

Therefore, (v 13)

If all this is true, then ...

Here is how you thrive

If we are living in Babylon, here is how you thrive.

preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (v 13)

Look to the future, when our feelings of home reconcile with the way the world works.

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, (v 14)

Ignorance- such a gentle handling of who we were before. It's worth mentioning Peter, who was brash, arrogant, spoke before he thought, and kind of hated people not like him often times in Scripture. He had issues with Gentiles, never mind sinners, yet here he refers to them as ignorant. They just don't know, which should make us handle people in our lives with much more care. (Maybe more on this)

but as He Who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on Him as Father Who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, (vs 15-17)

Here he uses that title of exile again, and in that new context I think the first part of this verse starts to make a lot more sense.

"Holy"- all kinds of preconceived ideas of what that means.

Holy: biblical definition is set apart, for something specific, something other, something different. Whether it's an object, a place, or a people.

This definition takes on new light as we wrap our brains around the idea of being exiles, especially as we look back through Israel's history.

Ways people respond to this new reality

Revolt, protect, assimilate

And then there was a different way, what I think Peter is saying is a holy way. Living as an exile, thriving as an exile, it looks drastically different than what the world portrays. It looks drastically different than what seems to come naturally. It's a way that Jesus showed us during his time here on this world.

Marked by forgiveness, by justice, by kindness

It's a life that rejects sin, is ruthless about it in fact. It's marked by honesty in all things, by love and care for people. It's a life that says I'm not going to call the shots.

Zoo Story

But good news, if that seems impossible, you're right, it's impossible in your own strength, but if we are exiles in this world, it's because we have surrendered our lives to Jesus, and He is the One Who makes this other way possible.

knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 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. (vs 18-21)

He is reminding us all how we can do it, it is only through Jesus, only through a life surrendered to Him!

Jesus has come, you have been freed from your sin because of Him, now live like this is a true statement!

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." (vs 22-25)

We love each other (in and especially outside the church) in a way that doesn't make sense. In a way that transcends culture, language, skin color, economic status, country of origin, love that transcends conventional wisdom and safety.

When we do, we love in a way that won't pass away because it wasn't physically brought about, it's something that is close to the heart of God, and remains forever (These three things remain, faith, hope, love)

Now, we can't wrap up here without taking some time to recognize something. This seems like so dang much doesn't it.

And this Word is the Good News that was preached to you. (v 25)

You will be challenged this week with this, but just remember, as an exile in a world that isn't quite right, that this isn't a burden, this is good news, this is hope.