

The Basis for Our Hope

I Peter 1:1-12

Those who place their trust in Christ have living hope to claim as their reality that goes beyond mere wishful thinking. The hope Christians have is founded on the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. While it is good and necessary to highlight the ministry in which Jesus engaged while he walked the earth, it is equally important to highlight the ministry he now has in glory. As we place hope in the future he has won through his death and resurrection, perhaps we may find the strength to endure present suffering with patience and joy.

Trouble Should Be Expected (1 Peter 1:1-2)

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.¹

The People who Experience Trouble (v. 1)

- A. Peter – an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - a. He is one of the twelve disciples Jesus chose to walk with him for his 3-year ministry.
 - i. He is a fisherman
 - ii. He is a fighter
 - iii. He is fallen
 - iv. He is fixed
 - b. An apostle is someone who has been directly deployed by the divine.
 - i. They experienced the ministry of Jesus
 - ii. They bore witness to his passion (death and resurrection)
 - iii. They were recognized as authoritative in the early church
- B. The elect exiles of the Dispersion
 - a. To be elect is to be chosen – hand-selected
 - i. The nation of Israel is considered God’s elect (Deut. 4:37)
And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power,
 - ii. The term came to be used in reference to the Church of Jews & Gentiles (Eph. 1:3-4)
³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
 - b. The Dispersion is not a political term in this instance. Instead, Peter uses the term to speak to a spiritual reality for believers. This world is not our home.

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (1 Pe 1:1–2). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

- i. They are in Roman provinces (Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, Bithynia), but their citizenship is in heaven.
- ii. Philippians 3:20
But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

The Purpose for our Trouble (v. 2)

- A. According to the foreknowledge of God the Father
 - a. Greek word, προγνωσις, refers to that which is known ahead of time or before a temporal reference.
 - b. Whereas we are often reactive to problems, God is always proactive...never caught unaware.
 - c. If God has knowledge of our trouble prior to our experience, why doesn't He just keep us from it, or it from us?
- B. In the sanctification of the Spirit
 - a. To be sanctified is to be set apart – reserved for redemptive reasons.
 - b. Their entrance into the sphere of the holy, that is, their conversion, is the result of the Spirit's work.²
 - c. II Thessalonians 2:13
¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.³
- C. For obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling with his blood
 - a. The assurance we have to stand before God is made possible through his blood
 - b. Hebrews 10:22
²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
 - c. Hebrews 12:24
But you have come...and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Trouble is Not All We Have to Expect (I Peter 1:3-9)

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him

² Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, p. 49). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (2 Th 2:13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

We Can Look Forward to Future Glory (vv. 3-5)

A. Living Hope

- a. The miracle of our salvation begins with God in that He is the one who chooses (elects)
 - i. Ephesians 1:3-4 (mentioned earlier)
- b. The miracle of salvation continues with God in that He sends the Spirit to convict and convert.
 - i. II Thessalonians 2:13-14
¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁴
- c. The preached gospel is the means the Spirit uses to awaken dead sinners to the glory of salvation.
- d. Believers are reborn into a *living hope*. The “hope” refers to our confident expectation of life to come. “Living” means that it grows and gains strength the more we learn about our Lord. It is not dependent on outward circumstances; it is dynamic and vital.⁵

B. Guaranteed Inheritance

- a. The Greek word for inheritance, κληρονομι, is a valuable possession which has been received.⁶
 - i. The Children of Israel received the Promised Land (Canaan)
 - ii. Deuteronomy 19:8-10
And if the Lord your God enlarges your territory, as he has sworn to your fathers, and gives you all the land that he promised to give to your fathers—⁹ provided you are careful to keep all this commandment, which I command you today, by loving the Lord your God and by walking ever in his ways—then you shall add three other cities to these three,¹⁰ lest innocent blood be shed in your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance, and so the guilt of bloodshed be upon you.⁷
 - iii. The Children of Israel eventually lost their inheritance because of their own disobedience.
- b. Let’s look at the description of the inheritance we receive
 - i. Permanent – it will never pass away
 - ii. Pure – it will never become unfit or polluted by sin

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (2 Th 2:13–14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ Barton, B. B. (1995). [1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (p. 26). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Pub.

⁶ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 572). New York: United Bible Societies.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Dt 19:8–10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

- iii. Perpetual – it will never lose its freshness
- iv. Preserved – it is guarded by God
- c. He keeps the inheritance for us at the same time He keeps us for the inheritance.
 - i. Oh to be kept, by Jesus
Kept by the power of God
Kept from the world unspotted
Treading where Jesus trod

 - Oh to be kept, by Jesus
Lord at Thy I fall
I would be nothing, nothing, ohhh nothing
Thy shalt be all and all

Future Glory Should Inspire Present Endurance (vv. 6-9)

Considering the future glory Peter expresses the natural result is rejoicing even if the backdrop is various trials and periods of persecution.

- A. In this (the inheritance) rejoice
 - a. The Greek word for rejoice, ἀγαλλιάω, means to experience a state of great joy and gladness, often involving verbal expression and appropriate body movement—‘to be extremely joyful, to be overjoyed, to rejoice greatly.’ ἡγαλλίασεν τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ θεῷ τῷ σωτήρι μου ‘my soul rejoices greatly because of God my Savior’ Lk 1:47; ἡγαλλίασατο ἡ γλῶσσά μου ‘my tongue rejoices’ Ac 2:26. In Ac 2:26 it may be impossible to say ‘my tongue rejoices.’ One may, however, translate in some languages as ‘I shout because I am so happy.’
 - i. Acts 2:26 is Peter’s sermon where he takes David’s words in Psalm 16:8-11
 - b. Grief from various trials is now (for a little while)
 - i. James 1:2
 - c. Grief from various trials are necessary
 - i. Acts 14:22 – we enter the kingdom of God through various trials
 - ii. I Peter 4:12 (don’t be surprised by trials)
 - iii. Romans 5:3-5 – God is able to be productive in the midst of pain
- B. God intends to use various trials to test and to strengthen
 - a. I Corinthians 3:10-15

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled^[b] master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.
 - b. **Illustration:** The goldsmith knows the gold has been purified when He can see his reflection.

- C. One day we are going to have to give an account to God for how we lived here and we will not be able to use present suffering as an eternal excuse.
- a. I Corinthians 4:5
⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

The Privilege of Revelation (I Peter 1:10-12)

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.⁸

- A. The link between vv. 9–10 is the term “salvation” (*sōteria*). The salvation believers experience now, which will be consummated in the future, was also prophesied in the past.⁹
 - a. Daniel 9:24-27 – Matthew 24:15
***24** ⁱ“Seventy weeks³ are decreed about your people and ^lyour holy city, to finish ^kthe transgression, to put an end to sin, [!]and to atone for iniquity, ^mto bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and ⁿto anoint a most holy place.⁴ **25** ^aKnow therefore and understand that ^afrom the going out of the word to restore and ^abuild Jerusalem to the coming of an ^ranointed one, a ^sprince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again⁵ with squares and moat, ^tbut in a troubled time. **26** And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall ^ube cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come ^vshall destroy the city and the sanctuary. ^wIts⁶ end shall come with a flood, ^xand to the end there shall be war. ^yDesolations are decreed. **27** And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week,^z and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. ^zAnd on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until ^athe decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”*

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

 - b. Deuteronomy 18:15 – Acts 3:18-22
***15**The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him.*

***18**But in this way God has fulfilled what He foretold through all the prophets, saying that His Christ would suffer. **19**Repent, then, and turn back, so that your sins may be*

⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (1 Pe 1:3–12). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁹ Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, p. 71). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

wiped away, **20**that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus, the Christ, who has been appointed for you.

21Heaven must take Him in until the time comes for the restoration of all things, which God announced long ago through His holy prophets. **22**For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to Him in everything He tells you. **23**Everyone who does not listen to Him will be completely cut off from among his people.'

c. Psalm 2 – Hebrews 1:3-5

**Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?**

**2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."**

**4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
6 "As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."**

**7 I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**

**10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
11 Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
12 Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him. ¹⁰**

¹⁰ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ps 2:1–12). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

***23*On their release, Peter and John returned to their own people and reported everything that the chief priests and elders had said to them. *24*When the believers heard this, they lifted up their voices to God with one accord. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "You made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them. *25*You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of Your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One.**

- B. God keeps every one of His promises and He will continue to do so which gives us the ability to face the future with faith.
- C. Yes, for Christians, it is glory all the way! When we trusted Christ, we were born for glory. We are being kept for glory. As we obey Him and experience trials, we are being prepared for glory. When we love Him, trust Him, and rejoice in Him, we experience the glory here and now. Joy unspeakable and full of glory!¹¹

¹¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 395). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.