, so that in a case when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good works *and* glorify God in the day of visitation.

13Submit to every human institution for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14or to governors as sent by him to punish evildoers and to praise those who do what is good. 15For *doing* this is the will of God. By doing what is good you put to silence the ignorance of senseless people. 16*Live* as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but *live* as slaves of God. 17Show honor to all! Love the family of believers! Fear God! Honor the king!

18Household servants, submit to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and reasonable, but also to the cruel. 19For this *finds* favor *with God*: if someone suffering unjustly endures pain because of their conscious awareness of God’s *will*. 20For what credit is it if when you sin and receive a beating, you patiently endure it? But if when you do what is good and suffer *for it*, you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. 21For you were called to this *endurance*, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you follow in his footsteps. 22He did not commit sin, nor was deceit found in his mouth.[[14]](#footnote-18426) 23When he was insulted, he did not give an insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but committed *himself* to the one who judges righteously. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we, having died to sins, could live to righteousness, by whose wounds you were healed.[[15]](#footnote-25723) 25For you were going astray like sheep,[[16]](#footnote-15056) but now you have turned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**1 Peter Chapter 3**

1In the same way, wives, submit to your own husbands, in order that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won over without a word by the way of life of their wives 2as they observe your reverent, pure way of life. 3Your adornment must not be *merely* external—*elaborate* braiding of the hair and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on *fine* clothing— 4but *let your adornment be* the hidden self of the heart with the incorruptible *beauty* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is highly valued in the sight of God. 5For in this way in earlier times the holy women who hoped in God also adorned themselves, submitting to their own husbands, 6just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him “Lord,” whose children you are when you continue to do what is good and are not afraid of any intimidation.

7In the same way, husbands, live in a knowledgeable way with your wife as with a weaker vessel, showing honor *to them* as also being co-heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers are not hindered.

8Finally, all of you be like-minded, sympathetic, having affection for *God’s* family, tenderhearted, humble-minded. 9Do not repay evil for evil, or insult for insult, but on the contrary, give a blessing, for to this you were called, so that you inherit a blessing. 10For whoever wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech, 11and he must turn away from evil and do good. He must seek peace and diligently pursue it. 12For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears *are open* to their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.[[17]](#footnote-14632)

13And who will harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14But even if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, *you are* blessed; and do not be afraid of them, nor be troubled,[[18]](#footnote-24909) 15but in your hearts set the Lord Christ[[19]](#footnote-17242) apart as holy. Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you, 16yet *do it* with meekness and respect, having a good conscience, so that in a case when you are spoken against, those who revile your good way of life in Christ will be put to shame.

17For it is better to suffer for doing what is good, if that would be God’s will,[[20]](#footnote-24498) than for doing evil. 18For Christ also suffered for sins once—the Righteous One on behalf of unrighteous people—in order to bring us to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive by the spirit,[[21]](#footnote-15364) 19in which *state* he also went and proclaimed *his victory* to the spirits in prison, 20who were disobedient in the past, when God patiently waited[[22]](#footnote-31450) in the days of Noah while the ark was being built, in which a few people—that is, eight souls—were brought safely through water, 21which also symbolizes the baptism that now saves you (not the removal of dirt from the flesh but an appeal to God from a good conscience) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven *and* is at the right hand of God with angels and authorities and powers having been put in subjection to him.

**1 Peter Chapter 4**

1Therefore, since Christ[[23]](#footnote-10720) suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same way of thinking (because whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin), 2so that you no longer live the rest of your time in the flesh *following* human desires but *following* the will of God. 3For you have spent enough time in the past doing what the Gentiles desire to do, living in unrestrained behavior, lust, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and detestable idolatry. 4In regard to this, they think it strange that you do not run with them into the same flood of reckless actions, and they slander you*.* 5They will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead! 6For this reason the good news was proclaimed even to those who are *now* dead, so that although they are judged according to human *standards* in the flesh, they might live according to God’s *standards* by the spirit.

7But the end of all things has drawn near. Therefore, be sensible and clearheaded for *the sake of your* prayers. 8Above all, be fervent in your love among yourselves, because love covers a multitude of sins.[[24]](#footnote-31794) 9Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of the many-sided grace of God. 11If anyone speaks, *he should speak* as *one speaking the* utterances of God. If anyone serves, *let him serve* with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God is glorified through Jesus Christ. To him[[25]](#footnote-21689) belongs the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is occurring among you to tempt you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13On the contrary, rejoice in so far as you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you will rejoice and be exceedingly glad. 14If you are insulted for the name of Christ, *you are* blessed, because the spirit of glory, that is, the spirit of God, rests on you. 15However, none of you should suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a meddler in other people’s matters; 16but if *any of you suffers* for being a Christian, he should not be ashamed but should glorify God in *bearing* that name. 17For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God, and if *it begins* with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the good news of God? 18And if the righteous person is saved *while going* through difficulty, *what about* the ungodly person and sinner—where will they appear?[[26]](#footnote-19729) 19So then, let those who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while continuing to do what is good.

**1 Peter Chapter 5**

1Now, I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ,[[27]](#footnote-28222) and a partaker of the glory that is about to be revealed: 2Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, watching over *them*, not out of compulsion but willingly, according to *the will of* God, and not being greedy for profit but eager *to serve*, 3and not abusing your authority over those in your care, but being an example to the flock. 4And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

5In the same way, you who are younger, submit to the elders. And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.[[28]](#footnote-24953)

6Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he will exalt you at the proper time, 7casting all your anxiety upon him, because he cares for you.

8Be clearheaded! Be watchful! Your opponent, the Devil,[[29]](#footnote-20198) walks around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9Stand *firm* against him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same *kind of* sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world. 10And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you *who are* in *union with* Christ to his everlasting glory, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, *and* establish *you*. 11To him be the dominion forever. Amen.

12Through Silvanus,[[30]](#footnote-21272) *whom* I consider a faithful brother, I have written you *this* brief *letter*, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand *firm* in it.

13The *church that is* in Babylon, who is chosen together with *you*, greets you, and *so does* my son Mark. 14Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

1. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-19545)
2. Lit. “gird up the loins of your mind” [↑](#footnote-ref-24009)
3. From Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7 [↑](#footnote-ref-30743)
4. From Isa. 40:6-8 [↑](#footnote-ref-26585)
5. Or “pure spiritual milk” [↑](#footnote-ref-12646)
6. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-13662)
7. From Isa. 28:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-25224)
8. From Ps. 118:22 [↑](#footnote-ref-16785)
9. From Isa. 8:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-16271)
10. From Isa. 43:20; Deut. 10:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-29276)
11. From Isa. 61:6; 66:21 [↑](#footnote-ref-13684)
12. From Exod. 19:6; Deut. 7:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-21974)
13. From Exod. 19:5; Deut. 4:20 [↑](#footnote-ref-32430)
14. From Isa. 53:9 [↑](#footnote-ref-18426)
15. From Isa. 53:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-25723)
16. From Isa. 53:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-15056)
17. From Ps. 34:12-16 [↑](#footnote-ref-14632)
18. From Isa. 8:12 [↑](#footnote-ref-24909)
19. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-17242)
20. Lit. “if the will of God should will *it*” [↑](#footnote-ref-24498)
21. Or “in the spirit” [↑](#footnote-ref-15364)
22. Lit. “the patience of God waited” [↑](#footnote-ref-31450)
23. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-10720)
24. From Prov. 10:12 [↑](#footnote-ref-31794)
25. God [↑](#footnote-ref-21689)
26. From Prov. 11:31 LXX [↑](#footnote-ref-19729)
27. Lit. “the Anointed One” [↑](#footnote-ref-28222)
28. From Prov. 3:34 [↑](#footnote-ref-24953)
29. “Devil” is a transliteration of the Greek word, *diabolos*, which literally means “Slanderer.” [↑](#footnote-ref-20198)
30. Or “Silas” [↑](#footnote-ref-21272)