

Chapter 1 – First Peter 1:1-12

MacArthur’s four reasons Peter wrote his Letters to the dispersed churches in Asia Minor. “You, who are under persecution, can live victorious Christian lives and give a Gospel witness to your world:

1. **REMAIN** hopeful in the Lord!
2. **REJECT** bitterness brought on by persecution!
3. **REVITALIZE** your whole-hearted trust in the Lord!
4. **REMEMBER** our Lord Jesus Christ is returning soon!”

I. FOREKNOWLEDGE – VV 1-2.

Verse One. Peter identifies himself and his readers.

- A. He is “an apostle of Jesus Christ.” This confirms his authority. The Lord named him Peter when they first met. Peter was ***NOT*** the Cornerstone. (CF: I Peter 2:4 – 8)
- B. Peter’s readers are the pilgrims—or “strangers” of the Diaspora caused by Nero’s persecution. The Greek word “pilgrims” means they are **TEMPORARY RESIDENTS**.

Verse Two. Peter also identifies them as “*elect...*”

- A. They are elect—chosen—**ACCORDING** to the *foreknowledge* of God. Foreknowledge precedes election.
- B. Peter uses the same word in I Peter 1:20. Jesus Christ—“...indeed was *foreordained* before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...”
- C. It’s the work of the Holy Spirit to *sanctify*—to set us apart for salvation because of the shed blood of Christ.
- D. The work of the Trinity in election:
 1. God the Father **CHOOSES** the elect according to his gracious foreknowledge;
 2. God the Holy Spirit **SANCTIFIES** the elect;
 3. God the Son’s atoning blood **SAVES** the elect.

II. INHERITANCE – VV 3-5.

Verse Three. Because of his mercy, God Himself **ACTIVELY** saves us to a living hope based on Christ’s resurrection.

Verse Four. Our living hope is in “an **INHERITANCE** incorruptible, and undefiled, that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Verse Five. We are “**kept** by the power of God.” The Greek word used here is a military term that refers to a **GARRISON WITHIN A CITY** that protects the city.

III. REJOICE – VV 6-9.

Verse Six. Rejoice! Trials *will* **TEST** our faith!

Verse Seven. Trials prove whether our faith is **GENUINE** or not.

IV. SALVATION – VV 10-12.

From the beginning, God’s goal has been our **SALVATION**. The Holy Spirit led the prophets in writing about it even though they could not comprehend it. Even the **ANGELS** have looked on in awe at God’s gracious plan.