

1 Peter 1

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus the Messiah, to the chosen ones—exiles in the diaspora of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia—² whose chosen-ness is grounded in the prior intention of God the Father through the sanctifying work of the Spirit for the goal of obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus the Messiah. May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³ Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus the Messiah, who, out of his great mercy, caused us to be born anew into a living hope through the resurrection from the dead of Jesus the Messiah, ⁴ for an inheritance that is imperishable, pure, and pristine. It is an inheritance being guarded in the heavens for you, ⁵ who are yourselves being guarded through faith by the power of God, for the salvation ready to be revealed in the final time.

⁶ In all this you rejoice, even if now, for a little while, you must be distressed by various kinds of trials, ⁷ so that the genuine quality of your faith, which is more valuable than gold (which ultimately will perish though refined by fire) might result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus the Messiah.

⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him. And, though you are not seeing him at the present time, you believe in him and you rejoice with a joy that is inexpressible and sublime, ⁹ because you are receiving the goal of your faith—the salvation of your whole selves.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that would come to you searched earnestly and carefully. ¹¹ They inquired into the person and the time that the Spirit of the Messiah in their midst was signaling when he testified beforehand about the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but all of you regarding these realities—the realities now announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to gain a glimpse of these realities.

¹³ Therefore, by preparing your minds for action and practicing self-control, settle the full weight of your hope on the grace to be given to you at the revelation of Jesus the Messiah. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the desires you used to have in your

ignorance. ¹⁵ Instead, as the one who called you is holy, you yourselves be holy in all facets of your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “Be holy because I am holy.” [Lev 19:2]

¹⁷ And if you name as your father the one who judges all people without favoritism according to what they do, then live circumspectly during the time of your sojourning, ¹⁸ since you know that you were not redeemed from the useless way of life you inherited from your ancestors with what is perishable—gold or silver— ¹⁹ but with the valuable blood of the Messiah, as of an unblemished and spotless lamb. ²⁰ The Messiah was chosen before the foundation of the world, yet has been made known in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through the Messiah you are faithful to God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope might be in God.

²² Since you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, for the goal of genuine mutual love, earnestly love one another from the heart, ²³ because you have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

²⁴ For,

“All flesh is like grass,
And all its glory is like the flowering of grass,
The grass withers,
And its flower drops to the ground,

²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever.” [Isa 40:6-8]

And this is the word—the good news—that was preached to you.

Chapter 2

¹ So discard every evil intent, all deceit, hypocrisy, and envy, and all malicious speech; ² instead, as newborn babies, hunger for the genuine, pure milk, ³ so that by it you can grow up into salvation—if you have tasted that the Lord is good.^A

⁴ As you are coming to him—this living stone—who, though rejected by people, is to God chosen and valuable, ⁵ so you yourselves—as living stones—are being constructed into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood offering up spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus the Messiah. ⁶ For it says in Scripture,

“See, I appoint in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and valuable,

^A Allusion to Ps 34:8

and the one that believes in him will not be put to shame.” [Isa 28:16]

⁷ So, to you who believe comes honor,

but, to those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected,

this stone has become the cornerstone,”

[Ps 118:22]^B

⁸ and “a stone of stumbling,

and a rock of offense,” [Isa 8:14]

They stumble because they disobeyed the word of good news, as they also were appointed.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s possession, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you from darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,

but now you are God’s people.

You had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.^C

¹¹ Beloved, I exhort you as sojourners and exiles, to avoid the desires of the present age, which are at war with your very lives. ¹² Make sure your conduct is honorable among the gentiles, so that, while they accuse you of doing what is wrong, they might see your good deeds and glorify God in the day of his visitation.

¹³ Submit yourselves to every human institution for the Lord’s sake, whether to the emperor, as the one who holds the highest place of authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, as those who are sent by the emperor to punish wrongdoing and to approve doing good. ¹⁵ For it is God’s will for your community that, by doing good, you should silence the uninformed words of ignorant people. ¹⁶ Live as those who are free, not using your freedom as a guise for evil; instead, live as slaves of God. ¹⁷ Honor all people, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

¹⁸ Household slaves, submit in all fear to your masters, not only to masters who are good and tolerant but to masters who are perverse. ¹⁹ For this is commendable: if, because of being conscious of God, someone endures pain, when suffering unjustly. ²⁰ What

^B LXX: Ps 117:22

^C Allusion to Hos 1:6, 9; 2:23

recognition is deserved, if, when you sin and are beaten, you persevere? But if you persevere, when you do good and yet suffer, this is commendable before God.

²¹ For to this you were called,
since the Messiah also suffered on your behalf,
leaving for you an example,
so that you might follow in his footsteps.

²² “He committed no sin,
nor was any deceit found in his mouth,” [Isa 53:9]

²³ He did not return slander when slandered;
when he suffered, he did not threaten in return.
Instead, he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

²⁴ He himself “bore our sins” [Isa 53:4]
in his body on the cross,
so that we might have no part in sin
and live for righteousness.
“By his wounds, you have been healed.” [Isa 53:5]

²⁵ For you “were like sheep straying” [Isa 53:6]
but now you have been returned
to the Shepherd and Guardian of your lives.

Chapter 3

¹ Likewise, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, so that, if some of them are disobeying the word of good news, they might be won over by the wives’ conduct without a word, ² by observing your reverent and holy conduct. ³ Your attention to beauty should not be focused on what is outward—braiding hair, wearing gold jewelry, dressing with fine cloaks, ⁴ but on the inner person, hidden yet enduring—a humble and quiet spirit, which is valuable in God’s sight. ⁵ For, in the same manner, holy women of the past who put their hope in God adorned themselves by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah obeyed Abraham by calling him ‘lord.’ You become her children, when you continue to do good and do not fear any intimidation.

⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wife in the awareness that she is the weaker of the two of you, assigning honor to her as a co-inheritor of the gift of life. Do this, so that your prayers might not be thwarted.

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or slander with slander, but instead give a blessing, since to this you were called, so that you might in turn inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ “For whoever desires to love life

and to see good days

must stop their tongue from evil

and their lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ That one must turn from evil and do good,

they must seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous

and his ears are attentive to their prayer,

But the face of the Lord is set against those who do evil.” [Ps 34:12-16]^D

¹³ So, who will harm you if you are earnest to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you might possibly suffer because of righteousness, you are blessed. “*Do not be afraid of them; do not be unsettled.*”^E ¹⁵ But set apart the Messiah as Lord in your lives, being ready at every turn to give an answer to everyone who asks you for the reason for your common hope. ¹⁶ Yet do so considerately and respectfully, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who disparage your good conduct in the Messiah may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if this suffering might possibly be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸ For the Messiah also suffered for sins once for all time,

the righteous one for unrighteous people,^F

so that he might bring us to God.

he was put to death in the body,

and raised to life in the spirit.

¹⁹ In the realm of the spirit, he arrived and made public proclamation to the imprisoned spirits, ²⁰ who were disobedient in the past when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it, only a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. ²¹ This “baptismal” water, now saves you, not the washing of dirt from

^D LXX: Ps 33:13-17

^E Isa 8:12; see 8:13 for v. 15.

^F Allusion to Isa 53:11-12

your body but a promise to God of a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. ²² He is now at the right hand of God, having arrived in heaven, after angels, authorities, and powers became subject to him.

Chapter 4

¹ Therefore, since the Messiah suffered in his body, you also should equip yourself with the same attitude, for the one who suffers in the body is through with sin. ² As a result, they no longer live the rest of their earthly life fueled by human desires but by God's will. ³ For you have already spent enough time acting as the gentiles like to act—living in excess, evil cravings, drunkenness, reveling, carousing, and in disgusting idolatry. ⁴ They are astonished that you are no longer joining them in that same flood of reckless abandon, so they malign you.

⁵ They will have to give an account to the one who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is the reason that the good news was preached even to those now dead, so that, while they might be judged in their earthly lives according to the human order, yet they might live in the spirit according to God's order.

⁷ Now the end of all things is near. Consequently, be circumspect and self-controlled so you can pray. ⁸ Above everything else, love one another earnestly, because love covers over a host of sins. ^{G 9} Show hospitality to one another without complaint. ¹⁰ Each of you, as you have received a gift, use it to serve one another, as faithful managers of the grace of God in its diverse forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they ought to do so as if speaking the words of God. If anyone serves, they ought to serve from the strength that God provides, so that in everything God might be glorified through Jesus the Messiah. Glory and power belong to him for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised by the fiery ordeal occurring among you as a test, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, rejoice to the extent that you are participating in the Messiah's sufferings, so that, when his glory is revealed, you may be overcome with joy. ¹⁴ If you are reviled because of the name of the Messiah, you are actually blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ^{H 15} None of you ought to suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as one who rebels against the

^G Allusion to Prov 10:12

^H Allusion to Isa 11:2

social order.¹ ¹⁶ But if you should suffer as a “Christian,”^J do not be ashamed, but glorify God in that very name.

¹⁷ For now is the time for judgment to begin, starting with the household of God. And if it begins with us, what will be the fate of those who disobey the good news of God? ¹⁸ And,
“If the righteous are saved only with difficulty
What will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” [Prov 10:12]

¹⁹ So then, those who are suffering according to the will of God should entrust their lives to their faithful Creator, even as they do what is good.

Chapter 5

¹ Therefore, as a fellow elder and a witness of the Messiah’s sufferings, as well as a participant in his glory which is about to be revealed, I encourage the elders among you:
² Shepherd the flock in your charge, overseeing the sheep not out of duty but willingly, as God directs you; and not out of greed but eager to serve; ³ and not lording it over those under your care but being examples to the flock. ⁴ Then, when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive an unfading crown of glory.

⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, submit to the elders. Yet all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for

“God opposes those who are proud,
but gives grace to those who are humble.” [Prov 3:34]

⁶ Therefore, humble yourselves under God’s strong hand, so that he might exalt you at the right time. ⁷ Do this by casting all your anxiety on God, because he cares for you.

⁸ Be self-controlled, be watchful. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, hunting for prey to devour. ⁹ Resist him, resolute in faith, since you know that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by the family of believers across the world.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace—the one who called you into his eternal glory in the Messiah [Jesus]—after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore, build up, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ Power belongs to him forever. Amen.

¹ Or a disruptor of the social order.

^J A “Messiah adherent”

¹²Through Silvanus, whom I consider to be a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly to encourage you and to witness that this is the true grace of God, in which you should stand firm. ¹³The church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends their greetings, including Mark, my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love.

¹⁴Peace to all who are in the Messiah.