

Knowing what God has done for us

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Background to 1 Peter

Author - Peter one of Jesus' 12 disciples. Now an apostle in the early church

Date Written - 60-64AD

Written from - Probably Rome (indicates he is writing from 'Babylon' in 5:13)

Writing to - Believers (Jewish and Gentile) in the Roman provinces of Northern Asia Minor 1:1 (modern day Turkey)

Main purpose of letter - to exhort them to stand firm in their faith in the face of experiencing growing persecution, trials and suffering.

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1 Peter 1:1-12

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

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3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in

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him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

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Three headings for this mornings message...

1. A Coming Grace
2. A Present Grace
3. A Future Grace

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1. A Coming Grace
2. A Present Grace
3. A Future Grace

The Grace of God

- God's unmerited/undeserved/unearned favour
- God's goodness towards those who have no claim on, nor reason to... expect it

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1. A Coming Grace

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1. A Coming Grace

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

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2. A Present Grace

1.....To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,.....

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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2. A Present Grace

- A Great Mercy - New Birth
- A Great Hope - Living Hope
- A Great Privilege - Chosen (Elect Exiles)
- A Great Joy - Inexpressible & Glorious

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3. A Future Grace

4into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

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3. A Future Grace

3 future grace provisions

- Through faith we will be shielded by God's power until the end v5
- These trials can refine and grow our precious faith, in a way that brings glory and praise to God v7
- We have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for us v4

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In Summary

A Coming Grace - with your name on it

A Present Grace - Great Mercy/Great Hope /Great Privilege/Great Joy

A Future Grace - within which, even in the midst of trials, you are
.....shielded by God's power
.....able to grow in your faith
.....brought into an amazing inheritance