

The first letter of Peter

^{1:1}Peter, a sent one of Jesus the Anointed One, to the expatriates who have been dispersed in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia ^{1:2}*who have been* chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father *and are* being made holy by the Spirit and *by the* sprinkling of the blood of Jesus the Anointed One, resulting in obedience to God. May your grace and peace be increased.

^{1:3}May God be blessed, even the Father of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One, who according to his great mercy generated *his* new life in us, which brings us a strong confidence because of the resurrection of Jesus the Anointed One from the dead. ^{1:4}*This life makes available* to us an inheritance which is imperishable, pure, and perpetual, reserved in the heavens for us ^{1:5}*who are* preserved through faith by the power of God for this salvation* which is ready to be unveiled in the last time.

^{1:6}*This is something* in which you exult, even though now for a short time it has been necessary for you to be distressed by various trials.

^{1:7}*These are necessary* for the testing of your faith, which is more valuable than gold that will be destroyed *and* which is now being tested by fire *but then* will be presented as a motive for praise, glory, and honor when Jesus the Anointed One appears.

^{1:8}*He is* the one whom you are loving (although you haven't seen *him*) and in whom you are believing, (even though he is not visible now) *so that* you rejoice greatly with inexpressible joy and celebration ^{1:9}*as you are* obtaining the final objective of your faith, *even the complete* salvation of *your* souls.

* This "salvation" mentioned here is the unveiling of the "reserved inheritance" which is related to the glorification of our bodies at the coming of Jesus.

^{1:10}*It was* regarding this salvation that the prophets, who prophesied about this grace which *would come* to you, sought and searched diligently. ^{1:11}*They were* seeking to understand what *the circumstances would be* or, to what period of time, the Spirit of the Anointed One which was upon them was pointing when he made known ahead of time the sufferings which would come to the Anointed One and the glory that would be *ours* as a result of *them*.

^{1:12}To whom it was revealed that they didn't minister these things to their own *generation* but to us, *namely the things* which now have been announced to you by those who proclaimed the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. *These are things* which angels desire to look into.

^{1:13}Therefore, having thoroughly prepared your mind, be circumspect and set your hope firmly on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus the Anointed One [the glorification of our bodies].

^{1:14}Be obedient children, not conforming yourselves to your former carnal cravings as *you did when you were* in ignorance. ^{1:15}But as he who is calling you is holy, you too be holy in every aspect of your living ^{1:16}because it is written, "Become holy, for I am holy" (Lev 20:7).

^{1:17}And if you call on him as Father, who will impartially judge each one according to what they have done, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in *reverent* fear. ^{1:18}*Do this* knowing that you were not ransomed from your useless way of living, which you received from your ancestors, with perishable things such as silver or gold ^{1:19}but with precious blood like that of an unblemished and spotless lamb, *even the blood* of the Anointed One.

^{1:20}*His sacrifice* was indeed pre-planned before the world was established but was manifested in these last times for us ^{1:21}who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him brilliant glory so that your faith and hope would be in God.

^{1:22}Having your souls purified through your obedience to the truth resulting in sincere love of the brethren, love each other from a pure heart, fervently. ^{1:23}You have been regenerated [have had God's life born inside of you] not by

perishable parentage but by immortal *parentage*: by God's living word that exists eternally.

^{1:24}For all humanity is like grass and all human glory is like the flowers of the grasses. The grass withers and its flowers fall off ^{1:25}but the word of the Lord continues eternally. And this *very same* word *is* the good news which was proclaimed to you.

CHAPTER 2

^{2:1}Having put aside then all evil, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander, ^{2:2}as newborn babies intensely crave the reasonable, unadulterated spiritual milk so that by it you may grow to *full* salvation ^{2:3}since you have experienced that the Lord is good.

^{2:4}*He is* the One we have come forward to worship as a living stone, on the one hand rejected by men but, *on the other hand*, chosen and precious to God. ^{2:5}You, also, as living stones are being built up into a spiritual dwelling place for God *and* to be a holy priesthood which offers up spiritual sacrifices *that are* acceptable to God through Jesus the Anointed One. ^{2:6}Therefore, it is included in the scriptures, "Look, I set in place in Zion a chosen and valued capstone and he who is believing on him will not be disgraced" (Is 28:16).

^{2:7}Therefore, for you who are believing, it is of supreme value; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected was made the capstone of the arch," ^{2:8}and, "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense," (Ps 118:22; Is 8:14) for they stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

^{2:9}But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, so that you may display *through your lives* the virtuous *character* of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light – ^{2:10}who in past times were not a people *group* but now are the people of God, who had not experienced mercy but now have experienced *true* mercy.

^{2:11}Beloved, I appeal to you as sojourners and pilgrims, to keep your distance from carnal cravings which fight

against {degrade} the soul, ^{2:12}*thus* having exemplary behavior among the Gentiles so that even if they slander you as *people who* are evil, they may glorify God in the day of visitation because of your good works which they have seen.

^{2:13}Be subject to all human governments for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme ^{2:14}or to governors who are sent by him to punish those who do evil and commend those who do good. ^{2:15}For it is the will of God that by doing good you would silence the ignorance of foolish men. ^{2:16}*Live* as free *people*, but don't use your freedom as an excuse to do what is wrong, but *live* as slaves of God.

^{2:17}Honor all men. Love the brethren. Fear God. Honor the sovereign *ruler*.

^{2:18}Slaves, *be* in subjection to your masters with all reverence, not only to the good and lenient, but also to the perverse. ^{2:19}For it is acceptable, if for the sake of their conscience before God, someone endures affliction, suffering unjustly. ^{2:20}For why would anyone praise you if, when you err and are punished *for it*, you endure it? But if, when you do what is right and suffer *for it* and you take it patiently, this is pleasing to God.

^{2:21}For you were called to this since the Anointed One also suffered for you, giving you an example so that you should follow in his steps. ^{2:22}He never sinned *and* neither was deceit found in what he said. ^{2:23}When he was criticized, *he* did not reply with verbal abuse *and* when he suffered *he* didn't retaliate but he yielded *himself* to him who judges righteously.

^{2:24}*He* himself carried our sins in his body upon the wooden beam so that we, becoming dead to sins, could live out *his* righteousness. *It is* by his welts *from* *beatings* that you are delivered from sin. ^{2:25}For you were like wandering sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and watchman of your souls.

CHAPTER 3

^{3:1}In the same way, *you* wives yield yourselves to your own husbands so that even if some refuse to be persuaded by the word, they may without the word be won over by

the behavior of their wives: ^{3:2}by seeing your pure behavior *coupled* with reverence.

^{3:3}Let them [the wives] not *be seeking attention* by trying to make themselves more attractive on the outside with fancy hairdos, gold jewelry, or beautiful clothes, ^{3:4}but *let their true beauty be* that which is hidden in their hearts, the incorruptible *adornment* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is extremely precious in God's eyes.

^{3:5}For this is the way the holy women from the past who put their trust in God also adorned themselves, being yielded to their own husbands, ^{3:6}just as Sarah submitted to Abraham calling him "master." *Similarly*, you are now Sarah's "children" if you do what is right and are not carried away by any uncontrolled emotions.

^{3:7}You husbands, in a similar way, live with *your wife* with understanding since she is the weaker, feminine vessel *and* value her highly since you also are co-heirs of the grace of *God's* life so that your prayers are not limited.

^{3:8}Finally, all of you be like-minded, compassionate, and have brotherly love, *being* tender-hearted, friendly, ^{3:9}not returning evil for evil or slander for slander but, on the contrary, blessing, for you were called to this so that you would inherit a blessing.

^{3:10}For: "He who desires to enjoy his life and see good days, let him stop his tongue from *speaking* evil *about others* and his lips from uttering deceit" (Ps 34:12-16). ^{3:11}"Let him turn away from evil and do good" (Ps 37:27). Let him seek peace and run after it. ^{3:12}For the eyes of the Lord look *favorably* on the righteous and his ears *are open* to their prayers. But the face of the Lord is *turned* against those who practice evil.

^{3:13}And who is he who will treat you badly if you become imitators of that which is good? ^{3:14}But even if you do suffer for living virtuously, you are blessed! And don't be afraid of their threats or be anxious.

^{3:15}But venerate the Anointed One as *your* Master in your hearts, always *being* ready with gentleness and reverence to give an answer to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you.

^{3:16}Maintain a clear conscience so that whatever bad things people might say about you – criticizing the way you live in the Anointed One as if you were someone who practiced evil – may be proven wrong. ^{3:17}For it is better, if it is the will of God for you to suffer, to *suffer* for doing good rather than for doing evil.

^{3:18}For the Anointed One also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he might bring us to God. Indeed *his* physical body was put to death but *was* restored to life by the Spirit, ^{3:19}through which he also went and preached to the imprisoned spirits of ^{3:20}those who were disobedient in the days of Noah. *That was* when God waited patiently while the ark was being prepared in which few – only eight souls – were saved through the water.

^{3:21}*This is* also an accurate picture of *how our* immersion {baptism} *into the Anointed One* is now saving us. This doesn't mean washing dirt off of the body but earnestly seeking to have a clear conscience toward God through the [death and] resurrection of Jesus the Anointed One *operating in us*.

^{3:22}*He* is the One *now* occupying the place of supreme honor and authority with God, having gone into the heavens and having had angels, authorities, and powers put into submission to him.

CHAPTER 4

^{4:1}Since the Anointed One suffered while in the body, prepare yourselves also with the same mindset, for he who is suffering in the flesh is made to desist from sin ^{4:2}so that you no longer should live the rest of your time in this body *following* human lusts, but doing the will of God.

^{4:3}For we already wasted enough time in our past life practicing the *base* desires of the Gentiles: involving ourselves in unrestrained sexual activities, carnal cravings, drunkenness, orgies, drunken feasts, and worshipping idols which violates God's law.

^{4:4}*Now* they are surprised that you don't run together with *them* in the same outpouring of carnality and, therefore, speak evil of *you*. ^{4:5}These will have to give an answer

to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ^{4:6}For this purpose the good news message was even proclaimed to the dead so that, on the one hand, they might be judged as men concerning their carnal nature but, *on the other hand*, have the life which comes down from God in their spirits.

^{4:7}But the end of all things is approaching. Therefore, exercise self-control and be diligent in prayer. ^{4:8}Above all things be fervent in your love among yourselves, for love covers a great number of sins. ^{4:9}Show hospitality to each other without grumbling. ^{4:10}As each one has received a gift *from God*, use it to serve the others as good stewards of the many faceted grace of God.

^{4:11}If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracle of God. If anyone serves, *it should be* with the ability which God gives so that God would be glorified in everything through Jesus the Anointed One, whose is the glory and the dominion for the ages of the ages. Amen.

^{4:12}Beloved, don't consider it strange that a burning fire has come to test you as though something abnormal was happening to you.

^{4:13}But to the extent that you are participating in the Anointed One's sufferings, be glad so that when his glory is revealed, you also may rejoice with joyful exultation [since you will be glorified with him].

^{4:14}If others speak badly about you for the name of the Anointed One, *you are* blessed because the glory of God and the Spirit of God rest upon you. ^{4:15}But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a criminal, or as a meddler in other people's affairs. ^{4:16}But if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he shouldn't be ashamed, but let him praise God for having a part *in the Anointed One's sufferings*.

^{4:17}For the time has come for judgment to begin in the house of God. And if *it begins* first with us, what *will* be the end of those who are disobeying the good news message of God? ^{4:18}And if the righteous are being saved with great difficulty, where will the ungodly and sinner end up?

^{4:19}Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God also entrust their souls to a faithful Creator by doing what is right.

CHAPTER 5

^{5:1}The older, *spiritually* mature brothers among you I exhort – who am also such a fellow brother and a witness of the sufferings of the Anointed One; who am also a participant in the glory which is about to be revealed – ^{5:2}care for the flock of God which is among you, looking after them not because you have to, but willingly. Don't *do this* as a way to make money but with a good attitude, ^{5:3}not by exercising *any* control over the others but by becoming examples to the flock.

^{5:4}And *then* at the appearing of the Chief Shepherd, you will receive the crown of glory that never fades away.

^{5:5}In the same way, let the younger ones yield to the older ones. In fact, all of you should be clothed with humility and yield to one another. For God arrays himself in battle against the proud but gives grace to the humble.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that he may exalt you at the right time. ^{5:7}Be casting all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ^{5:8}Be sober; be watchful. Your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he can devour. ^{5:9}Stand against him firmly in the faith, knowing that your brethren in other parts of the world are experiencing the same sufferings *as you are*.

^{5:10}And the God of all grace – the One who called you into his eternal glory in the Anointed One, Jesus – after you have suffered a “little while” will himself prepare you, perfect you, strengthen you, and establish you. ^{5:11}To him be the glory and the dominion for all eternity. Amen.

^{5:12}*This letter was written down for me* by Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother. I have written this short letter to you, instructing *you* and testifying about *what* the true grace of God *is*. Stand firmly in it.

^{5:13}She who is in Babylon, chosen together with *you*, sends you greetings and *so does* Mark my son. ^{5:14}Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to all of you who are in the Anointed One.