

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY

1 Peter

**Pastor Bob's Powerpoint slides
available online in PDF format:**

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INTRODUCTION

- 1st Peter addressed to Asia Minor (Turkey)
 - Prone to attacks: Note the Churches of Revelation
 - Pliny: Roman governor of Bithynia
 - Subtle Persecution
 - *Social ostracism, unfriendly acts by neighbors*
 - *Pressure on Christian wives from pagan husbands*
 - *Masters taking it out on Christian slaves*

Asia
Minor



THE ROMAN EMPIRE

- City
- Perimeter boundary of Roman Empire
- Roman territory by the time of Julius Caesar (d. 44 BC)
- Roman territory by the time of Augustus Caesar (d. AD 14)
- Roman territory by the time of Trajan (d. AD 117)
- Territory temporarily controlled by Rome
- East-West division of the Roman Empire (AD 395)



DATES FOR NT BOOKS

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| • AD 45 - | James | AD 65 | 1 Timothy , Titus |
| • AD 50-58 | 1 & 2 Thessalonians | AD 66 | 2 Timothy |
| | Galatians | AD 67 | Matthew, Hebrews |
| | Mark | AD 67-68 | First Peter (early date) |
| | 1 & 2 Corinthians | AD 68 | 2 nd Peter, Jude |
| | Romans | AD 90-95 | John, Revelation |
| • AD 60-62 | Phil, Colossians, Eph, Philemon | | 1st, 2nd, 3 rd John |
| • AD 63-64 | Luke/Acts | | First Peter (late date) |

AUTHORSHIP

- Questions About Peter Being Author
 - Excellent Greek
 - No known link between Peter & Asia Minor
 - Widespread Persecution comes later
 - Use of "Babylon" as Rome
- Supporting Peter as Author
 - Claims to be written by Peter
 - Early Church Accepted author as Peter
 - No references to heresies (from AD 90 on)

DATE

- Early Date - AD 64
 - Peter was martyred in Rome in AD 64
- Later Date - AD 96
 - First Peter known to Polycarp, Papias and 2 Peter, so it must be written before AD 120.
 - Christianity had spread and developed into Asia Minor
 - By end of 1st Century, a Petrine school had developed around memories of Peter.

PERSECUTIONS

- 1:6 - **"Various Trials"**
 - 3:3-17 - Christians living under **malice, and defamation, misunderstanding**. How to avoid having such mistreatment escalating from pagan neighbors unhappy that Christians didn't enter into their activities (4:4).
- 4:12 - 5:11 - **"fiery ordeal"**
 - "fiery" = "painful" - used in 1:7 for refining. Note Pliny's letter to emperor Trajan (AD 111) in Bithynia.
 - Note persecution described in Revelation 13 & 17.

THE SITUATION

- Asia Minor
 - Bridged Eastern and Western Culture/ Heterogeneous Culture
 - Importance of the 4 Provinces: Cappadocia, Galatia, Pontus, Bithynia
 - Products - wool, garments, medical knowledge
 - Hedge against invasions
 - Tax Revenue
- Religious Practice
 - Fertility Worship - mystery cults, wild orgies, renewal of life (see I Peter 4)
 - Judaism - freedom to worship, levy funds, jurisdiction in their courts

THEME: FOREIGNERS & EXILES

- How To Live as Christians in Non-Christian Culture
 - Live IN society but not LIKE society
 - Live as Exiles yet responsibly in way that nurtures their testimony
 - Be prepared to suffer for righteousness sake

THEOLOGY OF FIRST PETER

- Christians are Sinners & the People of God
- Holiness
 - Christian Conduct must reflect God's holiness
 - Holiness makes positive impression on non-Christians
- Church
 - Deep fellowship/affection provides strength for living as exiles in hostile world
- Suffering
 - Trials prove the genuineness of faith (God's power to sustain) and a witness to hostile world
 - Trials are consequences of Satanic opposition
 - Trials are sharing the experience of Christ

SIGNIFICANCE

Hard Lessons From First Peter

- Appreciating our salvation rather than taking it for granted
- Learning obedience and submission when it costs something to do so
- Practicing holiness without developing a sanctimonious smirk
- Living in the world without being tainted by it
- Emulating Christ's sacrificial lifestyle so it becomes our own

SIGNIFICANCE

Hard Lessons From First Peter

- Growing through our sufferings rather than being defeated by them
- Being faithful in our relationships with family, employers, and employees
- Grasping our true identity as God's people
- Preparing for judgment without being driven by fear
- Developing the character of leaders of whom God can be proud

Salutation

I:I-2

- **Peter** = 'rock' - given by Jesus
- **Apostle** = authoritative messenger - a binding word for the church.
- **To God's Elect** - (*eklektois*) - God called them/ they responded (2:9)
- **Foreknowledge** - God took initiative.
 - God set his love on them -
 - Amos 3:2 - "you only have I known"
 - Matthew 7:23 - "I never knew you"
 - John 10:14 - I know my sheep
 - I Cor. 8:3 - The one who loves God is known by God

Salutation

I:I-2

- By the Sanctifying work of Spirit
 - He convinces, convicts, regenerates, empowers
 - 2 Thess 2:13 - *"From beginning, God chose you to be saved thru sanctifying work of the Spirit..."*
- For Obedience - the purpose of choosing
 - Rom 6:16 - "you are slaves to the one you obey... to sin... or obedience"
 - 1 Pet 2:8 - "they stumble because they disobey the message"
 - John 15 - "If you obey my commands, you'll abide in my love"

God's Choosing

A Summary Of Understanding "Election"

- God's choosing these people includes making them holy. His election led to their obedience to God's call and to forgiveness under the new covenant.
 - *I was saved when God chose me before the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:21) - God's Eternal Purpose Was To Bring People Back To Him.*
 - *I was saved when Jesus died for me at Calvary (1 Peter 3:18). God's purpose became concrete at Calvary.*
 - *I was saved at age 12, when the Spirit convicted me, and I responded in obedience and surrender (1 Peter 1:2). My personal salvation was experienced when I accepted God's gracious offer of salvation and responded in obedience.*

Praise To God

I:3-5

- God acts in mercy
- God brings New Birth
- Believers have a Living Hope
- The "Hope" is an Inheritance
 - Imperishable, Pure, Unfading
- Shielded By God's power
 - Not from pain but from hopelessness, faithlessness, apostacy, giving up

Testing of our Faith

I:6-7

- You greatly rejoice – not in the pain of societal rejection, but in contemplating the fullness of our salvation (eye has not seen... what God has in store for those who trust him).
- Suffer grief in trials
 - Trial can mean temptation
 - Trial or test is to see if something is real... can hold up... is worthy
- So your faith may be proved genuine
 - Note story of Daniel, Meshack, Shadrack, Obenego
 - Romans 2:7, 10

The Hidden Presence of Christ

I:8-9

- Though you've not seen him, you love him
 - Holy Spirit has poured God's love in their hearts (Rom 5;5)
 - When going thru trials, strengthen your love relationship with Christ and it will lessen the poison of the trial
- Peter presents the Christian life as based on hope in what God will do in the future.
 - Have we lost the future dimension? Has that future hope lost its importance as a factor in our daily living? Do we lay too much stress on salvation now, both in our own lives and in the life of the world, and too little on what Christ has yet to bring?

The Prophecies of Salvation

I:10-12

- The prophets spoke of a suffering savior (Isaiah 53), and longed to know when it would happen.
- What they longed to know is fulfilled in the message proclaimed to Peter's readers. Note I Cor. 15:3-5.
- Readers are living in the time when prophecies of salvation have been fulfilled. This is the foundation for their future hope.

I Peter 1:13-25

How To Live In Society as Christians Who Are Oppressed and Excluded

- *“Therefore”* -shift from HOPE to HOLINESS
 - they ought to be DIFFERENT in how they live.
- V 13 - First Exhortation - HOPE
 - Get your head straight. This world is transitory. Focus on hope of what's coming when Christ comes again. “Eye has not seen...”
 - Self-controlled - keep loose grip on allurements of this world.
- V 14-16 - Second Exhortation - HOLINESS
 - We should take on the nature (holiness) of our heavenly Father (2 Peter 1:4)

I Peter 1:13-25

How To Live In Society as Christians Who Are Oppressed and Excluded

- V 17-21 - Third Exhortation - Fear of God
 - God judges indiscriminately, deeply, absolute honesty
 - Father - is also judge
 - Reverent fear = whatever we think/ do is subject to God's holiness and love, so live in light of His character regardless of social pressures.
- Deeper Motive - the price of our salvation
 - Redeemed -being in bondage & then made free (I Peter 4:17)
 - Precious Blood = the COST
 - Without blemish - the Passover lamb

I Peter 1:13-25

How To Live In Society as Christians Who Are Oppressed and Excluded

- V 20 - "chosen before creation of the world"
 - Cross = voluntary sacrificial suffering for others' redemptive good
 - A Sacrificial Savior - substitutionary atonement was there, in the heart of God, before the world was created... not the power of force, but the force of sacrificial love, which is God's power (see I Cor. 1:18)
- V 21 - "thru Him you believe in God"
 - Peter stresses attitude of trust in God based on what we know of His will:
 - His people should be **HOLY**
 - He redeems thru sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus
 - Our hope based not on abilities but on this God in whom we trust.

Review

First Peter

- Date: 64 AD or 96AD
- Author: Apostle Peter or Disciple/School of Peter... in Rome.
- Situation: **Exiles/Strangers (1:1)** - Social stigma/persecution of mostly Gentile Christians in Asia Minor (Capadocia, Pontus, Bithynia, Galatia)
- Chosen: by God... thru Spirit... for Obedience.
 - Social Status - Strangers
 - Spiritual Status - Chosen

Review

Praise to God For Living Hope

1:3-12

- Praise to God - Peter's aim is to give readers grounds for hope in their ultimate future so they can face immediate persecution with courage.
- Basis of our Hope
 - Hope - conviction that what you hope for will happen in future
 - Inheritance - What God has in store for us at 2nd Coming
- Testing of our Faith (6-7) - strengthens, refines faith
- Presence of Christ (8-12) - fosters trust. What prophets spoke about, they're experiencing (Isa 53 etc). Their current Christian experience confirms that future hope

Review

Four Exhortations

I:13-25

- Hope (v 13)
- Holiness (v 14-16)
- Fear of God (v 17-21)
 - Constant awareness that God judges indiscriminately, penetratingly
 - Gratitude for having being redeemed by 'precious blood of Christ'
- Love For Your Christian Family of Faith (22-25)
 - You've been born again, so 'Get on with it" Love each other deeply

Four Exhortations

I Peter 1:13-25

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Third Exhortation

1:17-21

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Third Exhortation

I:20-21

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 - Trust God based on what we know of His will:
 - His people should be **HOLY**
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Fourth Exhortation: Love One Another

I:22-25

- **The Point:** Since you've been converted... new motives & behaviors, "get on with loving each other." Facing persecution, you must maintain support from within.
- V22 - Purifying yourselves
 - Many of these Christians were former pagans. Thru their conversion, their status and nature are changing... new motives, thoughts, actions.
- V 23 - Imperishable seed
 - The Word of God is the imperishable seed. When it takes root in our lives it produces new birth.

Fourth Exhortation: Love One Another

I:24

- God's Word Stands Forever (Isa 40:6-8)
 - Isaiah quote underscores permanency of God's Word, which Peter applies to the GOSPEL which brings everlasting life.

Spiritual Maturity & A Loving Family

2:1-3

- V 1 – Rid Yourselves of what undercuts love for each other
 - Malice
 - Deceit
 - Hypocrisy
 - Envy
 - Slander

Spiritual Maturity & A Loving Family

2:1-3

- V 2 - Spiritual Milk = what nourishes Christian growth
 - Prayer, obedience, worship, hearing God's word, humble service
- V 3 - Now that you've tasted
 - Ps 34:8 - Peter applies this reference to God to Christ
 - Spiritual craving is based on having already found/experienced it to be good.

Living Stones

2:4-5

- V 4 – Christ, the living Stone
 - Psalm 118:22 - Christians saw this metaphor as referring to Christ
 - The Metaphor: a stone is dressed/cut and ready for use... but rejected as unfit by the builders. Yet, it is not only approved by the architect, but the foundation stone for the whole building.
 - Whatever the world may think of Christ, God has chosen him, who is prototype for believers who are 'living' stones.
 - Christ was rejected, just as the readers were being rejected
 - Christ is the foundation for understanding the Christian life

Living Stones

2:4-5

- A Spiritual House
 - House = where family lives
 - Instead of an unconnected group of social outcasts, they must find identity and cohesion in their relationship to the Living Stone
 - This 'new' temple is replacement of the Old Temple
 - Holy Priesthood
 - Christians are not only stones that compose the building but priests who offer sacrifices in it.

Spiritual Sacrifices

2:4-5

- What is a Spiritual Sacrifice?
 - 1 Pet 4:7-11 - loving deeply, hospitality w/out grumbling, serving others,
 - Rom 12:1 - offering self
 - Heb 13:15 - praise, thanksgiving, doing good
- Peter's Point
 - Unlike the old physical Temple in Jerusalem, together, Christians are the living Temple of God
 - Christians are also 'priests' offering spiritual sacrifices
 - These Christians must find such unity to withstand a hostile world

The Rejected Messiah

2:6-8

- Background

- How can it be that Jesus is the Messiah, when the whole Jewish nation failed to recognize Him as such?
- Peter quotes Isaiah to answer that question

The Rejected Messiah

2:6-8

- Isaiah 28:16 - "I lay a stone in Zion"
 - Isaiah is announcing the need to depend on God and to practice righteousness and justice.
 - Stone in Zion = God's promises given to Israel's leaders. Yet they chose apathy, indulgence, disobedience.
 - Peter sees connection between these verses in Isaiah's day and the Jews' rejection of Jesus, the One who is precious to God.

The Rejected Messiah

2:6-8

- Psalm 118:22 - "the rejected stone has become capstone"
 - The stone was rejected by builders, but God made it capstone
 - Ps 118 = a king giving thanks for military victory that some of Israel's tribal leaders didn't think could happen . What they rejected, God vindicated.

The Rejected Messiah

2:8

- Isaiah 8:14 - stone causes stumbling
 - God tells Isaiah that Israel will be a stumbling stone. Peter uses it as metaphor for God himself.
 - God is a stone over which people trip to their own destruction. If you don't build on it, it becomes means of own ruin.

The Rejected Messiah

2:8

- Note I Cor 1:18 - "the preaching of cross is foolishness to those perishing"... note I Pet 2:8 - "they stumble because they disobey the message."
- Those who reject Christ to be just like Israel and Judah in their response to Yahweh.
 - Those who thought Jesus nothing more than cause of ridicule will find that even though they rejected him, He has become cornerstone (2:7).
 - Peter showing that unbelief of non Christians anticipated in OT.

Digression: Who Are Christians

2:9-10

- Unlike those who “stumble” over Christ, Christians are true people of God.
- 5 Phrases from Ex 19:6 and Isaiah 43:20-21
 - Chosen Nation
 - Royal Priesthood
 - Holy Nation
 - People Belonging to God
 - Declaring His Praises

Digression: Who Are Christians

2:10

- Once you were not a people
 - Hos 1:6-10 - Lo-Ruhamah & Lo Ammi
 - Hos 2:23 - I will show my love to "Lo-Ruhamah & Lo Ammi"
 - Quoted by Paul in Rom 9:25 - bringing Gentiles to Him as sons
 - Peter uses it to say - Even though they were Gentiles, they're now people of God
- Declaring His Praises to Unsaved World

Christian Behavior in Hostile World

2:11-3:12

- Summary of 1:1 - 2:10
 - Christians live in hope rooted in resurrection and own experience of new birth despite sufferings that strengthen and prove their faith.
 - Christians are the new people of God, living lives of holiness and love for other Christians who declare God's wondrous deeds.
- But how are Christians to live in this world?
 - Answer: Live out of a character that is recognized even by non-Christians

Christian Behavior in Hostile World

2:11

- Aliens - Temporary residence in different country
- Strangers - transient... just passing through
- Abstain - The temptation is to fall back to old way of life
- War Against Your Soul
 - Opposed to your real and deepest needs

Christian Behavior in Hostile World

2:12-17

- Background: No longer considered part of Judaism and under Roman protection of the Jews, Christians were increasingly vulnerable to accusations of their neighbors. Peter's advice has this in mind:
 - V 12 - Live lives above reproach
 - If accused of wrong, your good deeds will contradict their accusations
 - V 13 -15 - Render to Caesar what is Caesars
 - Thus silence ignorant talk
 - V 16 - Our freedom is to do right, not cover-up evil

Christian Slaves' Behavior in Hostile World

2:18-20

- Christian slaves and pagan masters
 - 60 millions slaves
 - Prisoners of war, victims of debt, children of slaves
- V 18 - submit to harsh masters
 - Unjust suffering is commendable when conscious of God
 - Note Joseph and Potiphar's wife
 - Our conduct must be determined not by character of owner but by relationship to God.
- Note Paul and Philemon & Onesimus
- Note Christian duty leans toward justice when possible

Christian Slaves' Behavior: Summary

2:18-20

- In all social relationships
 - Conduct springs from reverence for God and desire to do his will.
 - Conduct determined not by character of owner, but by our character
- Accepting unjust suffering without retaliation is commendable (v 23)
 - Nothing said about ending slavery or other dehumanizing practices
 - One can take action against injustice and unjust structures without personal retaliation.
 - Condemning sin in preaching & life style (2:12, 3:16) is one way to take action.
 - Not all types of action for social justice legitimate for Christians... but fundamental responsibility to work for justice is basic to biblical teaching.

The Basis for Christian Living

2:21-25

- V 21 - "To this you were called"
 - Called out of darkness (:9) to inherit blessings (3:9) and eternal glory (5:10)
 - But it involves suffering now
 - They were called to is *patient enduring of suffering when it comes*
- Leaving an Example
 - It is not that Jesus suffered so we wouldn't have to
 - Rather, He has called us to new way of life involving patient suffering
- V 22-23 - See Isaiah 53
 - Jesus went further - "bless those who curse you" (Lk 6:28, 1 Pet 3:9)
 - Rather than seek vengeance, Jesus left his destiny & others in God's hands

Substitutionary Atonement

2:24

- ***“bore our sins”***
 - Jesus' suffering is more than example. He accepted the punishment due us
- ***“So we might die to sin, live for righteousness***
 - Set free not just from consequences of sin, but Sin itself.
 - Note Paul (Rom 6:11, 13, 18 and Galatians 2:19)
 - Picture of leaving one world and thru resurrection entering a new one... from sin to righteousness

Substitutionary Atonement

2:25

- From going astray to returning
 - The picture of an about-face
- Shepherd & Overseer of your souls
 - Converted people come under Jesus' care

Wives & Husbands

3:1-7

- V. 1 – Be submissive
 - Very Patriarchal Society
 - Women expected to be submissive, adopt husband's religion
 - In O.T. – submission connected to Creation & Fall (Gen 2:20, 3:16)
 - In N.T. – Paul expresses equality (I Cor 7:3-4) and mutual dependence (I Cor 11:11). Fall is undone in New Creation manifested in the Church
- Finding Balance
 - New evaluation of husband/wife roles versus temptation to go too far and violate bounds of social propriety.
 - Pete & Paul primary concern = spreading the Gospel, not family relations

Beauty of Character

3:2-6

- V 2 - purity and reverence
 - Reverence for the Lord, not husband
 - Purity = maintaining sexual morality
- V 3 - Outward beauty
 - Hair, jewelry, clothing
- V 4 - inner self -
 - unfading beauty (gentle, quiet spirit) - characteristics found in Jesus (Mt 11:29, 21:5)

Beauty of Character

3:5-6

- Holy women of the past
 - Their trust in God freed them from depending on outward beauty
 - They made themselves beautiful by showing gentle, quiet spirit expressed in respect and submission to husbands
- Do what is right
 - Note 5:5 - same phrase is used for young men toward elders... mutual respect
- Don't Give way to Fear
 - Don't be afraid of anything.
 - Fear God (3:2), not husbands.
 - If they trust God, they will not be afraid of pagan husband

Husbands

3:7

- In the same way
 - Note the mutuality (See Eph 5:21)
- Treat with Respect
 - Weaker partner - socially incorrect to suggest women are weak
 - Peter is using an observable physical fact to make spiritual point:
Treat women with respect
- Heirs of gift of life
 - Women are also heirs of God's grace... eternal life...
indwelling of Holy Spirit

General Instructions

3:8-12

- These are brief instructions
 - Quote Ps 34:13-17
 - Note Jesus: "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you"
- Five Expressions for mutual relationships w Christians
 - Harmony - "be of like mind" - Christians will work together toward common goal. See Phil 2:3-4 - "do nothing out of selfish ambition"
 - Sympathy - suffering with people/ entering into their experience (Rom 12:15)
 - Love as Brothers - see 1:22
 - Compassionate = feelings of concern expressed in action
 - Humility - All of the above move in direction of humility. Note Rom 12:3

Relations w Non Christians

3:8-12

- The basic Rule: If people treat you badly, don't pay back (vengeance)
 - Eye for Eye
 - Jesus forbade personal revenge (Lk 6:28, Rom 12:14, I Cor 4:12, I Thess 5:15)
 - ***But with Blessing*** - Offering the love and grace of Jesus
 - ***Inherit a blessing*** - Christians called to life of non-retaliatory self-giving, knowing it is the only way we will receive blessing from God... "***blessed to be a blessing.***" Inherent in Christian life is attitude of love toward others, including enemies and persecutors. If you aren't willing to share God's gifts of grace, you are not worthy to receive them.

Spiritual Backing

3:10-12

- Psalm 34:12
 - Commends righteousness as a way of life. Behavior matters
 - The point of undeserved grace comes from context of broken laws, unfulfilled righteousness.
 - But grace and forgiveness don't make righteous unnecessary or irrelevant.
- V 12 - Eyes of the Lord on righteous
 - Attentive to their prayer (petition)
 - Righteous = right relationship with God, trusting Him
 - Those who tame the tongue, refrain from deceit, pursue peace

Christian Attitude Toward Hostility

3:13-5:11

- Christian Response to Actual Persecution
 - 3:13-17 - make positive use of opportunities from hostile situations
 - 4:1-6 - Don't lapse back into pagan ways
 - 4:7-11 - Mutual love evidenced by serving fellow Christians
 - 4:12-19 - Face suffering with a right spirit
 - 5:1-5 - The need for Good leadership
 - 5:6-11 - Resist the devil

Opportunities When Persecuted

3:13-17

- The Question: "What happens if we live faithfully to Christ?"
 - Fear of physical pain, relational rejection, loss of respect
 - Temptation to 'go along to get a long'
- V 13 - If Christians do what is right, they're less likely to be attacked
- V 14 - Suffering for what is right... you are blessed
 - Peter has in mind spiritual blessings we receive for being faithful even in face of persecution (See I Peter 4:14)

Freedom from Fear

3:14-15

- Quotes Isaiah 8:12-13
 - Peter takes reference to Rezin and Pekah and applies to enemies of Christians
- Set apart Christ as Lord
 - Some people who are afraid of dentist, face the pain as price for relief. The more conscious Christians are of the blessings promised by God, the more they'll see suffering in a different way.
- V 15 - Be Prepared to give an answer
 - Can include formal settings (court) or informal (social)
 - "the hope" = salvation, inheritance, all that inspires and motivates Christians

Clear Conscience

3:16-17

- V 16 - Clear conscience - humble spirit and good behavior result in clear conscience (Rom 2:15, 9:1, 2 Cor 1:12)
- V. 17 - Better to suffer for doing good
 - Peter is saying it is better to suffer persecution for faithfully following Christ than for breaking the law. Patient endurance of persecution is a powerful form of Christian witness

Significance of Christ's Victory

3:18-22

- V 18 - Substitutionary Atonement
 - Christ died - the undeserved death of Jesus on Cross
 - Once for all - unique death that secures forgiveness
 - For Sins - His death is sacrifice to cancel effects of sin
 - Bring us to God - the result
 - Righteous for unrighteous = vicarious nature of Jesus' death
 - Put to death in the body - reference to Jesus' crucifixion
 - Alive by the Spirit - brought to life by God

Christ's Proclamation to Spirits

3:19-20

- First view - Jesus went to where disobedient supernatural powers are imprisoned to proclaim his victory and God's judgment
- Second view - Jesus went to Hades and preached to spirits of people disobedient in Noah's day
- Third view - The spirit of Christ was in Noah preaching to those who were disobedient during the building of the ark.

Christ's Proclamation to Spirits

3:19-20

- My View
 - What Peter says here parallels Jewish tradition about Enoch and a section about the angels' fall from grace. I think Peter is drawing on the imagery from the Enoch story to show dramatically Christ's victory over all the powers of evil.
 - God's power that restrained the powers of evil is expressed in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Because of God's omnipotence (victory), Christians need not be afraid of persecution or the evil powers that promote it.

Christian Baptism

3:21-22

- V 21 - This water - Peter makes parallel between Noah's family and his readers
 - Baptism now saves you - For Peter, "baptism" symbolizes the whole process by which the gospel comes to people.
 - Not removal of dirt - outward defilement vs inner defilement
 - Pledge of good conscience toward God - baptism only valuable as it expresses an inner experience of grace
 - By the resurrection of Jesus - what the resurrection of Jesus indicates and symbolizes regarding God's power over death and sin
- V 22 - Don't be afraid. Christ is Lord over all your opposition

Preparing to Suffer

4:1-6

- V 1 - "therefore" - goes back to 3:18-22 - Jesus' suffering was pathway to victory
- "arm yourselves" - Jesus showed by his suffering his opposition to sinful living. When Christians are prepared to suffer, they show an attitude toward certain principles they hold dear (see v 2)
- V 2 - human desires vs will of God
 - "not" literally "no longer" - no longer controlled by sinful desires
 - Will of God - to do good... to live holy lives... to declare the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Preparing to Suffer

4:1-6

- V 3 - Doing what pagans do
 - Debauchery - outrageous acts that offend public sense of decency
 - Lust - Greek word for desires... illicit sexual desires
 - Drunkenness, orgies, carousing - parties that promote unseemly sexual behavior
 - Detestable idolatry - Pagan religious cults offensive to Christians
 - Dionysus (drinking)
 - Food sacrificed to idols
 - Ritual prostitution

Preparing to Suffer

4:1-6

- V 4 - "they think it strange"
 - When Christian changes lifestyle, associates are confused
 - "heap abuse" = to slander or blaspheme"
- V 5 - They will give account
 - Social standards change, but we always stand under divine judgment
- V 6 - What matters is not what the world thinks of Christians.
 - Pagans judged for refusing to obey God/ Believers will be vindicated by God
 - Christians' physical death will be seen as evidence of condemnation. But their future life comes because they responded to the Gospel preached to them.

The Christian Congregation

4:7-II

- V 7 – end of all things is near – see Mark 13, Revelation
 - Clear minded = maintain sense of proportion vs dangers and fears
 - Self-controlled – sober and restrained over against worldly carousing... not just intoxication, but the whole situation.
- V 8 – Love each other deeply
 - Deeply – literally ‘at full stretch’ – This love will be stretched to the limit by the demands put upon it.
 - Love covers sins – See I Cor 13:5 – Love keeps no record of wrongs.

The Christian Congregation

4:7-II

- V 9 - Offer hospitality without grumbling
 - See Rom 12:13, Hebrews 13:2, I Tim 3:2, Titus 1:8
 - Note Lydia's hospitality to Paul
 - Note Aquilla and Pricilla's hospitality to Paul (Rom 16:5) and Gaius (16:23)
 - Hospitality is brotherly love where special tolerance for other's faults is required

The Christian Congregation

4:10

- Use Whatever Gift
 - The elders (5:14) gave pastoral oversight. Other tasks were carried out by members according to spiritual gifts
 - Administering God's grace - the word 'gift' comes from the word for 'grace.' The idea is receiving a gift from God that is passed on and shared w/ others
 - To serve others - we're God's vehicles. The purpose for anything done in church is to serve other people. It came from example of Jesus
 - Mark 10:45 - "son of man came not to be served but to serve
 - Luke 22:27 - "I am among you as the one who serves"

The Christian Congregation

4:II

- Speaking and Serving
 - Speaking “the very words of God” - not mere human opinions... with respect for the privilege and responsibility, depending on God’s strength
 - Serving - non-verbal activities... deeds toward the needy (Mt 25:44, Acts 6:2, Rom 15:25).
- In all things God may be praised
 - Purpose of serving is for God’s glory
 - Through Christ - we approach God thru one mediator

Suffering, Joy, & Judgment

4:12-19

- V 12

- Don't be surprised - anyone living God's values experiences pushback from family, work, school.
- Painful trial (pyrosei = to burn) - The idea is of a crucible for refining (Note Prov 27:21)
- Not Something strange - Their suffering not a sign of God's absence but of his purifying presence

Suffering, Joy, & Judgment

4:12-19

- V 13

- Rejoice - These people were already suffering... The rejoicing is knowing you're sharing in Christ's suffering because you're claiming and remaining faithful to same values for same reasons.
- Phil 3:10 - I want to know Him... power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering.
- Overjoyed = filled with exultation - God is not going to replace suffering with glory but **TRANSFORMED** suffering into glory...

Suffering, Joy, & Judgment

4:12-19

- V 14

- If insulted = losing face

- A hint that persecution not yet become physical persecution...
note Mt 5:11

- You are blessed (makaroi)

- The Spirit of God rests on you = to be object of God's blessings
 - You are embracing the same values and standing for same truth that Jesus did... thus you suffer.
 - Believers who suffer enjoy God's favor now and taste the wonder of glory to come (4:13)

Suffering, Joy, & Judgment

4:12-19

- V 15 - "not as a murderer, thief, criminal, meddler
 - Some persecuted people blame it on their faith when it actually has more to do with their faults, failings, attitude, temper, intolerance, dishonesty.
- V 16 - If you suffer as Christian
 - Christian - nickname for followers of Christ.
 - Don't be ashamed - Note Peter's denial of Christ.
 - Mark 8:38 - If anyone is ashamed of me... Son of Man ashamed of him"
 - Praise God - "I am not ashamed of Gospel (Rom 1:16).

Suffering, Joy, & Judgment

4:17-19

- V 17 - time for judgment begin with family of God
 - Judgment (lit 'the judgment) = final judgment - Peter connects final judgment with beginning in God's own Temple (the Church).
 - Malachi 3:1-5
 - The Lord will come to his temple, but who can endure it. His coming will be like refiner's fire... purifying the Levites... to bring offerings in righteousness... I will put you on trial and testify against your sorcerers, adulterers, perjurers, who defraud laborers and oppress widows... and do not fear me.

Suffering, Joy, & Judgment

4:17-19

- V. 17-18
 - Begins with us - by purifying believers
 - Peter's point: the outcome of unbelievers will be much greater
- V 19
 - According to God's will = from persecution for being Christians
 - Commit to their Creator - *paratithemi* = *entrust*
 - Unsaved have a present controlled by their past. Christians have a present controlled by their future
 - Faithful Creator - see Matt 6:25 (Heavenly Father cares for birds & flowers)
 - Continue to do good - this is how trust is shown

Summary

How Should Christians React to Suffering?

- Be sure your suffering not result of doing wrong
 - Stupid choices, arrogance, rebellion, self-will
- When forces of evil impose suffering
 - God can use your suffering to purify and strengthen you
 - God allowed son's suffering to redeem us.
 - Evil ultimately can only be overcome by suffering love (Cross).
- When suffering/mistreated because of your faith
 - Put yourself in God's care (Ps 31:5, I Pet 2:23)
 - Keep doing what is good

Leaders in the Church

5:1-2

- V 1 - Elders (presbyterous = older man -leader)
- V 2 - Shepherds - God pictured as shepherd in OT. Church leaders are "under shepherds" of Christ
 - Sheep
 - Wander away
 - Need protection from animals and thieves
 - Need feeding
 - Maintain unity in flock

Leaders in the Church

5:2-3

- Not from obligation but by desire to serve
- Not greedy for money
- Not lording it over others
- Examples of faithfulness, servanthood, patience in suffering

Leaders in the Church

5:4

- When Shepherd appears
 - Motivation for leadership is Christ's return (desire to please Him)
- Crown of Glory - symbol for the fullness of everlasting life
 - Never fade (*amarantinon* = amaranth flower that didn't fade.)
 - *1 Cor 9:25 - We do it to get a crown that will last forever*
 - *2 Tim 4:8 - There is in store for me the crown of righteousness*
 - *Jam 1:12 - the man who perseveres under trial... will receive crown of life*
 - *Rev 2:10 - Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer... be faithful even to point of death and I will give you crown of life*

Leaders in Church

5:5

- Young men
 - Be submissive to older - note I K 12 (Rehoboam)
 - Clothe self w/ humility
- God opposes the proud
 - Prov 3:34... James 4:6... I Cor 1:27 - God has chosen the weak things, lowly things, despised things, so no one may boast before Him.
 - Moses vs Pharaoh
 - David vs Goliath
 - Gideon vs Midianites

Concluding Practical Advice

15:6-1

- V 6
 - Humble self = submit to Him sinful, selfish desires (Micah 6:8)
 - God's mighty hand = power to intervene in history for people's sake
 - Lift you up in due time = when Christ returns
 - See 4:14, 5:1
 - Moses... 40 years
 - Joseph... +13 years
 - Impatience an pride (James 1:3 = *the testing of your faith develops perseverance*)

Concluding Practical Advice

15:7

- Cast all your anxiety on him
 - This is how you humble yourself under God's strong arm
 - "Worry" goes back to feeling we must solve problems in own strength
 - Isa 41:10 - God gives STRENGTH to stand and not run
 - James 1:5 - God gives WISDOM for understanding & perspective
- He cares for you
 - We don't share/trust those who are cruel or apathetic or mock our worries
 - God is neither indifferent (Matt 6:7) or cruel or careless (Mt 7:9-10)

Side-Street: How God's Strength Comes

Isaiah 40:27-31

- **Wings of Eagles = Rescue = miraculous intervention**
 - God rescued Israel from Egypt
 - Jesus healed leprous man (Lk 5:1)
- **Run and Not Be Weary = Collaboration**
 - Moses did it in God's strength
 - God empowers us to do more, go further, reach higher than we think we can
- **Walk and Not Faint = Endurance**
 - When things can't/won't change, God gives strength to endure
 - Hebrews 12:1-3

Resist the Devil

5:8-9

- V 8 - Devil looks to devour
 - Devil seeks to destroy faith (thru temptation that comes from persecution)
 - Devil (diabolos = slanderer - accuser) - note Satan and Job 1:9-11, V 9 - Resist him
 - See Ephesians 6:13, James 4:7
 - Not in our own strength but God's (standing firm in the faith)
 - Your brothers throughout the world - suffering
 - Remember you're not alone... others going through same thing

The Devil: An Overview

- Devil = diabolos = slanderer, accuser, adversary
 - OT has little mention of demons
 - Devil - tempted Christ, then waited for opportune time (Judas' betrayal)
 - Resurrection broke power of devil (Heb 2:14, Acts 10:38, I John 3:8)
 - Believers warned to resist devil (Eph 6:11, I Pet 5:9)

The Devil: An Overview

- Satan
 - Initially used to mean adversary (Num 22:22, 2 Sam 19:22, I K 5;4, Ps 109:6).
 - In time, "Satan" came to designate nonhuman arch rival of God
 - In I Chr 21:1, "satan" has become a proper name
 - Satan & Devil used in NT for being who tempts to evil & opposes God & his people.
 - Intertestamental years - Judaism developed interest in angels and demons and it shows up in their writings
 - Satan in NT
 - Never presented as equal in power to God
 - Jesus is victor over Satan (Rev 12:7-12, 20:10)

The Devil: A Summary

- 2 Dangers
 - Trying to say more about Satan than the Bible provides
 - Failing to recognize difference between 1st century and 21st century's view of spiritual realities
 - Biblical writers thought in terms of dominions, rulers, authorities, thrones, forces of darkness, spiritual forces of wickedness.
 - They lived with existential fear of demons... attributed medical issues to demons. Modern American doesn't speak or think in those same terms.

The Devil: A Summary

- The Reality of Dark Spiritual Forces
 - History, Bible, Personal Experience, Secular and Religious Writers
 - Satan, World, Sin
 - Romans 7 - dark power causes him to do what he doesn't want to do
 - Peter - Devil is like roaring lion seeking someone to devour
- The Victory of Christ
 - Col 2:15 - God disarmed these forces and triumphed over them
 - I Peter 3:22 - All powers made subject to Jesus
 - Col 1:15 - All thrones, powers, rulers, were created by Jesus
 - Rev 20:10 - Devil thrown into lake of fire.

The Devil: Personal View

- I use Bible's terminology (Devil and Satan)
 - I'm in a spiritual war and need spiritual armor
 - I don't focus on demonology or detailed packaged understanding of the devil.
 - I'm tempted by (1) Sin, as manifested in the world (I John 2:15), (2) My own self will (Rom 7), and by forces of darkness (Devil).
 - I try to focus on the power of God... spiritual resources (grace, mercy, forgiveness, Holy Spirit, fellowship of believers) and the truth that "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength." (Phil 4:13).
 - Whether actual personal being or not, the Devil is real and potent, and dangerous. But he only operates in limited fashion, under the cloud of certain final defeat and under the all powerful dominion of Jesus, before whom every knee shall bow and tongue shall confess as Lord (Phil 2:10).

Divine Promise

5:10-11

- V 10

- God of all grace = sufficient for every situation (2 Cor 1:3) in love, concern, comfort.
- Eternal glory in Christ = here is the contrast between their current suffering which lasts 'for a little while,' versus eternal glory of everlasting life (Eye has not seen nor ear heard what God has prepared for those who love him).
- God will strengthen us
 - Restore = repair what is damaged
 - Make you strong = give courage, uplift weak believers
 - Steadfast = unmovable by outside forces

Divine Promise

5:11

- To Him be power forever and ever. Amen
 - As Peter things about God working powerfully for His people, it causes him to break out in praise.
 - The promise in v 10 rests not only on God being loving and gracious, but on being powerful enough to triumph over evil.

Closing Greetings

5:12-14

- V 12
 - Silas
 - Accompanied Paul after breakup with Barnabas.
 - He may have carried the Acts 15 letter (see Acts 15:22)
 - He may have helped compose First Peter
 - Faithful brother = trusted
 - Encouraging you - the point of Peter's letter
 - Testifying to True Grace of God
 - This letter is a testimony of Peter's personal experience

Closing Greetings

5:12-14

- V 13

- In Babylon = pseudonym for Rome - Christians felt themselves in exile in a foreign land or luxury and sin... oppressor of God's people.
- My Son Mark
 - Most likely "John Mark" who went with Paul on 1st journey
 - Paul and John Mark came together again (Philemon 24, Col 4:10, 2 Tim 4:11). Barnabas was right about giving mark a second chance.
 - Tradition (from Papias) says that Mark became close with Peter.

Holy Kiss

I Peter 5:14

- Kiss of Love
 - Expression of brotherly affection used by Jews and Jesus' disciples
 - Judas' kiss turned sign of affection into means of betrayal
 - Today, such practice is rare - it feels awkward, embarrassing and potentially misleading.
- Peace to all who are in Christ
 - Paul concluded with Grace, the source of divine blessing.
 - But Peace is the Content of God's blessing.