



February 12th, 2023 • 1 Peter 1:1-12
Standing Firm in the Grace of God • The Book of 1 Peter
Message #1 • by Pastor Marcus Johnson



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Rejoicing with Inexpressible & Glory-filled Joy

1. Peter's Apostolic Greeting (to the elect exiles)

- We are elect (chosen by God) exiles (foreigners in this world)
- We are elect exiles because of our Triune God & His salvific work
- May grace & peace be multiplied to us

2. Blessed be the God & Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ

- He has caused us to be born again
- Our inheritance is eternally secure
- We are guarded by God's power thru faith for salvation

3. Rejoice in this Salvation:

- though we're grieved by trials (the testing of our faith leads to glory)
- though we have not seen Jesus (we love Him)
- though we do not now see Jesus
(we believe in Him & rejoice with inexpressible & glory-filled joy)

4. Concerning this Salvation:

- The prophets prophesied about this grace that is ours (which they searched & inquired carefully about)
- The prophets were serving us not themselves (thru those who preach the good news to us)
- The Spirit speaks thru biblical prophecy & the preaching of the good news (of our salvation)
- We know & experience what the prophets & angels longed to see – does this give joy to you & me?

Introduction to 1 Peter

Sources: *1 Peter* by Karen H. Jobes (ECNT); *1 Peter* by Scott McKnight (NIVAC); "1 & 2 Peter" handouts by Robert Yarbrough (Introduction to the NT, TEDS).

Author: Peter (1:1), an "eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ" (5:1). This is the consensus throughout church history and among evangelical scholars. Modern scholars often doubt that a common fisherman (Ac 4:13) could have written with the high level of Greek found in 1 Peter. But Peter could have learned Greek in commercial trade, and Silas who might have influenced some of the words (5:12).

Date & Place of Writing: possibly around A.D. 62, in Rome (which might be the meaning of "Babylon" in 1Pe 5:13). "There are important traditions that Peter moved to Rome just before his death under Nero, and this would explain the presence of Silas and Mark (5:13)" (Yarbrough).

Recipients: elect exiles of the dispersion in Roman provinces (1:1). Peter uses language reminiscent of both Jews (elect exiles of the dispersion) as well as pagan Gentiles ("the futile ways inherited from your forefathers"); see 1:1; 1:18; 2:10; 4:3. But in the NT "elect" refers to Christians, who could be Jew or Gentile (Ro 8:33; Eph 1:3ff). Peter emphasizes the OT, suggesting his recipients knew Scripture. It's possible they were converted by Jews who had traveled to Jerusalem for Pentecost (Acts 2) and brought the gospel back with them. Peter refers to them as sojourners & exiles (1Pe 2:9ff), a metaphorical way of referring to their spiritual pilgrimage here on earth, and probably their literal, lower socio-economic status as exiles who had sojourned into a new land (McKnight, 23-25; see also Jobes, 24-25).

Purpose for writing: exhorting us to stand firm in the grace of God (1Pe 5:12).