

Salvation: My joy as an exile (I Peter 1:1-12).

Prayer

O sovereign and praiseworthy God, great in mercy, through Your will and plan we are studying a new book of the Bible. May your Spirit be with us and strengthen us as we study Your Word.

The majority of people around us continue to live in a pursuit of wealth. When we live filled with gratitude we feel like exiles in the world. And that often leads to suffering and insults.

Open our eyes in this passage today, that we may see and experience Your greatness, power and sovereign action. May it fill us with joy that it will overflow into praise and honour to You Lord. Amen

Scripture

1. Chosen exile

1Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

*To those who are elect **exiles***

of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

*2according to the **foreknowledge** of God the Father,*

*in the **sanctification** of the Spirit, **for obedience***

*to Jesus Christ and for **sprinkling** with his **blood**:*

*May **grace and peace** be **multiplied** to you. (1 Peter 1:1-2 ESV)*

If we first focus only on what is on the far left in the indentation, we see

1. Peter, the disciple who tried to walk on water, betrayed Jesus, but still brought 3000 people to salvation after the Holy Spirit was poured out, writes this letter.
2. He writes it to the exiles (or outcasts) of the Dispersion. Dispersion were the believers in exile. In that time the Christians were persecuted and had to flee from Jerusalem. Gentiles also repented as they heard the Gospel. Combined they were exiles all over the world because they are chosen (elected) citizens of God's kingdom.
3. He then expresses a blessing to them: *May **grace and peace** be **multiplied** to you.* And as you work through Peter's letter, you truly find grace and peace in abundance!

The passage in between tells us what it means to be exiles. Note how each part of the Trinity plays a role in this:

- God the Father elected them them according to his foreknowledge, for two things
- The Spirit sanctifies us (makes us holy) which leads to obedience (present tense)
- Jesus Christ sprinkles them with his blood (present tense)

Colon: The result grace and peace in abundance as a gift!

2. Praise God the Father for His mercy and power

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to **his great mercy**,
he has caused us to be born again
to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
to an inheritance
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,
kept in heaven
for you,
who by God's power
are being guarded
through faith for a salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5 ESV)

Peter wrote the letter to teach his readers about sanctification and the demands of suffering. But before they can learn about it, they must first see God's great mercy and His sovereign power and realize how praiseworthy He is.

He begins with these words:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The reason for the praise is discussed in this paragraph. God did something to give us a living hope.

He has caused us to be born again. This is the main reason for praising God: We have received the rebirth.

This rebirth is not what we deserved - it comes from His great mercy. Nor can we get it ourselves, the way we get it is through Jesus Christ's resurrection.

This living hope is based on two things:

1. an inheritance that are kept safe for us
2. and we who are kept (or being guarded) for salvation.

Peter tells us more about these two things :

A heritage that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,

We are guarded, kept by our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ that led to us being born again. But even that does not depend on us, but also comes from the power of God.

Why are we kept? For the salvation that will be revealed in the last time.

No wonder this paragraph began with praise and honor:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

3. And rejoice with a God honouring joy, even in trials

6 In this you rejoice,

though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith

—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire.—

may be found to result in **praise and glory and honour** at the **revelation of Jesus Christ**.

8 Though you have **not seen him**,
you **love him**.

Though you do not **now see him**,
you **believe in him**

and **rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory**,

9 obtaining the **outcome of your faith**,
the **salvation of your souls**. **(1 Pet 1:6-9)**

Verse 6 begins with **In this you rejoice**,

This refers to the preceding section. The "in this" is the new life and salvation we have received. It comes from God's great mercies and His sovereign power,

The last part of verse 8 also leads to **joy**. Then we find the reason in verse 9. It says: "Obtaining the **outcome**" which means we are already partakers of salvation. So, we rejoice because we are already partakers of salvation.

So, the purpose of faith is salvation. We believe all the wonderful work of God. But Peter's audience would have immediately began to wonder. What about all the struggles we are experiencing? He makes it clear:

6 In this you rejoice,

though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been **grieved by various trials**,

In verse 9 he showed that the purpose of faith is salvation. Here he shows that genuineness of **faith** results in praise and glory and honour at the **Second Coming**. **Trials** test the faith and make it real.

Verse 8 describes faith for us:

8 Though you have **not seen him**,
you **love him**.

Though you do not **now see him**,
you **believe in him**

Truly, we can **rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory**

This is a joy that fills you to the extent of overflow, that you give God the honour and glory.

10 Concerning this **salvation**, the **prophets** who **prophesied** about **the grace that was to be yours** searched and inquired carefully, **inquiring** what person or time the **Spirit of Christ** in them was **indicating** when he **predicted** the **sufferings** of Christ and the subsequent **glories**. **(1 Pet 1:10-11, ESV)**

12 It was **revealed** to **them** that **they** were serving not themselves **but you**, in **the things** that have now been announced to **you** through those who **preached** the **good news** to you **by the Holy Spirit** sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. **(1 Pet 1:12, ESV)**

We are not going to look into verses 10-12 in the same detail. Peter points out here that the **prophets** have already **prophesied** about this salvation. It is specifically stated here that they testified of Christ's **suffering** and **glory** and were led to do so by **the Spirit**.

Then Peter points out to his readers that this very **prophecy** has just been fulfilled in them. It came to them because the **Word** was preached to them and the **Spirit** worked in them.

So, this grace is also destined for you. You have been given a new life and redeemed! Does it also fill you with an unspeakable and glorious joy?

4. Conclusion

We looked at four points today, the first point was:

1. **Grace and peace**
for exiles

Peter opened his letter with the blessing of grace and peace for the exiles.

The outcasts are **chosen, bought, and sanctified** through the Trinity.

Point 4: The passage also concluded with the confirmation that **this grace** is **destined for you**.

Points 2 and three were praises.

2. **Praise God**,
because **His deeds**
leads to a **living hope**

3. **Rejoice, even in suffering**
because **you**
already have part in the salvation

The deeds for which we are to praise Him (point 2) is Him causing us to be born again **in His mercy through the resurrection**.

And the living hope that it leads to is then a **living hope** for two things: **Our inheritance is preserved and we are preserved for our inheritance**.

In point 3 we saw that we can **rejoice, even in adversity, because trials** builds character (makes our **faith real**) and the purpose of **faith** is our **salvation**.

And that is why we as **exiles** in this world have **faith and an inexpressible, glorious joy even in trials**.

So, our theme for today: **Salvation: My joy as an exile**

5. Reflection

In verse 3 it said: **3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

Take your Bible and write down the things that you saw in today's passage, that you want to

praise and glorify God for, so that you can use them in your prayer right now. Try to not use the summary, write down what you saw about God in the text itself and what touched you personally.

6. Thanksgiving

We cannot just be passive listeners of God's Word. In verse 2 it says:
to be obedient through the sanctification of the Spirit

How has the Holy Spirit renewed you today and filled you with joy so that it will overflow into acts of gratitude and love in faith? Think carefully about this and write down at least one, very specific, intention in which your joy will overflow today.

In each of you who have listened to this today, it will be different. For some it may be a confession, for others something you will do for someone who will come your way. For others, it's going to be about telling this good news to someone (or sharing the video). Or a WhatsApp, a call or a visit. Maybe a task at home to ease your loved one's burden. If the answer is not yet in your heart, include it in your prayer and re-read this passage prayerfully (still today!), because it cannot leave you unchanged!

7. Prayer

End this session off in prayer as the Spirit leads you.

If you need a guideline to pray today, use the following.

- Use what you have written down about God and praise and glorify Him in your prayer.
- As you glorify His greatness, you will realize your smallness. Confess your weaknesses before Him.
- Thank Him for what He has done for you and the prayers He has already answered.
- Pray for strength and perseverance to carry out your intention, but also that you will truly overflow with joy in an act of gratitude and not an action to earn something with.
- Intercede for the people around you.
- After that, you can also put your daily needs and struggles at His feet.

Peace to you.