

The Life and Letters of Peter

Lesson Five: Introduction to 1 Peter

Introduction

1 Pet 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,
 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.
 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you,
 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter is a letter.

Who is it from?

Who is it written to?

<p>Salutation Compare the salutations of the other letters in the New Testament to this one.</p> <p>What is the pattern used?</p> <p>Circle the author Make a box around the recipients Underline the greeting</p>	1 Corinthians	1 Cor 1:1-3 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
	2 Corinthians	2 Cor 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
	Galatians	Gal 1:1-3 Paul, an apostle--sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead-- and all the brothers with me, To the churches in Galatia: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
	Ephesians	Eph 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
	Philippians	Phil 1:1-2 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
	Colossians	Col 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

1 Thessalonians	1 Th 1:1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.
2 Thessalonians	2 Th 1:1-2 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Timothy	1 Tim 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
2 Timothy	2 Tim 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
Titus	Titus 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness-- a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior, To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.
Philemon	Phile 1:1-3 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
James	James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.
2 Peter	2 Pet 1:1-2 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
2 John	2 John 1:1-3 The elder, To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth--and not I only, but also all who know the truth-- because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.
3 John	3 John 1:1-2 The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.
Jude	Jude 1:1-2 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Who's Who

<p>1 Peter is written as a letter from Peter, who calls himself an apostle of Jesus Christ. List what you know about the recipients from verse 1.</p>	<p>1 Peter 1:1 (NIV) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,</p> <p>(NASB) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.¹</p> <p>(KJV) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 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.</p>
<p>Peter calls them God's elect. What does that mean?</p>	<p>ἐκλεκτοὶ eklektos; from 1586; <i>select</i>, by implication <i>favorite</i>:— choice(2), choice man(1), chosen(1), chosen(9), chosen one(1), elect(8).²</p>
<p>Peter calls them strangers in the NIV (NASB--aliens) What made them strangers in the world?</p>	<p>strangers- παρεπίδημοι parepidēmos; from 3844 and ἐπίδημοι epidēmos (<i>sojourning in</i>); <i>sojourning in a strange place</i>:— exiles(1), reside as aliens(1), strangers(1).²</p>

¹The New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1996.

²Thomas, Robert L., Th.D., General Editor, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries, Updated Edition*, (Anaheim, CA: Foundation Publications, Inc.) 1999, c1998.

Look at **Acts 2:9-11**, the story of Pentecost.

When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

Find and circle each of the locations the people at Pentecost were from on the map.

Now underline the places the recipients of Peter's letter were from on the map on the previous page.



What connections do you notice between those at Pentecost and the recipients of Peter's letter?

<p>We know where the recipients are from and a little about them. What additional information does verse 2 tell us about them?</p> <p>Circle the names of God in the verse. Who is represented?</p>	<p>1 Peter 1:2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:</p>	
<p>What does Peter wish for them?</p>	<p>Grace and peace be yours in abundance.</p>	
<p>Look at the words:</p>		
<p>cari" charis; a primary word; <i>grace, kindness</i>:— blessing(1), concession(1), credit(3), favor(11), gift(1), grace(122), gracious(2), gracious work(3), gratitude(1), thank(3), thankfulness(2), thanks(6). (Strongs) *</p> <p>The term grace or favor (Heb. <i>chen</i>; Gr. <i>charis</i>) is used in Scripture generally to indicate God's free and unmerited favor toward men, particularly His redeemed people God's grace includes both His attitude and action of love, mercy, and kindness for undeserving people. †</p>	<p>eijhnh eirēnē; of uncertain derivation, perhaps from eiṛw eirō (<i>to join</i>): lit. or fig. <i>peace</i>, by impl. <i>welfare</i>:— peace(90), undisturbed(1). *</p> <p>In Scripture, the term peace refers to a personal sense of well-being, wholeness, harmony, and security through a proper relationship with God and fellow men. The term may also refer to a restful and harmonious state of affairs among people or things or within a particular environment. †</p>	<p>pl hqunw plēthunō; from 4128; <i>to increase, to be increased</i>:— fullest measure(1), increase(2), increased(1), increasing(1), multiplied(4), multiply(1), surely multiply(1). *</p>

† NASB Topical Index, (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation) 1999, c1992.

* Thomas, Robert L., Th.D., General Editor, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries, Updated Edition*, (Anaheim, CA: Foundation Publications, Inc.) 1999, c1998.

Looking at the Blessing

1 Peter 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Peter starts off praising whom?

What has He done?

Let's diagram this:

In his great mercy
he has given us new birth
 into a living hope
 through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 from the dead
and into an inheritance
 that can never perish
 spoil
 or fade
 kept in heaven
 for you
 who through faith are shielded
 by God's power
 until the coming of the salvation
 that is ready to be revealed
 in the last time

God has given the recipients (and us!) new birth. How?

What does that new birth give us?

Where is our inheritance?

What is the role of faith?

From the Amplified Bible

PETER, AN apostle (a special messenger) of Jesus Christ, [writing] to the elect exiles of the dispersion scattered (sowed) abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 Who were chosen *and* foreknown by God the Father and consecrated (sanctified, made holy) by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and to be sprinkled with [His] blood: May grace (spiritual blessing) and peace be given you in increasing abundance [that spiritual peace to be realized in and through Christ, freedom from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts].

3 Praised (honored, blessed) be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)! By His boundless mercy we have been born again to an ever-living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 [Born anew] into an inheritance which is beyond the reach of change *and* decay [imperishable], unsullied and unfading, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are being guarded (garrisoned) by God's power through [your] faith [till you fully inherit that final] salvation that is ready to be revealed [for you] in the last time.³

LESSON FOR LIFE

Do you have grace and peace in abundance? What might you do to have more?

What strikes you about your promised inheritance, now that you've seen God's "will" (as in last will and testament) for you?

Take some time to praise Him for what he has done for you.