

A LIVING HOPE

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. 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, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 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.

1 Peter 1:1-5 (NIV)

❖ Understanding Peter's World

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia... She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ."

1 Peter 1:1; 5:13-14 (NIV)

1. Peter wrote this circular letter from ROME to the churches in ASIA MINOR.
2. Peter wrote this letter after 60 AD, probably around 62 AD, during a difficult time.
3. Peter's theme throughout this letter is: THIS WORLD is NOT MY HOME.

❖ Understanding Who Peter Was Writing To

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout...

1 Peter 1:1a (NIV)

1. He calls them God's SELECTED.
"to God's elect..." (vs 1)

Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Acts 2:21 (NIV)

2. He says they are STRANGERS in this World.
"strangers in the world..." (vs 1)

They are not part of this world any more than I am.

John 17:16

3. He calls them the SCATTERED.
"scattered throughout..." (vs 1)

❖ The Message We Need To Hear Today

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 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."

1 Peter 1:10-12 (NIV)

1. No matter what we may be going through, there will always be HOPE in JESUS.
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.

1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

2. When you say YES to Jesus, you are guaranteed the INHERITANCE of Jesus.
... and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, 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.

1 Peter 1:4-5 (NIV)

3. On earth you can expect TRIALS, but they are allowed to prepare us for GLORY.
In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)

But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

Job 23:10 (NKJV)

Closing Challenge: Who have you put your HOPE in and how is it WORKING OUT?

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27 (NIV)