

FIRST PETER
PLAIN SENSE PARAPHRASE
MAY 4, 2017

CHAPTER ONE

This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.

I am writing to God's chosen people, the Jews who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. 2 God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have trusted in Jesus and have been cleansed by His blood.

May God give you more and more grace [unmerited favor] and peace.

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is by his great mercy that we have been born again and given an exciting expectation - by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead - 4 of a priceless inheritance — pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay — an inheritance that is earmarked in heaven for you, 5 who are being **kept by God's power, through your faith in Him, until you receive this salvation**, which is ready and waiting to be revealed to you when God says it is time.

6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for the time being. 7 **These trials will show whether your faith is genuine. Your faith is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. If your faith remains strong through these trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.**

8 You love him, even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you believe in Him; and you rejoice with a

glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 **The reward for your continued faith in him will be the salvation of your souls.**

10 This gracious salvation prepared for you was something the Old Testament prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about it. 11 They wondered what time and in what manner the Spirit of the Messiah [Christ] within them was talking about when he told them long in advance how the Messiah would suffer and die and be raised to life again.

12 They were told that the prophecies they were being given by the Holy Spirit were not for themselves, but for you. And now the Good News they wrote about has been announced to you by people proclaiming it in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. The plan is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these events unfold.

13 **So take your Christianity seriously, exercise self-control, and stay strong in faith — believing right up to the very end for the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ returns in the Rapture.** 14 Live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. 15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. 16 For the Scriptures say, "You are to be holy because I am holy."

17 And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must **live in reverent fear of him** during your time here as "temporary residents." 18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value, 19 but with the precious, priceless blood of Christ - the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 God chose him to be your ransom long before the world was made, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your benefit - 21 for through him, you have come to trust God.

You have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

22 You were cleansed from your sins when you believed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters, loving each other deeply, with all your heart.

23 For you have been born again — not to another mortal life that ends so quickly, but to a new life that will never end, because it comes from the eternal, living word of God!

24 As the Scriptures say,

*“People are like grass;
their beauty is like a flower in the field.
The grass withers and the flower fades.*

25 *But the word of the Lord remains forever.”*

And that word is the Good News that has been preached to you!

1 PETER 2

So get rid of any feelings of ill will toward others, and deceit [*Acts 5; Ananias and Saphira*!] Be done with pretense and jealousy [*Acts 8; Simon, the magician*], and back-biting.

2 Instead, crave pure spiritual milk, like newborn babies, so that you will grow in spiritual maturity. Keep crying out for this wonderful nourishment, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s grace.

4 You are joined to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by humanity, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, **you are also holy priests**. Through the

mediation of Jesus Christ, **you offer spiritual sacrifices that bring God great pleasure.**

6 As the Scriptures say,

*“I am placing a Cornerstone in Jerusalem —
chosen for great honor;
and anyone who puts their faith in Him
will never regret it.”*

7 You who believe in Jesus recognize the honor God has given him.

But for those who reject him, “The Stone that the builders rejected
has now become the Cornerstone.” 8 And, “*He is the Stone that
makes people stumble; the Rock that makes them fall.*”

They stumble because they do not believe God’s word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.

9 But you are not like them, for you are a chosen people. You are **royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own special possession**, so that you can show others the grace of God — how he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

10 *“Once you had no identity as a people;
now you are God’s people.
Once you received no mercy;
now you have received God’s mercy.”*

11 Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war **against your very souls**. 12 Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, so that they, too, may be saved and give honor to God when he judges the world.

13 For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the President as leader of the Country, 14 or the officials appointed under him. For their job is to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

15 It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. 16 For even though you are free from condemnation and the Mosaic Law, you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. 17 **All humanity is to be honored**; believers are to be loved; God is to be feared; **the government is to be respected**.

18 You who are employees must submit to your employers with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are crooked and demanding. 19 For God is pleased when, in submission to his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment, 20 though, of course, you get no reward for patiently enduring any punishment your deserve for wrong-doing.

But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. 21 For God called you to suffer for the truth about Jesus, just as Jesus suffered for you. He is our model, and you are to follow in his steps, wherever they may lead.

22 He never sinned,

nor ever misused his tongue.

23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted,

nor threaten revenge when he suffered.

He left his case in the hands of God,

who always judges fairly.

24 He personally carried our sins

in his body on the cross,

so that we can be dead to sin

and live righteously.

By his physical wounds

you have received spiritual healing.

*25 Once you were like sheep
who wandered away.*

*But now you have returned to your Shepherd —
the Guardian of your souls.*

1 PETER 3

Concerning Husbands and Wives

In the same spirit, you wives are to accept the authority of your own husbands. Then, even if some refuse to believe the Word of God, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over ² by observing the pure and reverent way you behave toward them.

³ As you endeavor to win them to Christ, don't be overly concerned about the temporary outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. ⁴ Instead, clothe yourselves with the beauty that comes from within— the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is eternal and is so precious to God. ⁵ This is how the holy women of the Old Testament era made themselves beautiful to their husbands. They put their trust in God, and accepted the authority of their husbands. ⁶ For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and consistently submitted to his authority. You are her daughters when you submit to your husbands without worrying about what others may think of you.

⁷ In the same way, you husbands are to give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with the understanding that comes from knowing your wife intimately. She may be weaker than you are in physical strength and authority, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should, so your prayers will not be hindered.

⁸ Finally, all of you should live in harmony. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as spiritual brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted [sensitive], and keep a humble attitude. ⁹ In actions, don't repay evil for evil. In words, don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what

God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. 10 For the Scriptures say,

*“If you want to enjoy a Christ-filled life
and see many full and happy days,
keep your tongue from evil-speaking
and do not misuse your tongue.*

11 Turn away from doing wrong, and actively do good.

Seek to make peace with others, and work to maintain it.

***12 The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right,
and his ears are open to their prayers.***

***But the Lord turns his face
against those who do evil.”***

Conduct Concerning Suffering

13 Who will want to harm you if your desire is only to do good? 14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. 15 Instead, you are to submit only to Christ as Lord of your life [*Isa. 8:13*]. And if anyone asks about your faith in Christ and your optimistic buoyancy as a believer, always be ready to explain it clearly. 16 But do so in a gentle and respectful way.

Keep your conscience clear. Then if people viciously speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 17 Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good - if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

18 Christ also suffered for our sins . . . once — for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered a violent physical death — and died a spiritual death on the cross for three hours, but he was raised back to life in his human spirit, 19 by which he went down to Sheol [*while his body was in the grave*] and made a public announcement of his triumph and coming judgement to the demonic spirits [*of Nephilim - “fallen ones”*] in prison [*Tartarus*] [*see also First Enoch 3:16*]— 20 those who disobeyed God

long ago [*Genesis 6*] when God waited patiently [*for 120 years*] while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.

21 The account of Noah and his family being saved from the flood by entering into the ark is a picture of our salvation. We are saved when we enter into Jesus by faith; He is our ‘ark of safety’ who saves us from our sins and from the future wrath of God upon unbelievers and upon this world.

Our faith in Christ is also typified by baptism — which does nothing to cleanse us from sin, but is an act of obedience toward God, clearing our conscience toward God, and shows that we believe in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ —

22 who is now in heaven, seated in the place of honor next to God, with all angels, authorities, and powers under his authority.

1 PETER 4

The Responsibilities of the Believers

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you are to arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and **be ready to suffer, too**. For when you are able to endure physical suffering for Christ’s sake, it shows you have finished with living a self-centered, sinful life — 2 it shows that you don’t intend to spend the rest of your lives gratifying your own desires, but are dedicated to doing the will of God.

We are not to live like the Unsaved

3 We’ve had enough, in the past, of the sinful things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and depraved lusts, their gluttony and drunkenness, their wild, ungodly parties, and their abominable idolatrous practices. 4 Of course, our former friends are surprised when we no longer plunge into the flood of ungodly and destructive things they do, so they slander us. 5 But let us remember that they will one day give an account of their lives to God, who is prepared to judge everyone — both the living and the dead. 6 That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead— that although

they died, as all people do, they might have the opportunity to believe in Christ and live forever with God in the Spirit.

Conduct in Light of Coming Judgment

7 The end of Jerusalem is coming soon [A.D. 70]. Therefore, **be earnest and disciplined in prayer**. 8 Most important of all, continue to show intense love for each other, for having real love [agape love: from the will] for each other will keep you from sinning against each other.

9 Cheerfully share your home with believers who need a meal or a place to stay.

10 God has given you gifts from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Be good stewards of them, using them to minister to one another. 11 When you speak, speak as though God himself were talking through you. When you minister to others' needs, serve with all the strength and energy that God supplies. In this way, everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ — Who deserves all glory and power, forever and ever! Amen!

Sufferers are Partakers of the Glory to Come

12 Dear friends, don't be surprised at the severe, burning trials you may experience, as though it isn't normal for Christians to go through trials. 13 Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, and, someday, when you see Him face to face, your present suffering will be replaced with exceeding joy.

The Paradox of the Christian Life

14 If you are mistreated for being a Christian, you are blessed, for it shows that the Shechinah glory of the Spirit of God is shining through you. They are speaking against Him, because you are glorifying Him. 15 If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or being a busy-body — meddling in other people's affairs. 16 But it is no shame to be mockingly labelled "a Christian". Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! 17 For the time has come

for God to judge the world, and His judgment must begin with His own household. And if we who believe are to suffer stern discipline, what terrible fate awaits those who have never believed God's Good News?
18 And also,

"If Christians - who, as a rule, live to honor God - experience His short-term discipline in this life, what will happen to ungodly, irreverent, impious, willful sinners [when they appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and suffer the wrath of God for all eternity]?"

19 So if you are suffering unjustly, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

1 PETER 5

The Concluding Exhortations

And now, a word to you who are elders in the house churches. I, too, am an elder and was, besides, an eye-witness to the sufferings of Christ. I have suffered for Him, and I will, therefore, share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world.

As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: 2 Take good care of the group of believers God has entrusted to you. Watch over them willingly, not reluctantly; not for what you may get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. 3 Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. [Note: Your leadership should not be the pretense of pontifical arrogant authority, but the genuine power that flows from the Spirit-given liberty that comes from being solidly rooted in a grace foundation, firmly fixed on a faith perspective, and walking in constant koinonia with God with a pure conscience.] And when the Great Shepherd appears in the Rapture, you will be crowned with never-ending glory and honor.

Admonitions to the Group of Believers

5 In the same way, you who are younger are to accept the authority of the elders of your group. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for

*“God, in battle array, resists the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.” Proverbs 3:34*

6 So, humble yourselves [toward your elders] under the mighty hand of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor;

7 giving all your worries and cares to God, for our cares are His cares.

[NOTE: True humility has no anxieties: it trusts totally in God.]

8 Be in spiritual control. Stay alert! Watch out for your great adversary, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, constantly looking for someone to destroy. 9 Stand firm against him *[using specific, applicable portions of Scripture]*, and be strong in faith *[believing in satan’s past defeat by Christ and in how God is going to deliver you]*. Remember that the family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

Recognize God’s Purpose

10 The God of all grace [NOTE: like a wood stove with endless heat] called you to share in his eternal glory, because you are in Christ Jesus. So, after you have suffered temporarily, he will restore, support, and equip you, and he will place you on a firm foundation forever. 11 May He reign forever! Amen.

Peter’s Concluding Salutation

12 I have dictated and sent this short letter to you through Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. My purpose in personally writing these final words is to encourage you and assure you that what you are believing is the true, genuine, trustworthy grace of God for you. Stand firm in this grace!

13 Your sister church in Babylon* sends you greetings, and so does my spiritual son, Mark. 14 Greet each other with a loving hug.

Peace [shalom] be with all of you who are in Christ, the Messiah.

**Note: Ever since the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, Babylon was the center of Judaism, outside of the land of Israel.*