

# 1 Peter

True Hope in a Troubled World

Lesson One

## Outline

### Lesson 1

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### Living *Hope* through Christ's Resurrection (1:1-12)

*Hope*-produced Holiness of Living (1:13 - 2:12)  
*Hope*-produced Submission to One Another (2:13 - 3:12)  
*Hope* in the Midst of Suffering for Christ (3:13 - 4:19)  
Shepherds Lead with *Hope* and Humility (5:1-14)

## Introduction

The Apostle Peter wrote this first letter around the mid 60's A.D. to a group of Gentile Christians "scattered throughout" Asia Minor (verse 1). The purpose of Peter's letter is twofold:

- 1.
- 2.

## Greeting: 1:1,2

What terms does Peter use to address his audience in verse 1? What is the significance of each term?

In what ways have you felt like a stranger in the world?

Verse 2 clearly and concisely teaches the doctrine of *election*, or *predestination*. Put verse 2 into your own words in order to craft a simple definition of *election*.

Which persons of the Trinity are at work in our election?

Based on verse 2, how might you respond to the question, "Have you invited Jesus into your heart and accepted him as your Lord and Savior?"

As a stranger in this world, what comfort do you get from these first two verses of 1 Peter?

## A hope for the future: 1:3-5

Peter uses the illustration of birth to describe the Christian. Why is this an apt illustration of a Christian?

Through our new birth, we now have a *living hope*. What does it mean that our hope is *living*? (Verse 3)

What are we missing out on if we reduce the message of the gospel simply to "Jesus died for me"?

How does the *inheritance* described in verse 4 compare to our present situation in this world?

What assurance does God give his elect as we await the coming of our salvation? (Verse 5)

How does this future hope—hope in the resurrection and in eternal life—emphasize that we are truly strangers in the world?

### **A hope for the *present*: 1:6-9**

How does our hope for the future become our hope for the present as we “suffer grief in all kinds of trials”? (verse 6)

Why does God allow grief and trials to come into our lives? (Verse 7)

What value does Peter place on faith? What value do we place on our own faith? (Verse 7)

What important truth about a Christian’s faith does Peter address in verse 8?

Peter says that through faith you are “filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.” Agree or disagree: a Christian is always happy.

### **A hope proclaimed by prophets in the *past*: 1:10-12**

What did the Old Testament prophets predict about Jesus? (Verses 10, 11)

We might be tempted to brush off the Old Testament as old news and old laws written for God’s people before Christ came. After all, we have the New Testament that completely reveals Christ and his salvation. However, in what ways do the Old Testament prophecies benefit us today?

What privilege do we have that angels do not? (Verse 12)

### **For study at home**

For more on election, read Romans 8 and 9 and Ephesians 1.

For more on the Christian’s hope in the resurrection, read 1 Corinthians 15.

### **Next time**

Lesson 2 *Hope*-produced Holiness of Living (1:13 - 2:12)