

The Apostle to the Jews
Your Imperishable Inheritance
First Peter Chapter 1: - Chapter 3:9
Lesson 1

1 Peter 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

Peter is the writer of this letter. It is a letter written to those who reside as aliens and are scattered throughout the known world. He speaks of them as being those who are chosen by the foreknowledge of God the Father. The terms "alien," "scattered," "chosen," and "foreknowledge" are a group of descriptive words that indicate to who the letter is written. It is a reference to the group of people that God, in His own knowledge, chose to be His people. They are a people who were scattered across the world because they were not living in their homeland. The letter is written to the Jews. Peter was the apostle to the Jews. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles. Peter's audience was the Jews of the Diaspora. But they were also Jews who were sanctified by the Holy Spirit. This meant that they possessed a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. They were saved Jews.

1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

These saved Jews were "born again." They had been born into the living hope through the act of Jesus Christ on the cross and His glorious resurrection from the dead. They had obtained the "hope" that all Jews were desperately seeking. It was a hope of the inheritance which cannot be taken away. It is imperishable. It is pure. It will never fade away. The hope is reserved only in heaven for the Jews who put their trust in Jesus. It is protected by the power of God. It is there as the completion of their salvation; however, it will not be revealed to them until they arrive in heaven.

1 Peter 1:6-9 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

The Jews who have this faith in Jesus Christ will one day rejoice in their inheritance that is waiting for them in heaven. Yet Peter knows that at the time of this writing the recipients are scattered and distressed in trials. The faith they have is more precious than all the perishable

things of the world. As the text states, even “gold is perishable.” But Jews, when tested by fire, will give praise, glory, and honor at the coming of Jesus Christ to earth. Peter is writing to saved Jews who did not have the opportunity to see Jesus, yet they love Him. Even though they never saw Him, as Peter saw Him, they truly believe in Him. Because of the joy they have in their faith in Jesus, they will one day have the salvation of their souls.

[1 Peter 1:10-11](#) As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that *would come* to you made careful search and inquiry, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

The prophets taught of the salvation that these Jews have now obtained. They taught of this salvation long before Jesus was born. The prophets carefully searched the scriptures to understand who would suffer and then bring forth the glories of salvation. It was the Spirit of Christ who was teaching them. The Spirit was predicting Christ’s sufferings and the glories that would follow.

[1 Peter 1:12](#) It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven— things into which angels long to look.

The truth was revealed to the prophets who had a problem. The prophets were not serving Jesus, but they spoke of Him. The Jews who are receiving this letter clearly understand the things of Christ. They heard the preaching of the gospel. The Holy Spirit taught them. These Jews had something that the angels could only long for. Angels wish for salvation but can not obtain it. They wish for grace but can not receive it. It is a covenant between God and man, not man and God.

[1 Peter 1:13](#) Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Jews were instructed by Peter to do three things. First, they are to gird their minds for action. When a person girds himself or herself, they gather their parts together and hold them close to themselves. They guard the parts from all outside dangers. In this case the Jews are to gird their minds for action. They were to gather all their thoughts and hold them close, keeping them from danger. Their thoughts are to be ready for immediate action, whatever comes their way.

Second, they are to keep sober. One might think that this has something to do with an addiction of some sort; however, in this case it means that they keep a level head about them. It means that they are to think through their words and action. It means that everything is done in a proper way and not on the spur of the moment or in a silly manner.

Third, they are to fix their hope on the grace that was brought to them by Jesus Christ. We have all been fixed in our hope before. As a child it is for that special toy at Christmas or perhaps at a birthday. For a youth it is that young love with another youth. In college it is the finish line, called graduation. In an engagement it is the day of the wedding. But for

those who are saved, it is for the salvation that comes through the grace of Jesus Christ. They are to keep their hope fixed firmly on that hope.

[1 Peter 1:14-16](#) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

The Jews were to be obedient children of God the Father. As obedient children they were not to fall into the struggles of their past life. Back then they did not know better. They were ignorant. But now they are to be holy in all of their behavior. Why are they to be holy? Jesus was holy. We are to be like Jesus, holy as He is holy.

[1 Peter 1:17-19](#) And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *upon earth*; ¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

Peter instructs them that while they are on earth, they are to live in fear of God the Father. The Father judges everyone according to the same standards. No one is judged by a different rule. What is the rule? Did you fear "Me – the Lord Your God?" Here, fear means to "worship." Do you worship the Father? To worship the Father you must trust in His Son. You must do this because of the shedding of the precious blood of His Son who redeemed you. It shouldn't have been Him on the cross. He was unblemished. He was spotless. Yet He was the only One who could die for you. He died for the Jews. He died for all.

[1 Peter 1:20-21](#) For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you ²¹who 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.

The one who died for them and us was known before the earth was slung into place. The angels knew Him. The demons knew Him. The Father knew Him. The Spirit knew Him. Jesus Christ was there before the earth was created. Now, at the beginning of the last times, Jesus has been revealed for the Jews sake. It is through Jesus Christ that mankind was to believe in God. God raised Jesus from the dead. It was God the Father who gave Jesus glory. It is because of Jesus that our faith and hope can be in God the Father.

[1 Peter 1:22-23](#) Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, ²³for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and abiding word of God.

It is through their obedience to the truth that their souls are purified. Obedience is not an act of works or anything they do to obtain salvation. Obedience is simply putting their trust in the grace of Jesus Christ as their Savior. Because of their trust in the grace of Jesus they have

a sincere love for all the Jews. Their love is a love that can only come from the heart. Heart love is fervent and fiery. The love for each other is because they have placed their faith in the imperishable living and abiding word of God. The scriptural word "abiding" means, "to come alive." It is a lively Word. It is a word that generates and regenerates itself in those who have their trust in the living, lively Word of God.

[1 Peter 1:24-25](#) For, " ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, ²⁵BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER." And this is the word, which was preached to you.

Peter compares all mankind to grass. All grass withers and dies. All mankind withers and dies. All Jews will die. Everyone will die. However, Peter wants them to know that the Word of the Lord will come alive "forever." It will never wither. It will always be vibrant and lively. It was this abiding Word that was spoken to the Jews. It was Jesus Christ.

The Apostle to the Jews - First Peter

Chapter 2

[1 Peter 2:1-3](#) Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, ²like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

When Peter mentions malice, guile, hypocrisy, envy, and slander, he is describing the things that are paramount in the lives of those who are without Christ. One may not have all of these in their life but just one of them clearly shows that a person needs the Lord. These are the things that we need to put aside. Peter says we are to come like newborn babes, without malice, guile, etc. We are to long for the pure milk of the word just like a babe longs for its mother's milk. Through that milk a person can grow. The children of God can grow in salvation, but only if they have tasted of the kindness of the Lord, which is an important point. In other words you can only grow in salvation once you have put your trust in the Lord. It was through His kind act of sacrifice that salvation came to those who believe.

[1 Peter 2:4-5](#) And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

To grow in salvation one must come to Jesus as a living stone, for He is the stone that has been rejected by the worldly man. People who come to Him as living stones are part of the spiritual house. This house is for the holy priesthood. The purpose of the house is to offer spiritual sacrifices and offerings to God through Jesus Christ. These are the offerings that are acceptable to God.

[1 Peter 2:6](#) For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

The Scripture indicates that at some point, there was placed in Zion, a choice stone. Peter quotes that passage. The passage also indicates that trust in that stone will not find disappointment. Many people have put their trust in many other things. All things disappoint, but this choice stone will not disappoint. It will be a stone of "building up" for those who believe in it.

[1 Peter 2:7](#) This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"⁸ and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

For those who do not believe in the choice stone, it will become a stone of "tearing down." It is a stone that the worldly builder will reject. It is an offensive stone. It is a stone that causes people to stumble. They stumble because this stone will bring about truth and the truth will catch those who do not believe. The disbelievers will stumble at the truth. The truth will doom them. Their doom is already appointed.

[1 Peter 2:9-10](#) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Peter tells these saved Jews that they are the chosen race, the royal priesthood, the Holy Nation, the people for God's own possession. While this promise is made from Peter to the Jews, it can apply to Gentiles too since the Gentiles have to come to Christ under the same standard. As God's people we are to be His witnesses. We are to tell of His excellence since He called us out of the darkness into His light. We only became one of His people when we received His mercy.

[1 Peter 2:11-12](#) Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. ¹²Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Peter now begins a checklist for these saved Jews. They are aliens and strangers among the Gentiles and they need to be careful how they act.

First, they were to abstain from fleshly lust. In a similar list Paul says abstain from sexual immorality. We live under these types of temptations today. We often forget that man has not changed since the fall. The people of Peter's day had the same sexual temptations that we have today. According to Peter this is the sin that wages war against man's soul. From experience, this fact is still true today.

Second, they were to watch their behavior among those who are of the world. Peter calls them Gentiles. He uses the term to mean those "without" Christ. Peter wants the worldly people to only see good in the saved Jews. In doing this, on the day that God visits the lost, which in the day the Holy Spirit bids them to turn to Christ, they will turn and glorify Him.

[1 Peter 2:13-17](#) Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. ¹⁵For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. ¹⁶Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God. ¹⁷Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Third, they were to submit to every human institution. I'm sure this was even more difficult in their day than it is today. This includes kings and governors. Notice that God places governors as those who "punish those who do evil" and "praise those who do right." This is one of the things that falls in the area called "THE WILL OF GOD." When one has problems in this area, they are out of God's Will and His blessings often are withheld. By obeying the authorities the foolish men are silenced as ignorant.

Fourth, they were to act as free men but not for an "evil" purpose. But they are to act as they are bondslaves to God. This means that they have purposefully placed themselves in bondage to someone for the purpose of serving at no charge.

Fifth, they were to honor all men. If they have disgust for anyone they needed to change their attitude immediately and bring honor to all men.

Sixth, they were to love those who are part of the brotherhood. That was a term that represents those who have put their faith and trust in Christ. "Love them," Peter says.

Seventh, they were to fear God. This means to worship Him.

Eighth, they were to honor the king. This is not difficult in America, but in other countries today as well as in Peter's day, honoring the king was sometimes very difficult. They were to bring honor to them and not dishonor.

[1 Peter 2:18](#) Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

Ninth, they were to be submissive to those who have authority over them. If they are good or unreasonable, they are to respect them. This is difficult. But there is a reason.

[1 Peter 2:19-20](#) For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer *for it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God.

What is the reason? The reason is that this brings favor with God. It is for the sake of the conscience toward God. When we bear up under sorrows and suffering that is unjust and when we take this in a Godly manner, we find favor with God.

1 Peter 2:21-24 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²²WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Why would Peter give this instruction that now has been brought down to us? We are to do this because we are to follow the example of Christ. He was mistreated by the masters yet He did not utter a reviling word toward them from His mouth. He did not utter threats but He turned Himself over to the One who could righteously judge Him. He bore our sins in His body on the cross so we could live in righteousness. He did this so we could die to our sins. His wounds brought healing to our wounds.

1 Peter 2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

As a people of the Jewish heritage, they were continuously wandering in the wilderness of this world. They had strayed from God. But Peter is writing to those who are not straying any longer. They have turned their trust and life to the "guardian" of their souls. They have turned to the Guardian Shepherd Jesus Christ.

The Apostle to the Jews - First Peter

Chapter 3

1 Peter 3:1-2 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, ²as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

Chapter 3 continues the thought of the previous chapter, but now he turns to the home. Chapter 2 taught that Christian Jews were to behave properly and always with respect, even when respect is difficult to give. We are to be like Jesus. On the cross Jesus held His tongue and words.

In this chapter wives are to be submissive even to husbands who are disobedient to the word. Why? This is so that the disobedient husband can be won without a word. Peter is teaching that the actions of the believing wife will teach the husband more than any unsubmitive wife who crams the Scripture down their husband's throat.

1 Peter 3:3-4 And let not your adornment be *merely* external-- braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; ⁴but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Believing wives are to be careful in their adornment. The beauty of a wife is not found simply in how she looks. She can braid her hair in fancy braids, she can prance with beautiful jewelry, and she can wear the most beautiful of dresses, but this is not the most important aspect of being a believing wife. The believing wife is to also be beautifully adorned in her heart. This heart is to have the imperishable quality of a gentle spirit and a quiet spirit. This is what is important to God. This is what a believing wife should be.

1 Peter 3:5 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands.

Peter makes the case that this inner beauty was just the situation with the Godly-believing wives of the patriarchs. Women are to put their hope in God and adorn themselves by being submissive to their husbands and by giving them respect.

1 Peter 3:6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

One example given by Peter is that of Sarah. Sarah called Abraham lord. It was a term of respect. Believing wives are in such case a descendant of Sarah. Believing wives who do what is right can do so without being in fear. While their unbelieving husbands may rant and rave, the actions of the believing wives must be seen as good by their husbands.

1 Peter 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with *your wives* in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

This is not to say that husbands are allowed to do as they wish. Peter states that husbands are to do "likewise." In other words, what is good for the wives is also good for the husbands. Husbands are to be submissive to the wives by living with them in an understanding way. Husbands are to give their wives respect by treating them as if they are weaker vessel. Believing husbands are to give their wives honor as a fellow believers who have inherited the same grace of life that they have been given. It is important that husbands treat their wives this way so that their prayers will never be hampered. In other words, they will know what to pray for and God will answer their prayers.

1 Peter 3:8-9 To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; ⁹not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

Here is the list of what believing spouses are to do. They are to be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted and humble in spirit, with no evil or insult, but with only blessings. Believers are called for the purpose of living out these 7 qualities. They are paramount to inheriting a blessing from God.