

1 Peter 1 - Gold tried in the fire

1:1-2 INTRODUCTION AND GREETING

v1 Peter: Rock: **Mt 16:16; 1 Pet 2:4-8.** Actual name Simon, but he writes with the name given to him by Christ. He is defined by what Christ made him: **Mt 10:2; Jn 21.** **Apostle:** One sent. **Strangers:** Sojourner, a significant word. Only 3x in NT, tr. pilgrims in **Heb 11:13** and **1 Pet 2:11.** Dwelling among a people not one's own. See notes on **1 Pet 2:11.** Abraham, Joseph and Daniel are prominent examples. There are many allusions to the book of **Daniel** in **1 Peter.** See notes in the **Background and Overview.** **Pontus etc:** Area of Asia Minor, south of the black sea. Part of this area later became the focus of letters for the 7 ecclesias: **Rev 2-3.**

v2 Elect: Chosen. Also **1 Pet 2:4,6,7,10,21; 5:10,13.** Used of Israel: **Deut 7:6; Psalms 105:43; Isa 45:4.** Now applied to spiritual Israel. **Foreknowledge:** God knows all things in advance. Used by Peter in **Acts 2:23.**

Sanctification: "Separation to God" (Vine), tr. holiness: **Rom 6:19,22; 1 Tim 2:15; Heb 12:14.** Set apart from false religion: **2 Thess 2:13.** By God's Word: **Jn 17:17.** **Spirit:** God's spirit-word is dynamic to change us: **Jn 6:63; Eph 5:26; 6:17; 1 Jn 5:6; Rev 2:7,11,17,** cp. false spirits: **1 Jn 4:1.** **Obedience:** In the first instance by baptism: **Rom 6:16-19.** Jesus learnt obedience through suffering: **Heb 5:8-10.** **Sprinkling of blood:** Based on Mosaic ritual: **Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:19; 10:22; 12:24.** Ultimate sanctification is forgiveness through the saving name of Jesus Christ: **Heb 9:12-14. Jn 6:53-56.** Blood is a symbol of life. Christ's shed blood represents his life given in death: **Acts 20:28; Rom 5:10; Rev 7:14.** **Grace:** Unmerited favour. A motivation for Godliness: **Rom 5:20; Tit 2:11.**

1:3-12 OUR LIVING HOPE

v3 Begotten: Faith is the means of begetting. See notes: **1:23.**

Our hope is living because Christ rose from the dead. We identify with this in baptism: **Rom 6:1-13.**

v4 Inheritance: **Acts 20:32; Heb 9:15.** Sons of God are heirs: **Rom 8:16-17.**

Reserved in heaven: Where our treasure is: **Mt 6:19-21.** Christ will bring this reward when he appears on earth: **Phil 3:20-21; Rev 22:12.**

v5 Kept by power of God: Guarded by angels who encamp around believers: **Psa 34:7; Heb 1:14.** Our minds are guarded by the peace obtained from the gospel: **Phil 4:7.** **Revealed:** Gr *apokalupto*, Str. to take off the cover. Also **1 Pet 5:1.** See "Revelation" in the **Background / Overview.**

PETER, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

² Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if

need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

⁹ Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

¹² Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them

God's Kingdom: **Isa 48:10; Mal 3:3; Acts 14:22; 2 Cor 1:4; Rev 2:10.** This is to share in Christ's sufferings: **1 Pet 4:11-16.** **Precious:** Also **1:19; 2:4,6,7.** **Tried with fire:** Heat is crucial to the refining process. Gold is long lasting, but inferior to faith. It is one of the most ductile metals, able to be stretched to breaking point. Faith is sometimes stretched to extremes. **Appearing:** Gr. *apokalupsis*, often stated as *apocalypse*. An important word! See **Background and Overview.** **v8 Love:** Gr. *agapao*, same word Jesus used with Peter in **Jn 21:15,16,20.** **Joy:** Trial reminds us of what is really important in life: **Rom 8:18-19; 2 Cor 4:17; 1 Pet 1:6-7.** This was taught and lived in the life of Christ: **Matt 5:12; Heb 5:7-8; 12:2.** Think about the context of Jesus' words about joy: **Jn 15:7-13; 16:20-24; 17:13.** **Key verses:** **1 Jn 1:4; 2 Jn 1:12; 3 Jn 1:4; Phil 1:4,18,25; 2:8-9,16-18; 3:1; 4:4.** Our hope inspires joy: **Mt 13:20,44; 25:21; Heb 12:2.** God's Kingdom is full of joy: **Isa 12:3; 35:2,10; 51:3,11; 55:12; 65:18-19.** **Glory:** A common theme: see **Background and Overview.**

1 PETER 1:23-25 BORN AGAIN: This involves repentance, conversion and baptism. We become new creatures from God's Word growing within us: **Jn 1:4,12-13; 3:13-17; 6:63; Rom 1:16; Jms 1:18-21.** **God's Word** is not only the means of begetting and birth, but also growth: **1 Pet 2:1-2.**

Our response to God's Word is like seed sown in good soil: **Lk 8:4-21.** We receive the Word voluntarily and eagerly and over time this results in growth. God's providence in the trials and experiences of life also assists in spiritual-mindedness. Angels work behind the scenes, shaping lives of believers, so the interworking of experience and the Word produces character. This grows slowly, wonderfully, just like a tree growing with leaves, blossom and fruit. As God's children we are led by the spirit of God, His way of thinking: **Rom 8:14-21.** The natural mind is transformed into a spirit mind, attuned to God's ways: **Jn 3:1-10.**



v5 Last time: At resurrection: **Jn 11:24.** **v6 Now for a season:** A brief time in comparison with eternity: **Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17.** **Temptations:** Str. putting to the proof, adversity. Also **1 Pet 4:12; Jas 1:2,12; 2 Pet 2:9.** Used in context of being put to the proof by trial, also being enticed. Antidote to temptation is in **1 Tim 6:11.** The solution is to fill our lives with the positive aspects of the gospel: **Rom 13:14; Gal 5:16.**

v7 Trial of your faith: Like refining of gold, develops character and patience: **Job 23:10; Prov 17:3.** Faith is tested over a lifetime: **Mt 10:22.** It is through much tribulation that we enter

that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

¹³ Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

¹⁴ As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance;

¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

¹⁷ And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

²⁰ Who verily was fore-ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

²¹ Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

²³ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

²⁴ For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

²⁵ But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Colour code: Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin / devil / the world / judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words and phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Study Week 2016 to the theme "I shall not be ashamed".

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v9 Salvation: Also **Rom 1:16; Eph 1:13; 2 Tim 3:15; Rev 7:10; 19:1.**

v10 Searched diligently: Daniel is one example: **Dan 7:15-16.** See notes in **Background / Overview.** **Glory:** See note **1:8.** **v11 Spirit of Christ:** Christ-like mind: **Rom 8:9.** **Beforehand:** Messianic prophecy: **Psa 22:1,27; Isa 53:2,12.** **v12 NIV** "It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you." One good example is in **Dan 12:4,9,13.**

1:13-16 THE LIVING WAY

v13 Gird up loins: Long robes had to be tied up to assist running. We need to stop our minds being inhibited by things which trip us up: **Lk 12:34-35.** **Sober:** Clear minded: **1 Thess 5:6-8; 1 Pet 4:7; 5:8,** cp. **Dan 5:4; Lk 21:34.** **Revelation:** Gr. *apokalupsis*: **1:7; 4:13.** See note on **1:7.**

v14 Obedient children: also **1:2,22.** **v15 Holy:** See **Background and Overview.** **Conversation:** Way of life. **v16 Holy:** From **Lev 11:44.**

1:17-21 THE LIVING SACRIFICE

v17 Respect of persons: No partiality: **1 Tim 5:21; Jas 2:4; 3:17.** **Sojourning:** From same root word as strangers in **1:1.** See notes on **1:1.** **v18 Redeemed:** Contrast with the law: **Ex 30:12-1; Lev 25:47-55; Isa 52:3.** **Conversation:** Way of life: **1:15.** **v19 Blood of Christ:** **1:2.** **v20 Foreordained:** know beforehand: **1:2.** **Manifest:** Bring to light: **5:4.** **Last times:** **1:5; 4:7,17; 1 Jn 2:18; Jude 18.** **v21 Glory:** **1:8.**

1:22-25 THE LIVING WORD

v22 Purified: Clear conscience by baptism. God's Word purifies: **Mt 5:8; Jn 17:19; 2 Cor 7:1; Jas 4:8; 1 Pet 1:22.** **v23 Born again:** See notes on LHS and in the **Background and Overview.** **v24 Flesh is grass:** **Isa 40:6-8; Ps 37:1-3.** **v25 Endure for ever:** Repeated: **1:23.** **Gospel Preached:** **Acts 8:12,25.**