

Bible Reading Notes
1 Peter

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1 Peter 1

1:1 - This letter was written by Peter from Rome to a number of congregations in Modern Turkey.

1:2 – Note the trinitarian nature of our salvation. To **foreknow** is to love beforehand. The Father knows his people but does not know (in that same sense) the unbeliever.

1:6 – The saints that Peter is writing to have been and will continue to undergo trials, including persecution. This point will come several times in the letter.

1:7 – The purpose of their trials is to test and refine their faith in order to show its genuineness.

1:14 – former ignorance – This is one of several places in the letter that indicates that the majority of the church were Gentiles.

1:16 – Peter is quoting from Leviticus 19:2, in the context of outlining for Israel what holiness looked like in the old covenant. God’s standard for his people has always been holiness.

1:24-25 – This quotation is from Isaiah 40:6-8, immediately after the promise of comfort for God’s people. They and we can be confident of God’s promises because his word remains forever.

1 Peter 2

2:3 – if – This Greek word has the meaning of “since” in this context.

2:4-5 – Peter uses Old Testament language to teach about the new covenant church. We are living stones that are part of the church Christ is building. In that church we are also priests who offer spiritual sacrifices (Hebrews 13:15-16).

2:6-8 – Peter is quoting from Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22, and Isaiah 8:14. These all refer to the ways in which Christ was rejected even though he was chosen and precious to God.

2:9 – These are all names used for Old Testament Israel but now describe the New Testament people of God.

2:9 – proclaim – Our salvation’s end is the glory of God. We are to declare his excellencies to others so that his glory is revealed and known.

2:10 – This language comes from Hosea 1 and the account of the birth of Gomer’s children, “No mercy” and “Not my people.” These find their fulfillment in the New Testament church.

2:13-15 – The teaching of the New Testament is clear that the people of God are to live in submission to those the Lord has appointed as our rulers.

2:18-25 – The reason we do not respond sinfully, even to those who are wicked, is because we are living after the example of Christ, who did not revile or threaten.

2:22 – This is an allusion to Isaiah 53:9 in reference to Christ’s innocence.

2:24 – In 1:16 Peter called on us to be holy. Here he gives us the means to that end – the work of Christ. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we die to sin and live to righteousness.

1 Peter 3

3:1- won without a word – The Christian wife’s conduct is to be such that it draws their unbelieving husbands to Christ.

3:3-4 – These things are not forbidden to Christian women but are to be of far less priority than her **hidden beauty** (v. 4).

3:7 – weaker vessel – Women are, generally speaking, weaker physically than their husbands. As such husbands are to love their wives by recognizing the value of their wives (showing honor) and protecting them. Often this is done by not being overly demanding.

3:7 – Failure of Christian men to live rightly with their wives not only is sinful but impacts their own prayer life and relationship with the Lord.

3:10-12 – These are David’s words from Psalm 34:12-16, where David is giving direction on the fear of the Lord.

3:15 – Our interaction with unbelievers must always be characterized by gentleness and respect.

3:18 – in the spirit – Better translation is “by the Spirit.”

3:19-20 – Peter is referring to the work of Noah, by the Holy Spirit, when he preached to his generation prior to the flood. That generation is described as “spirits in prison” because they rejected the gospel they heard and are under God’s judgment.

3:21 – baptism...now saves you – Not the act of baptism, but that which baptism points to (cleansing from sin because of the work of Christ) is the means of our salvation.

1 Peter 4

4:8 – **Above all** – That which is the greatest priority.

4:8-11 – **one another** – Love is experienced and shared when we are with the people of God. Note the repeated use of “one another.”

4:12 – **do not be surprised** - Suffering is not unusual but the normal course of events for the people of God.

4:18 – This is not a direct quote but a paraphrase of Proverbs 11:31.

1 Peter 5

5:1-5 – Direction to elders in how they shepherd God’s people.

5:2 – **shepherd the flock of God** – Peter got this message in a memorable way from Jesus in John 21:15-17.

5:3 – **not domineering** – Church leaders are to be servants and not use their position to control and push their own will and agenda.

5:5 - This is a paraphrase of Proverbs 3:34.

5:13 – **Babylon** – This is a reference to Rome, where Peter is located.

