

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

1 Peter 1.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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1 Peter 1.

INTRODUCTION: during Peter's generation the readers of this first letter of his were confused and discouraged by the persecution they were encountering because of their faith. Peter exhorted them to stand strong, repeatedly reminding them of Christ's example, the riches of their inheritance in him, and the hope of his returning again to resurrect them to eternal glory. He explained how Christians should respond when they suffer because of their beliefs.

Peter is called, the "apostle of hope." His primary message is to trust the Lord, live obediently no matter your circumstances, and keep your hope fixed on God's ultimate promise of deliverance. Suffering is to be expected, but it is temporary and yields great blessings for those who remain steadfast. Peter wrote this letter in the mid-60s A.D.

Topics.

- The sanctification of the Spirit and the sprinkling of blood.
- Born again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- The tested genuineness of your faith is more precious than gold.
- The Spirit of Christ was in the Old Testament prophets.
- Things angels longed to look into.
- The grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- God the Father judges impartially according to each one's deeds.
- Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world.
- You have been born again.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

To those who are Elect Exiles of the Dispersion.

1 Peter 1:1-2 ----- ¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cap-padocia, 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.

The people Peter is addressing were chiefly Jews, most likely descended from those Jews who were taken captive for seventy-years by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon during which time many established homes in Gentile lands and foreign countries.

Those referred to as being elect are not elect because God in His foreknowledge has chosen them to be saved from the foundation of the world, but because they have chosen from their free will to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. The words, "According to the foreknowledge of God" (v2) means they are sanctified and saved according to God's plan of salvation which He purposed and planned in His eternal mind before the world began.

These Jews are referred to as being elect exiles for the following four reasons: -

1. They are scattered throughout Gentile countries and foreign lands.
2. They believe in the death and resurrection of Christ (the sprinkling of blood).
3. They are sanctified by the Spirit, meaning God grants them righteousness as a pure and free gift because of their faith in Christ.
4. They are obedient to the teachings of the Lord (they walk in the fruits of the Spirit, love, grace, mercy, kindness and show forgiveness to each other etc.).

Though Peter is addressing this letter to the exiled Jews what he says is not limited to them only, but by extension apply to all who seek God and the Lord Jesus Christ and are in similar circumstances because all brothers and sisters in Christ are exiles on this earth since our citizenship is not of this world, but of heaven.

No minister of an enormously large church can know who is saved and who is not within the congregation, likewise Peter could not know who was saved (the elect) and who was not, so he begins his letter by saying "To those who are elect (saved) according to the foreknowledge of God" meaning according to God's foreordained eternal plan of salvation, to show all his readers that this letter is primarily addressed to those who belong to the Kingdom of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word, election or elect in this context means that God in his foreknowledge knew Adam would sin and therefore all who descended from him would be born in sin. Therefore God in his foreknowledge planned and purposed Jesus would be the eternal Saviour of mankind, whoever chooses to trust in him are referred to as the elect they are the elect because they from their own free will have chosen to trust in Christ.

NOTE: being born in sin means we are all born with a human nature that is mostly self-focused and has the seeds of pride, ego, lust, greed, jealousy and the seeds of kindness and compassion and such like things. Whether a child becomes corrupted and wicked is going to depend on how they grow up and what they do with these attitudes. Nevertheless no-matter how good we are at controlling our nature it still falls far short of God's perfect standard of Holiness, thus the reason we are all saved by faith in God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ and by God's grace.

God's Foreknowledge and Predestination.

God's in his eternal mind and foreknowledge planned and purposed before the foundations of the world began that Jesus would be the Saviour of all mankind. Both the Jews and the Gentiles election and salvation are in accordance with God's foreknowledge and His predetermined plan and purpose to save mankind through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following is what God in His eternal foreknowledge predestined before the world began: -

- Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved from the guilt and power of sin.
- Whoever endures in faith to the end will be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory.
- All who are in Christ will become the sons and daughters of God and being children of God will receive the Spirit of righteousness.
- Whoever belongs to Christ's family is called to live a life of doing-good as Christ did.

Those who from their own free will choose to believe in the Messiah, the Christ God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ are the elect because they from their own will have elected to trust in God's predetermined plan of salvation.

Israel a unique nation: there is no-doubt Israel was the elect of God and has been a unique nation clearly there is no-doubt the LORD has always dealt with Israel differently to any other nation, He declared His word, statutes and His rules to Israel (the LORD has not done this with any other nation). They are children of Abraham the father of faith and because they are his offspring they were entrusted with the oracles of God and to them belongs the adoption, the glory and the covenants. God says he gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age (Isaiah 46:3-4) and loved them when they were a child, and out of Egypt He called Israel His Son (Hosea 11:1).

They were given the law, the worship and the promises, to them belong the patriarchs and from their race, came the Christ who is Lord over all that God created (Rom. 3:2) (Rom. 9:4-5, 7). Added to this; the LORD called Israel His treasured possession and the apple of the LORD'S eye, his allotted heritage and a people holy to Him.

(Exod. 19:5) (Deut. 7:6) (Deut. 14:2) (Deut. 26:18) (Deut. 32:9).

Clearly there is no-doubt the nation of Israel was God's elected and chosen nation, as Saul was the man whom the Lord chose to be king (1 Sam. 10:24) and as Christ chose the twelve apostles (John 6:70). There are many other examples throughout the Bible of God choosing certain men for special purposes, services and ministries, but God has not predestined some to be saved and others to be condemned. Though Israel was a special and unique nation they still had to be faithful to God to be saved to eternal life.

It is not people's eternal fate God in His foreknowledge has predestined, but His eternal plan of salvation in Christ.

Prior to the death and resurrection of Christ Israel was God's special people, but that is no longer the case, since all who belong to the family of Christ are brothers and sisters of Christ and as such are adopted children of God and therefore are God's own children, thus whoever is in Christ is God's special and unique child, regardless of whether they are Jewish or Gentile.

The Sanctification of the Spirit.

Sanctification, means to purify or make holy and blameless (ceremony, morally or mentally), it not only carries the idea of being elevated to a higher position, but also of being devoted, committed and loyal. The words, "In the sanctification of the Spirit" (v2) means that through the renewing and purifying love of God's Spirit on their minds and hearts they were willing to yield their will to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ and be obedient to the Gospel. By this faith and the word of God they were set apart for God's purposes and separated from the world. In this manner the elect are being sanctified by the Spirit to produce the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control etc.) (Gal. 5:22-23).

The Sprinkling of Blood.

The words, "For sprinkling with his blood" (v2) does not denote a small quantity of it, but is said in allusion to the typical sprinkling of blood under the law, which language these Jewish converts would have understood very well.

Consider the following: -

- Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin (Exodus 12:22).
- Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words" (Exodus 24:8).

Thus, the sprinkling of blood is an allusion to the cleansing power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ shed on the cross of Calvary for our redemption. Wherever there was the sprinkling of blood for the atonement of sin there was the death of an

innocent animal on behalf of the guilty. Thus the phrase "The sprinkling with his blood" refers to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ (the innocent killed on behalf of the guilty).

May grace and peace be multiplied to you: the phrase, "be multiplied" means, "May it abound," or "may it be abundantly upon you" meaning may an enlarged view of God's abundant grace and peace be upon your mind and amongst you.

Born Again through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3-5 ----- ³Blessed 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 ⁴To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Blessed be God, no-one can boast that they have earned their salvation or are worthy of it, all boasting in our salvation is to God our heavenly Father since it is only by his mercy in the Lord Jesus Christ that we are saved to eternal life.

Paul wrote: -

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

This shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God set His love upon us long before we did anything to earn such love. The words, "To be born again" (In this context of verse three refers to sinners being "Delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of God's beloved Son" (Col. 1:13) to live a new life in Christ. It means a complete change of mind, thoughts, passions and lifestyle. A worldly example (howbeit limited) is when a person wins the lottery and they shout in abundant joyful excitement, "I feel like I have been born again" and their entire life changes. Such is the change of a sinners life who comes before God in honest repentance and accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, thus the reason Christian salvation is referred to as being, "Born Again."

Born again to a living hope: all brothers and sisters in Christ are said to be "Born again" again to a living hope because Christ our resurrected Saviour is alive and it is in him that we are saved and that our hope is set upon. It should be noted that when salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie.

The apostle Paul wrote; "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2).

Every Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead.

We are saved through the death of Jesus, but our hope is set upon the resurrection since God's resurrection of Jesus to eternal glory is testimony to every brother and sister in Christ that they also will be resurrected from the grave to eternal life and everlasting glory as Jesus was.

To an inheritance kept in heaven: The words, "To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you (v4) refer to the promise God made to Abraham of which Paul when being tried said to his accusers, "I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers," (Acts 26:6) referring to the following promises: -

The LORD promised Abraham that He would: -

- Make of him a great nation.
- Be the father of a multitude of nations.
- Make Abrahams name great and bless him.
- Nations and kings would come from him.
- Give to him and to his offspring after him all the land of Canaan/Israel for an everlasting possession.
- Make his offspring as the dust of the earth and the stars of heaven so that they cannot be numbered.
- He will be their God.

The LORD confirmed these promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their offspring after them throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant promising Abraham that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

(Gen. 12:1-3) (Gen. 13:14-17) (Gen. 15:4-7) (Gen. 17:1-8) (Gen. 22:15-18) (Deut. 9:5).

**Now the majestic wonder and beauty of God's promise is,
revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Paul writes that the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. that is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all Abrahams offspring—not only to the adherents of the law (referring to the Jews) but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham (referring to the Gentiles), who is the father of us all (Jews and Gentiles), as it is written: -

- I have made you (Abraham) the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist” (creation and the resurrection).

In hope Abraham believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told: -

- So shall your offspring be.

Paul tells us that: -

- The twelve tribes of Israel earnestly worshipped night and day hoping to attain to this promise (Acts 26:7).

And then gloriously points out that the Scripture does not say: -

- And to offsprings, referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

Some may think the promises made to Abraham was for the Jews only, but Paul magnificently explains in the book of Ephesians that the promises of God have been extended to all nations through being baptised into the Lord Jesus Christ and clearly shows that the promises made to Abraham and to his offspring the Lord Jesus Christ are not limited to the Jews only but embraces whoever will come to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

(Rom. 4:13) (Rom. 4:16-18) (Gal. 3:16) (Gal. 3:27).

For further information see the title: -

- The Commonwealth of Israel (at the end of this chapter).

Now notice the inheritance is not in heaven, but being kept in heaven. All who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ will receive this promised inheritance when Jesus returns as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy city Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

By God's Power you are Being Guarded through Faith.

The following words, "Who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (v5) are some of the most comforting words of the Bible since they clearly show that it is not our own self-effort, works or strict adherence to ceremonial rites, religious customs or traditions that are keeping us, but our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. All the promises of God and eternal life are in Christ, whoever is in Christ is a brother and sister of Christ and therefore a child of God.

Every child of an earthly family is legally entitled to the inheritance likewise every child of God will receive the promised eternal inheritance not because of their own righteousness which falls far short of God perfect holiness but because by their faith they are brothers and sisters of God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Tested Genuineness of your Faith is more Precious than Gold.

1 Peter 1:6-7 ----- ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so 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.

Peter is telling the exiled Jews scattered in Gentile countries and by extension all who are in Christ that we should rejoice in the truth that we are being kept by God through our faith in Christ and that our hope will be manifested at his return. Nevertheless while we are on this side of eternity we will all suffer various trials, hardships and troubles, which God will use to test the genuineness and reality of our faith. It is easy to praise and worship God when life is charmed, even many people of the secular world thank God when something good comes into their lives. The real test is when struggle, hardship and troubles come. When our love toward God is not destroyed during these seasons we are storing up treasure in heaven.

It is like a natural family, children do not turn against their parents simply because they suffer some kind of crisis (i.e., sickness, fire, floods, lack of income etc.), when a family is bonded by true love nothing separates its members from that love, likewise those who know the love of God do not turn against Him simply because of hardships and troubles. They understand that God's love toward them is not dependent on the circumstance of life (Good or bad), but is manifested through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ's brutal and cruel death on the cross of Calvary.

“God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16)

Tested faith is more precious than gold, this is because if it endures the test it leads to eternal life and everlasting glory. If our world's top scientist and medical practitioners could invent a pill that would give people eternal life the billionaires of this world would write out a cheque no-matter what the cost to buy as many as they could for their family and friends, and almost all the world would sell everything they had to purchase one.

This is the high value Peter and the apostles placed on the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. To Peter and the faithful brothers and sisters who supported him there was nothing in this world more valuable for any man or woman to possess than the gift of eternal life.

How sad it is that in some modern churches today this high value of eternal life has been, lost and replaced by a Gospel that focuses on a blessed, prosperous and successful life now in this mortal and corrupt world and messages that appeal to self, ego and pride. Especially when one considers what it cost God the Father and the high price his Son paid to purchase this gift of eternal life for all who would humbly accept by faith the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Though you have Not Seen Him, You Love Him.

1 Peter 1:8-9 ----- ⁸Though 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, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

It is faith that gives the mind the mental confidence and the heart absolute conviction that the thing hoped for and unseen will come to pass and is real. Though Christian faith does not need evidence it is not without an overflow of many types of proofs that are supported and testified by the word of God i.e., the history of Israel, the prophetic messages (many fulfilled with others still to come) the destructive power of sin and the numerous testimonies of people from all nations, languages and cultures throughout history testifying to it.

Though there is a mountain of evidence if one goes hunting for it a Christian does not need evidence to walk with Christ and be saved to eternal life since faith stands alone without the need of proof.

CHRISTIAN FAITH: faith for the Christian is a firm persuasion, expectation and confidence that God will perform all that he has promised to us in Christ. This persuasion is so strong that it not only gives the heart a kind of possession and present reality of things unseen and hoped for, but also gives spiritual enjoyment of them now in this present time and a subsistence and reality of them in the heart and the mind.

Since Christian faith deals with spiritual and invisible things exclusively, faith is the faculty needed by every brother and sister in Christ to grasp hold of these invisible things. The 'Word of God' states; God created the universe and by faith we believe what cannot be proven it with this same unquestionable faith in the 'Word of God' that we place our eternal future on.

FALSE FAITH: since faith continues, whether it is true or false, well-founded or not and gives all the force of reality to what is believed. We should always be open to examine what we believe is actually what the word of God is teaching. Muslims believe in Allah, Hindus believe in Buddha with the same faith that Christians believe in Christ.

Throughout history so called Christian men have killed others believing they were acting in the name of God. Added to this horror is the reality that there have always been many false teachings of the Bible amongst Christianity. The reason for study is not to support faith since faith does not need proof rather the purpose of study is to make sure our faith is founded on a solid foundation.

For further information on faith see: -

- Hebrews 11 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Prophets inquired carefully of the Grace that was to Come.

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

Since the Jews greatly valued the prophets and treasured the Old Testament Scriptures Peter to encourage those he is writing to shines a spotlight on how much more blessed we are today than those of the Old Testament. Though we don't see Christ (v8) we have vastly far more light than they did.

They greatly desired the coming of their Messiah the Christ and though they prophesied of Christ as the redeemer of God's people and his salvation as spiritual and eternal and spoke of the glorious truths to succeeding generations. They could not fully comprehend them since they saw them only at a distance and then only dimly. They had to search out with care and by the revelations made known to them what they spoke concerning: -

- The salvation that was to come.
- God's grace in Christ.
- The sufferings of Christ.
- The glories of Christ.
- The good news of Christ.

After searching these things out they may have understood exactly what was implied in that which they proclaimed concerning the Good News of the Gospel and the salvation which was to be made known through Israel's Messiah, the Christ and Saviour whereas New Testament believers have the full light of the Gospel that all the Old Testament prophets spoke of concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of Christ was in the Old Testament Prophets.

The words: -

- The Spirit of Christ in them (v11).

Refer to the Spirit of prophecy concerning Christ that was in the Old Testament prophets. When they spoke or prophesied of Christ, his salvation, his grace, his sufferings, his glories, his Gospel and his coming it is referred to as the Spirit of Christ in them' because they were prophesying of things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Prophets were Serving New Testament Believers.

1 Peter 1:12 ----- 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.

The prophets (and by extension all the faithful) knowing that they were strangers and exiles on the earth seeking a heavenly city that God has prepared for them never received the things they spoke of, but only saw them and greeted them from afar. Thus the words: -

- They were serving not themselves.

Means when the Old Testament prophets were speaking of Christ, his salvation, his grace, his sufferings, his glories, his Gospel and his coming they were not serving themselves since they all died in faith not having seen what they had spoken in prophecy of (Heb. 11:13-16) whereas we now understand them in brilliant light.

Those who preached the Good News to you by the Holy Spirit.

The words, "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" refer to the Holy Spirit inspiring the apostles and all who announced and expounded the Old Testament Scriptures that recorded all that the prophets had spoken concerning Christ, the Gospel and his Kingdom.

NOTE: the phrase, "Sent from heaven" and "Sent from God" is the same thing; some Jewish writers for fear of blaspheming God's name would use the word heaven rather than the name of the LORD. In Matthews' Gospel he refers to the Kingdom of God as the Kingdom of heaven' whereas Mark and Luke write, the Kingdom of God.

Things Angels Longed to Look Into.

Peter by telling his readers that even the angels desired to look into the things the prophets spoke of is once again shining a floodlight on the glory of light that we have today and the great privilege we have in being made partakers of it since even the greatest prophets on earth and even the angels above the skies did not have: -

- The light of the Gospel, the death and resurrection of Christ.
- Full understanding of God's grace that we have today.
- The great truths concerning the sufferings of Christ, the resurrection of Christ and the glory which would follow.
- The Good News of the Gospel and all the events pertaining to the redemption of mankind.

The following shows the splendour, majesty and glory of Bible shadows and types.

Peter says, "Things the angels longed to look into" (v12) the word look here comes from the Greek word (parakupto) and means to bend beside, i.e. lean over (so as to peer within) and to stoop down. Perhaps there is an allusion here to, "The cherubim in the Most Holy Place with their wings overshadowing the mercy seat and their faces toward the mercy seat" (Exod. 25:20).

Here on the Ark of the Covenant the cherubim over the mercy-seat are looking down as if to behold what was in the ark, maybe a faint glimpse of the angels gazing upon mercy-seat and their desire to fathom the depths of the great mystery of the glory of Christ and the Gospel of Grace.

The Grace will be brought to you at the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13-16 ----- ¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions (lusts in KJV) of your former ignorance ¹⁵but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct ¹⁶since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Peter encourages the exiled Jews suffering persecution and hardships and by extension all who are in Christ by telling us to focus our mind and hope on the GRACE that will come to us when Christ returns. Here is the splendour and glory of the Gospel, whoever is in Christ is saved by grace and set free from the condemnation of the Law. When Christ returns all those who have endured and lived their lives according to the law of love will be granted grace and will inherit eternal life, everlasting glory, happiness and peace.

You shall be Holy, for I am Holy.

Clearly all brothers and sisters in Christ are called to live a life that brings honour to God, a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Christian faith. The words, "You shall be holy, for I am holy" (v16) mean do not live to satisfy self, ego, pride, greed and lust (orgies, unlawful sex, adulteries or using others to gratify one's own sexual passion etc.).

Do not be a drunkard or filled with envy, jealousy and anger or cause strife, contentions and divisions and such like things. But rather be filled with the fruit of the Spirit and walk by the Spirit i.e., love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:19-26) this is what it means to be holy as God is holy.

God the Father Judges impartially According to Each one's Deeds.

1 Peter 1:17 ----- ¹⁷And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.

Peter here is likening God to an earthly father who shows no favouritism to his children, meaning regardless of how much he loves them he does not show favour toward any in regards to justice. God will not pervert justice, but will judge us all according to our behaviour and actions.

This means that though we are saved by grace and set free of the condemnation of the law, we will be judged according to the law of liberty (James 1:25) meaning the law of love. Every brother and sister in Christ will either be rewarded or suffer loss depending on how our life is measured against love meaning how we have treated other people especially our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Paul wrote: -

- If anyone builds on the foundation (the Lord Jesus Christ) with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, they will receive a reward, but if anyone's work is burned up, they will suffer loss, though they themselves will be saved, but only as through fire (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

Judged According to Our Deeds.

The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote: -

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states: -

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that: -

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life.

This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, Grace and Faith,
are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be
saved to eternal life without any one of them.

This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life. By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

Three things we will be judged against: -

1. The Royal law, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (i.e., how we have treated other people especially our brothers and sisters in Christ).
2. According to our devotion (i.e., whether our affections are set upon Christ or upon the things of this world).
3. Has our life brought honour to God and the Lord Jesus Christ or disgrace?

These are the types of things we will be judged by, but always with grace and mercy since Christ not only sees the motivation and desires of the heart and will judge accordingly, but also understands the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within the fallen corrupted body we live in.

The Futile ways inherited from your Forefathers.

The words, "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers" (v18) means the exiled Jews Peter is writing to and by extension all of us have been delivered from the Old Testament Covenant, the bondage of the law of Moses, the sacrifices, the ceremonial rites, the Jewish religious customs and traditions as well as the entire Levitical Priesthood, all of these were made obsolete by Christ's death and resurrection.

Perishable things such as Silver or Gold.

1 Peter 1:18 ----- 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold.

The futile ways inherited from their forefathers refers to all the Jewish laws, ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions and especially to the hundreds of trivial laws and rules the legalistic Jewish religious rulers had added to Moses laws. The reference of silver and gold can apply to: -

- Money; meaning that no-one can buy their way into God's Kingdom no-matter how rich. It is certainly true that the wealthy may gain the special favour and attention of a religious minister and earn themselves a better pew in the church, but money has absolutely no power to save anyone to eternal life no-matter how rich.
- The temple of God; the words silver and gold can be seen as an allusion to the temple of God since it was an absolute majestic wonder of beauty, almost all things were made of solid gold or covered in gold, silver was used in abundance and the richest of materials were used on the veils that divided the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place and the craftsmanship and sculpture was the best in the land. To walk inside the temple was a stunning wonder of beauty and glory for the eyes to behold.

Thus; Peter is telling his readers that they were not ransomed: -

- By the practice of their religious works.
- By money, no matter how much they gave.
- By the temple even if they attended it every Sabbath.

Like a Lamb without Blemish or Spot.

1 Peter 1:19 ----- 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Peter now shines a floodlight on the truth that all who are ransomed to God and eternal life are only ransomed because of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peters glorious and majestic words, "Like that of a Lamb without Blemish or Spot" (v19) would immediately transcend the mind of the exiled and scattered Jews to: -

- The blood of the Old Testament lamb without blemish that their fathers had to sacrifice prior to their deliverance from Egypt (called the house of bondage) and whose blood protected and saved their firstborn from the death angel.
- The blood of the lamb without blemish that the high priest took into the Most Holy Place once every year to make atonement for the sins of the nation of Israel.

Peter is saying no matter how glorious the church building is it matters not! Nor how strictly we keep religious ceremonial rites, religious laws, customs and traditions it all counts for nothing if we are trusting in them for our righteousness and to be counted worthy before God of eternal life.

The only thing that makes us worthy before God is our faith
in the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ was Foreknown before the Foundation of the World.

1 Peter 1:20-25 ----- 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake.

Some have mistakenly taken the words, "Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world" (v20) to mean that Jesus was with God before the foundation of the world, but this is reading into the verse more than what Peter is

saying. Certainly Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but in the sense that he was the central focus of God's eternal plan that he purposed in His eternal and divine mind before the world began. This is supported by the following words of Peter, "He was made manifest in the last days" (v20) referring to John the Baptist water baptising Jesus and God (Jesus heavenly Father) calling him at this baptism into his ministry.

For further information see the title: -

- Trinity (the Doctrine of the Trinity).
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Through Christ you are Believers in God.

1 Peter 1:21 ----- 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

God raised Christ from the dead to eternal glory so that we could have confidence and assurance that we will be raised from the grave in the same manner. No brother or sisters' faith or hope should be in anything other than Christ, not opulent church buildings, brilliant orators of the Gospel, or the minister of their church no matter how loving, kind or full of integrity they maybe. Certainly we may honour and respect them, but our trust, faith and hope must always be in Christ alone.

Faith and Hope are in God.

The words, "Your faith and hope are in God" (v21) has by some religious teaches been used to support the mistaken theory that Jesus is God, but this idea is only supported by those who have been exposed to this mindset and this teaching. The words, "Their hope is in God" does not mean Jesus is God, but that God is the source of all life, God planned and purposed that salvation for mankind would be through his Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter throughout this chapter is teaching the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ so it is naturally assumed that his readers will know that God's salvation cannot be separated from faith in Christ. We are all save by God's grace and mercy in the Lord Jesus Christ so it is not wrong to state our faith and hope is in God since everyone who understands the Good News of the Gospel would know that this statement embraces faith in Christ.

Brotherly Love.

1 Peter 1:22 ----- 22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart

Through faith in Christ our hearts are purified in the following two ways: -

1. By our obedience to the truth meaning by trusting in God's grace in Christ and not our own self-effort or ceremonial rites, religious customs and traditions.
2. By showing brotherly love to those in the family of Christ,

NOTE: during the ancient Roman era woman (especially those who had authority) were referred to as brothers by the Roman Empire.

The Jewish nation viewed a Jewish man or woman as a brother this is because it was an ancient expression that signified a person belonged to the same nation, the same family, the same faith, or the same group of people etc. during the Roman and New Testament era the word, brothers was not used to differentiate between male and females unless the context specifically states it.

Brothers was a perfect expression for those in Christ since,
brotherly love is love that protects, defends, guards and
shelters, and is free from any romantic thought.

You have been Born Again.

1 Peter 1:23 ----- ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

To be born again in the Jewish culture meant taking on a new view of life and new responsibilities. The concept of being born again meant a conversion of life from what one had lived to another way of living and another way of thinking.

When the term born again is used in Christian circles it refers to that moment when a sinner humbles themselves in honest repentance before God and by faith accepts the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. When a person comes to God with an open and sincere heart in this manner God delivers them from the domain of darkness and transfers them to the Kingdom of his beloved Son (Col. 1:13). This is what it means to be born again the desires of the mind and the passions of the heart are transformed from the old way of thinking and the old life to a new way to thinking and to living a new life with God.

NOTE: since this is a spiritual experience between God and the one praying no-one needs a priest or church minister to pray this prayer with them although it might be nice to have a valued Christian friend share the moment and certainly will be of valuable help and encouragement as the new born begins their new life in Christ.

The living and abiding word of God: the word of God is called living and abiding, and imperishable seed because it is the word of the Lord Jesus Christ who is not only living, but eternal. The Scriptures are written to unite us through faith and love to the Lord Jesus Christ. Whoever is in Christ's family becomes an adopted child of God and like children of an earthly father are the rightful heirs to their father's inheritance likewise the children of God become the heirs of their heavenly Father's inheritance which of course is eternal life and everlasting glory.

The Word of the Lord remains Forever.

1 Peter 1:24 ----- ²⁴for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls ²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Here is a fabulous picture of human life, it blossoms in beauty and glory for a short while and then withers, fades and dies. I personally think (this is only my random thought) that there are only two groups of people who fully understand the reality and eternal wisdom of these words of Peters.

1. Those who are over fifty-years of age.
2. Those who are standing alongside the graveside watching the coffin of one they have deeply loved being lowered into the ground.

Consider for a moment: the following stunning wonder, throughout the thousands of years of earth's history and as brilliant as our scientist and inventors are no-one has been able to create anything eternal. Yet a humble man born in a lowly manger, who was mocked and despised by his peers and who not only failed according to worldly standards of success but also refused to raise up an army against his enemies and instead gave his life over to their brutal cruelty is the only man who has the words of eternal life.

NOTICE: Peter says, "Christ's words are Good News" (v25) every brother and sister in Christ should think before they witness, "Is what I am saying Good News?"

Paul reminds us that: -

- We were once foolish, disobedient and led astray by various passions and pleasures, but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy (Titus 3:3-5).

John wrote.

- In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him in this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins, if God so loved us, we also ought to show love to one another (1 John 4:9-11).

Everything we say or do should be from: -

- Love toward God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Love toward our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Love toward our neighbour (all outside the Kingdom of God).

It is against these we will be judged and rewarded or suffer loss accordingly.

The Commonwealth of Israel.

To understand God's eternal promises made thousands of years ago it is important to know that the promised seed of the woman in (Genesis 3:14-15), the promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David is Christ and that all the eternal promises God made to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ and are therefore no longer limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew).

The Apostle Paul said: -

Ephes. 2:11-22 ----- ¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit.

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God because in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to you: -

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

End