

FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER

Author & Audience:

the Apostle Peter, assisted by Silvanus, writing to Jewish and non-Jewish Believers in: Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia

Date:

64-67 C.E.

Purpose:

This epistle's broad purpose is to provide encouragement to the early Believers as they begin to face persecution at the hands of Rome. They are to remember how they have a holy, priestly calling, and are to live and act differently than the pagan world around them.

1

Salutation

¹ Peter, an apostle of Yeshua the Messiah, to the elect who are aliens of the Diaspora in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Yeshua the Messiah: Grace and peace be multiplied to you.

A Living Hope

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah from the dead,

⁴ to an inheritance imperishable and undefiled and unfading, reserved in Heaven for you,

⁵ who by the power of God are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

⁷ that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold that perishes, even though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Yeshua the Messiah;

⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you rejoice greatly with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets sought and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you,

¹¹ inquiring to know what person or what time the Spirit of Messiah within them was indicating, when testifying beforehand the sufferings of Messiah and the glories to follow them.

¹² It was revealed to them, that not to themselves, but to you, were they ministering these things, which now have been announced to you through those who proclaimed the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent forth from Heaven—things into which angels desire to look.

A Calling to Holy Living

¹³ Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Yeshua the Messiah.

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conforming yourselves to the former lusts in *the time of your ignorance*,

¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, be holy yourselves also in all *your conduct*;

¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY" [Leviticus 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7].

¹⁷ And if you call on Him as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourning *on Earth*;

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things, *like silver or gold*, from your futile way of life inherited from your ancestors;

¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Messiah*.

²⁰ For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but was made manifest at the end of times for your sake,

²¹ who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Having purified your souls in your obedience to the truth for a sincere mutual love, love one another earnestly from the heart,

²³ having been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the word of God, which lives and abides.

²⁴ For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

²⁵ "BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER" [Isaiah 40:6-8]. And this is the word which was proclaimed to you.

2

The Living Stone and the Holy Nation

¹ Therefore, putting away all wickedness and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

² like newborn babies, long for the pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation,

³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

⁴ Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by mortals, but with God chosen, precious,

⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Yeshua the Messiah.

⁶ For it is contained in Scripture, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHIEF CORNER STONE, CHOSEN, PRECIOUS, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME" [Isaiah 28:16].

⁷ To you therefore who believe is the preciousness, but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*" [Psalm 118:22];

⁸ and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE" [Isaiah 8:14]; for they stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

⁹ But you are A CHOSEN RACE [Isaiah 43:20, LXX; Deuteronomy 7:6; 10:15], A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD [Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 61:6], A HOLY NATION [Exodus 19:6], A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION [Isaiah 43:21, LXX; Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 4:20; 7:6; 14:2], THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF HIM [Isaiah 43:21] who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

¹⁰ once you were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY [Hosea 2:23].

Live as Servants of God

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as strangers and aliens to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul,

¹² having your behavior excellent among the nations^a, so that in which they speak against you as evildoers, they may because of your good works, which they see, glorify God in the day of visitation.

¹³ Be submitted to every human institution for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,

^a Grk. *en tois ethnesin*; "among the pagans" (NIV/CJB).

¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

¹⁶ *Act* as free people, and do not *be* using your freedom as a covering for wickedness, but *act* as servants of God.

¹⁷ Honor everyone; love the brotherhood^a, fear God, honor the king.

The Example of Messiah's Suffering

¹⁸ Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear^b, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

¹⁹ For this is a grace, if for the sake of conscience toward God someone endures sorrows, suffering unjustly.

²⁰ For what credit is it, if when you sin and are beaten, you endure patiently? But if when you do right and suffer *for it*, you endure patiently, this *finds* grace with God^c.

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Messiah also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps,

²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH [Isaiah 53:9].

²³ *And* who, while being reviled, did not reviling in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but was committing *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

²⁴ *and* who Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian^d of your souls.

3

Wives and Husbands

¹ Likewise you wives, be submissive to your own husbands, so that even if any *of them* disobey the word, they may be won

without a word by the behavior of their wives,

² as they observe your chaste behavior in fear.

³ Do not let your adornment be external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on fine clothing;

⁴ but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, in the imperishable *adornment* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is very precious.

⁵ For in this manner previously the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;

⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose children you have become if you do good, and are not fearing any intimidation.

⁷ Likewise you husbands, live with *your wives* in an understanding way^e, showing honor to the woman, as to the weaker vessel, as being also fellow heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Suffering for Righteousness' Sake

⁸ Finally, all of you be like-minded, sympathetic, loving one another^f, tenderhearted, humble-minded;

⁹ not repaying evil for evil, or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary bless; for to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT.

¹¹ "AND LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL, AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

¹² "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL" [Psalm 34:12-16].

¹³ And who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR WHAT THEY FEAR, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED [Isaiah 8:12-13],

¹⁵ but sanctify Messiah as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to every one who asks you a reason

^a Grk. *tēn adelphotēta*; "the family of believers" (NRSV); "your fellow believers" (TNIV).

^b Grk. *phobas*; often rendered as "respect" (RSV/NASU/NIV).

^c Grk. *touto charis para Theō*; "this is gracious with God" (YLT).

^d Grk. *episkopos*; also rendered as "Overseer" (NIV/ESV) or "Bishop" (ASV).

^e Grk. *kata gnōsin*; "according to knowledge" (ASV).

^f Grk. *philadelphos*; "love for one another" (NRSV).

concerning the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear,

¹⁶ having a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Messiah may be put to shame.

¹⁷ For it is better, if it should be the will of God, that you suffer for doing what is right than for doing what is evil.

¹⁸ For Messiah also died for sins once for all, *the* righteous for *the* unrighteous, so that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

¹⁹ in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison,

²⁰ who once were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the preparing of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through *the* water.

²¹ And corresponding to that^a, immersion now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah,

²² who is at the right hand of God, having gone into Heaven, with angels and authorities and powers being made subject to Him.

4

Good Stewards of God's Grace

¹ Therefore, since Messiah has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention, for the one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

² so as to live the rest of your time in the flesh no longer for human lusts, but for the will of God.

³ For the time having past is sufficient *for you* to have worked out^b the desire of the nations^c, having proceeded in licentiousness, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

⁴ In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excess of dissipation, blaspheming;

⁵ *but* they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

⁶ For this is why the good news has been proclaimed even to the dead, that though judged according to human flesh, they might live according to God in the spirit.

⁷ Now the end of all things^d is at hand; therefore, be of sound mind and sober for prayer.

⁸ Above all, be having fervent love for one another, FOR LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS [Proverbs 10:12].

⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, be ministering it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God:

¹¹ whoever speaks, *speak* as it were oracles of God; whoever ministers, *ministering* as from the strength which God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Yeshua the Messiah, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Suffering for the Messiah

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you;

¹³ but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Messiah, rejoice, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Messiah, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

¹⁵ For let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evildoer, or as a troublesome meddler;

¹⁶ but if *anyone suffers* as a "Christian,"^e let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name^a.

^a Grk. *ho kai humas antitupon*; "also to which an antitype" (YLT); "Which antitype" (LITV).

^b Grk. verb *katergazomai*; "wrought" (ASV); "carried out" (NASU); "doing" (RSV/NRSV/ESV);

Katergazomai is the same verb which appears in Philippians 2:12, and v. 3 is rendered in the LITV as "worked out."

^c Grk. *to boulēma tōn ethnōn*; "the desire of the pagans" (TLV).

^d Grk. *Pantōn de to telos*; "The accomplishing of the goal of all things" (CJB).

^e The contemporary Messianic community understandably has a great deal of anxiety, when many of its members are referred to as "Christians" (widely due to modern associations), and this is reflected in the various renderings of 4:16 seen in Messianic Bible versions. *Hōs Christianos* is rendered as "being [a] Messianic" in the CJB and HRV, and "for following Messiah" in the TLV. Hebrew New Testament

¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it *begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome of those who do not obey the good news of God?

¹⁸ AND IF THE RIGHTEOUS IS SCARCELY SAVED, WHERE WILL THE UNGODLY AND SINNER APPEAR [Proverbs 11:31, LXX]?

¹⁹ Therefore let those also who suffer according to the will of God, commit their souls in doing what is right, to a faithful Creator.

5

Tending the Flock of God

¹ Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Messiah, and a partaker of the glory about to be revealed,

² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not by compulsion, but willingly, according to *the will of God*; and not for dishonest gain, but eagerly;

³ not as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but being examples to the flock.

⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be submissive to the elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE to the humble [Proverbs 3:34, LXX].

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

⁷ casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

⁸ Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around as a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ But resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being accomplished by your brotherhood who are in the world.

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Messiah, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, *and* establish you.

¹¹ To Him *be* the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

¹² By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I regard *him*, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you, and *so does* Mark, my son.

¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Messiah.

editions like the Salkinson-Ginsburg have *ba'asher shel ha'Mashiach*, or Delitzsch with *ha'Meshi'chim*.

The rendering offered here actually follows that of the HCSB, which has placed the term Christian in quotation marks: "But if anyone suffers as a 'Christian,' he should not be ashamed but should glorify God in having that name." This recognizes how the term *Christianos* was used by ancient people to describe the Messiah followers, but concedes how it was not a term originally applied by the Believers to themselves.

³ The dative case (indicating indirect object) *onomati*, can relate to "a false name, pretence, pretext... under the pretence" (LS, 560), giving support to the view that "Christian" was actually a term applied by outsiders to the First Century Messiah followers.