

# 1 Peter

**1** Greetings from Peter, an apostle\* of Jesus Christ.

To God's chosen people who are away from their homes—people scattered all over the areas of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. <sup>2</sup>God planned long ago to choose you by making you his holy people.\* Making you holy is the Spirit's\* work. God wanted you to obey him and to be made clean by the blood (*death*) of Jesus Christ. Grace (*kindness*) and peace be yours more and more.

## A Living Hope

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has great mercy, and because of his mercy he gave us a new life. This new life brings us a living hope through Jesus Christ's rising from death. <sup>4</sup>Now we wait to get the blessings God has for his children. Those blessings are kept for you in heaven. Those blessings cannot ruin or be destroyed or lose their beauty. <sup>5</sup>God's power protects you through your faith, and it keeps you safe until your salvation comes. That salvation is ready to be given to you at the end of time. <sup>6</sup>This makes you very happy. But now for a short time different kinds of troubles may make you sad. <sup>7</sup>Why do these troubles happen? To prove that your faith is pure (*true*). This purity of faith is worth more than gold. Gold can be proved to be pure by fire, but gold will ruin. The purity of your faith will bring you praise

**apostle** A person Jesus chose to represent him in special way.

**holy people** Literally, "saints" or "holy ones." God's people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

**Spirit, Holy Spirit** Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God's work among people in the world.

and glory and honor when Jesus Christ appears (*comes*). <sup>8</sup>You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You can't see him now, but you believe in him. You are filled with a joy that cannot be explained. And that joy is full of glory. <sup>9</sup>Your faith has a goal. And you are receiving that goal—your salvation.

<sup>10</sup>The prophets\* studied carefully and tried to learn about this salvation. Those prophets spoke about the grace (*kindness*) that was coming to you. <sup>11</sup>The Spirit\* of Christ was in those prophets. And the Spirit was telling about the sufferings that would happen to Christ and about the glory that would come after those sufferings. Those prophets tried to learn about what the Spirit was showing them. They tried to learn when those things would happen and what the world would be like at that time. <sup>12</sup>It was shown to those prophets that their service was not for themselves. The prophets were serving you. They were serving you when they told about the things that you have heard. You heard those things from the men who told you the Good News.\* They told you with the help of the Holy Spirit\* that was sent from heaven. The things you were told are things that even the angels want very much to know about.

## A Call to Holy Living

<sup>13</sup>So prepare your minds for service, and have self-control. All your hope should be for the gift of grace (*kindness*) that will be yours when Jesus Christ appears (*comes*). <sup>14</sup>In the past you did not understand about these

**prophets** People that spoke for God. Sometimes prophets told things that would happen in the future.

**Good News** The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

things, so you did the evil things you wanted. But now you are children [of God] who obey. So don't live like you lived in the past. <sup>15</sup>But be holy\* in all the things you do, the same as God is holy. God is the One who called you. <sup>16</sup>The Scriptures\* say, "Be holy, because I (God) am holy."\*

<sup>17</sup>You pray to God and call him Father. God judges each man's work equally. So while you are visiting [here on earth], you should live with fear (*respect*) for God. <sup>18</sup>You know that [in the past] you were living in a worthless way. You got that way of living from the people who lived before you. But you were saved from that way of living. You were bought, but not with things that ruin like gold or silver. <sup>19</sup>But you were bought with the precious blood (*death*) of Christ—a pure and perfect lamb. <sup>20</sup>Christ was chosen before the world was made. But he was shown [to the world] in these last times for you. <sup>21</sup>You believe in God through Christ. God raised Christ from death. Then God gave glory to him. So your faith and your hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>Now you have made yourselves pure by obeying the truth. Now you can have true love for your brothers and sisters. So love each other deeply—with all your heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born again. This new life did not come from something that dies. It came from something that cannot die. You were born again through God's living message\* that continues forever. <sup>24</sup>The Scriptures\* say,

"Our lives are like the grass of spring,  
and any glory we enjoy  
is like the beauty of a wildflower.  
The grass dries up and dies,  
and the wildflower falls to the ground.

<sup>25</sup> But the word of the Lord lives forever."  
*Isaiah 40:6–8*

And this is the word (*teaching*) that was told to you.

**holy** A holy person is pure and belongs only to God.

**Scriptures** Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

**"Be ... holy"** Quote from Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7.

**message** The news that God has made a way through Christ for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

### The Living Stone and the Holy Nation

**2** So don't do anything to hurt [other people], don't lie, don't do things to fool people, don't be jealous, don't say bad things about people. Put all these things out of your life. <sup>2</sup>Be like babies that are newly born. Be hungry for the pure milk (*teaching*) that feeds your spirit. By drinking that you can grow up and be saved. <sup>3</sup>You have already tasted the goodness of the Lord.

<sup>4</sup>The Lord [Jesus] is the "stone\*" that lives. The people [of the world] decided they did not want that stone (*Jesus*). But he was the stone God chose. To God he was worth much. So come to him. <sup>5</sup>You also are like living stones. God is using you to build a spiritual temple.\* You are to serve God in that temple as holy\* priests. You are to give spiritual sacrifices\* to God that he will accept because of Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>The Scripture\* says:

"Look, I have chosen a precious (*valuable*)  
cornerstone,\*  
and I put that stone in Zion\*;  
the person that trusts in him will never  
be dissatisfied."  
*Isaiah 28:16*

<sup>7</sup>That stone (*Jesus*) is worth much to you people who believe. But to the people who don't believe, he is:

"the stone that the builders decided they  
did not want.  
That stone became the most important  
stone."  
*Psalms 118:22*

<sup>8</sup>To people who don't believe, he is:

"a stone that makes people stumble,  
a stone that makes people fall."  
*Isaiah 8:14*

People stumble because they don't obey what God says. This is what God planned to happen to those people.

**stone** The most important stone in God's spiritual temple or house (his people).

**temple** God's house, where God's people worship him.

**sacrifices** A sacrifice is a gift or offering for God.

**cornerstone** The first and most important rock of a building.

**Zion** Another name for Jerusalem, the city of God's chosen people.

<sup>9</sup>But you are chosen people. You are the King's priests. You are a holy\* nation of people. You are people who belong to God. God chose you to tell about the wonderful things he has done. He called (*brought*) you out of darkness (*sin*) into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>At one time you were not God's people. But now you are God's people. In the past you had never received mercy. But now you have received mercy [from God].

### Live for God

<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, you are like visitors and strangers [in this world]. So I beg you to stay away from the evil things your bodies want to do. These things fight against your soul. <sup>12</sup>People who don't believe are living all around you. Those people may say that you are doing wrong. So live good lives. Then they will see the good things you do, and they will give glory to God on that day when he comes.

### Obey Every Human Authority

<sup>13</sup>Obey the people who have authority\* in this world. Do this for the Lord. Obey the king who is the highest authority. <sup>14</sup>And obey the leaders who are sent by the king. They are sent to punish people who do wrong and to praise those people who do good. <sup>15</sup>So when you do good, you stop foolish people from saying stupid things about you. This is what God wants. <sup>16</sup>Live like free men. But don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Live like you are serving God. <sup>17</sup>Show respect for all people. Love all the brothers and sisters of God's family. Fear (*respect*) God, and honor the king.

### The Example of Christ's Suffering

<sup>18</sup>Slaves, be willing to serve your masters. Do this with all respect. You should obey the masters that are good and kind, and you should obey the masters that are bad. <sup>19</sup>A person might have to suffer even when he has done nothing wrong. If that person thinks of God and bears the pain, then this pleases God. <sup>20</sup>But if you are

punished for doing wrong, there is no reason to praise you for bearing that punishment. But if you suffer for doing good, and you are patient, then that pleases God. <sup>21</sup>That is what you were called to do. Christ gave you an example to follow. You should do the same as he did. [You should be patient when you suffer,] because Christ suffered for you.

<sup>22</sup> "He (*Christ*) did no sin,  
and no lies were found in his mouth."

*Isaiah 53:9*

<sup>23</sup>People said bad things to Christ, but he did not say bad things to them. Christ suffered, but he did not threaten (*speak against*) the people. No! Christ let God take care of him. God is the One who judges rightly. <sup>24</sup>Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross. He did this so that we would stop living for sin and live for what is right. By his (*Christ's*) wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup>You were like sheep that went the wrong way. But now you have come back to the Shepherd and Protector of your lives.

### Wives and Husbands

**3** In the same way you wives should be willing to serve your husbands. Then, if some of your husbands have not obeyed [God's] teaching, they will be persuaded to believe. You will not need to say anything. They will be persuaded by the way their wives live. <sup>2</sup>Your husbands will see the pure lives that you live with your respect [for God]. <sup>3</sup>It is not fancy hair, gold jewelry, or fine clothes that should make you beautiful. <sup>4</sup>No, your beauty should come from inside you—the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. That beauty will never disappear. It is worth very much to God. <sup>5</sup>It was the same with the holy\* women who lived long ago and followed God. They made themselves beautiful in that same way. They were willing to serve their husbands. <sup>6</sup>[I am talking about women] like Sarah. She obeyed Abraham,\* her husband, and called him her master. And you women are true children of Sarah if you always do what is right and are not afraid.

**holy** God's people are called holy because they are made pure through Christ, and they belong only to God.

**people ... authority** Rulers, governors, presidents, or other government leaders.

**holy** A holy person is pure and belongs only to God.

**Abraham** The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

<sup>7</sup>In the same way, you husbands should live with your wives in an understanding way. You should show respect to your wives. They are weaker than you. But God gives your wives the same blessing that he gives you—the grace (*kindness*) that gives true life. Do these things so that nothing will trouble your prayers.

### Suffering for Doing Right

<sup>8</sup>So all of you should live together in peace. Try to understand each other. Love each other like brothers. Be kind and humble. <sup>9</sup>Don't do wrong to a person to pay him back for doing wrong to you. Or don't say something bad to a person to pay him back for saying something bad to you. But ask God to bless that person. Do this, because you yourselves were called to receive a blessing. <sup>10</sup>The Scripture\* says,

“If a person wants to enjoy life  
and to have many good days,  
that person must stop speaking evil  
and stop telling lies.

<sup>11</sup> That person must stop doing evil  
and do good;  
that person should look for peace  
and try to get it.

<sup>12</sup> The Lord sees the good people,  
and the Lord listens to their prayers.  
But the Lord is against those people  
that do evil.”

*Psalm 34:12–16*

<sup>13</sup>If you are always trying to do good, then no person can really hurt you. <sup>14</sup>But you may suffer for doing right. If that happens, then you are blessed (*happy*). “Don't be afraid of those people that make you suffer; don't be worried.”\* <sup>15</sup>But you should keep the Lord Christ holy in your hearts. Always be ready to answer every person who asks you to explain about the hope you have. <sup>16</sup>But answer those people in a gentle way with respect. Always be able to feel that you are doing right. When you do that, the people who say bad things about you will be made ashamed. They say these bad things about the good way you live in Christ.

They will be made ashamed for the bad things they said about you. <sup>17</sup>It is better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong. Yes, it is better if that is what God wants. <sup>18</sup>Christ himself died for you. And that one death paid for your sins. He was not guilty, but he died for people who are guilty. He did this to bring you all to God. His body was killed, but he was made alive in the spirit. <sup>19</sup>And in the spirit he went and preached to the spirits in prison. <sup>20</sup>Those were the spirits who refused to obey God long ago in the time of Noah. God was waiting patiently for them while Noah was building the big boat. Only a few people—eight in all—were saved in that boat. Those people were saved by water. <sup>21</sup>That water is like baptism\* that now saves you. Baptism is not the washing of dirt from the body. Baptism is asking God for a pure heart. It saves you because Jesus Christ was raised from death. <sup>22</sup>Now Jesus has gone into heaven. He is at God's right side. He rules over angels, authorities, and powers.

### Changed Lives

**4** Christ suffered while he was in his body. So you should strengthen yourselves with the same kind of thinking Christ had. The person who has suffered in his body is finished with sin. <sup>2</sup>Strengthen yourselves so that you will live your lives here on earth doing what God wants, not doing the evil things that people want. <sup>3</sup>In the past you wasted too much time doing the things that the non-believers like to do. You were doing sexual sins. You were doing the evil things you wanted. You were becoming drunk, having wild and wasteful parties, having drunken parties, and doing wrong by worshiping idols (*false gods*). <sup>4</sup>Those non-believers think that it is strange that you don't do the many wild and wasteful things that they do. And so they say bad things about you. <sup>5</sup>But those people will have to explain about the things they have done. They will have to explain to the One (*Christ*) who is ready to judge the people who are living and the people

**Scripture** Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.  
“Don't be afraid ... worried” Quote from Isa. 8:12.

**baptism** A Greek word meaning to be immersed, dipped, or buried briefly under water.

who have died. <sup>6</sup>The Good News\* was told to those people who are now dead, because those people will be judged like all people are judged. They will be judged for the things they did while they were living. But the Good News was told to them so that they could live in the spirit like God lives.

### Be Good Managers of God's Gifts

<sup>7</sup>The time is near when all things will end. So keep your minds clear, and control yourselves. This will help you to pray. <sup>8</sup>Most important, love each other deeply. Love hides many, many sins. <sup>9</sup>Share your homes with each other without complaining. <sup>10</sup>Each of you received a spiritual gift [from God]. God has shown you his grace (*kindness*) in many different ways. And you are like servants who are responsible for using God's gifts. So be good servants and use your gifts to serve each other. <sup>11</sup>The person who speaks should speak words from God. The person who serves should serve with the strength that God gives. You should do these things so that in everything God will be praised through Jesus Christ. Power and glory belong to him forever and ever. Amen.

### Suffering as a Christian

<sup>12</sup>My friends, don't be surprised at the painful things that you are now suffering. Those things are testing your faith. Don't think that something strange is happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But you should be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings. You will be happy and full of joy when Christ shows his glory. <sup>14</sup>When people say bad things to you because you follow Christ, then you are blessed (*happy*). You are blessed because the Spirit\* of glory is with you. That is the Spirit of God. <sup>15</sup>Don't be like a criminal or a person who kills, steals, or bothers other people. A person will suffer for doing those things. None of you should ever suffer like that. <sup>16</sup>But if you

suffer because you are a Christian, then don't be ashamed. You should praise (*thank*) God for that name (*Christian*). <sup>17</sup>It is time for judging to begin. That judging will begin with God's family. If that judgment begins with us, then what will happen to those people who don't accept the Good News\* of God?

<sup>18</sup> "It is very hard for a good person to be saved. So surely the person who is against God and is full of sin will be lost!"

*Proverbs 11:31 (Greek Version)*

<sup>19</sup>So those people who suffer like God wants them to should trust their lives to him. God is the One who made them, and they can trust him. So they should continue to do good.

### The Flock of God

**5** Now I have something to say to the elders\* in your group. I am also an elder. I myself have seen Christ's sufferings. And I will share in the glory that will be shown to us. I beg you to <sup>2</sup>take care of the group of people that you are responsible for. They are God's flock.\* Watch over that flock because you want to, not because you are forced to do it. That is how God wants it. Do it because you are happy to serve, not because you want money. <sup>3</sup>Don't be like a ruler over those people you are responsible for. But be good examples to those people. <sup>4</sup>Then when the Ruling Shepherd (*Christ*) comes, you will get a crown. That crown will be very glorious, and it will never lose its beauty.

<sup>5</sup>Young men, I have something to say to you, too. You should accept the authority of the elders.\* All of you should be very humble with each other.

"God is against the proud people.

But he gives grace (*kindness*) to the humble people."

*Proverbs 3:34*

<sup>6</sup>So be humble under God's powerful hand. Then he will lift you up when the right time

**Good News** The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

**Spirit, Holy Spirit** Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God's work among people in the world.

**elders** A group of men chosen to lead a church. Also called "overseers" and "pastors" (shepherds), they have the work of caring for God's people. See Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11; Tit. 1:7,9.

**God's flock** God's people. They are like a flock (group) of sheep that need to be cared for.

comes. <sup>7</sup>Give all your worries to him, because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup>Control yourselves and be careful! The devil is your enemy. And he goes around like a roaring lion looking for some person to eat. <sup>9</sup>Refuse to follow the devil. Stand strong in your faith. You know that your brothers and sisters all over the world are having the same sufferings that you have.

<sup>10</sup>Yes, you will suffer for a short time. But after that, God will make everything right. He will make you strong. He will support you and keep you from falling. He is the God that gives all grace (*kindness*). He called you to share in his glory in Christ. That glory will

continue forever. <sup>11</sup>All power is his forever and ever. Amen.

#### Final Greetings

<sup>12</sup>Silas will bring this letter to you. I know that he is a faithful brother in Christ. I wrote this short letter to encourage you. I wanted to tell you that this is the true grace (*kindness*) of God. Stand strong in that grace.

<sup>13</sup>The church in Babylon\* says hello to you. Those people were chosen the same as you. Mark, my son in Christ, also says hello. <sup>14</sup>Give each other a kiss of love when you meet.

Peace to all of you that are in Christ.

# License Agreement for Bible Texts

World Bible Translation Center

Last Updated: September 21, 2006

Copyright © 2006 by World Bible Translation Center

All rights reserved.

## These Scriptures:

- Are copyrighted by World Bible Translation Center.
- Are not public domain.
- May not be altered or modified in any form.
- May not be sold or offered for sale in any form.
- May not be used for commercial purposes (including, but not limited to, use in advertising or Web banners used for the purpose of selling online ad space).
- May be distributed without modification in electronic form for non-commercial use. However, they may not be hosted on any kind of server (including a Web or ftp server) without written permission. A copy of this license (without modification) must also be included.
- May be quoted for any purpose, up to 1,000 verses, without written permission. However, the extent of quotation must not comprise a complete book nor should it amount to more than 50% of the work in which it is quoted. A copyright notice must appear on the title or copyright page using this pattern: "Taken from the HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION™ © 2006 by World Bible Translation Center, Inc. and used by permission." If the text quoted is from one of WBTC's non-English versions, the printed title of the actual text quoted will be substituted for "HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION™." The copyright notice must appear in English or be translated into another language. When quotations from WBTC's text are used in non-saleable media, such as church bulletins, orders of service, posters, transparencies or similar media, a complete copyright notice is not required, but the initials of the version (such as "ERV" for the Easy-to-Read Version™ in English) must appear at the end of each quotation.

Any use of these Scriptures other than those listed above is prohibited. For additional rights and permission for usage, such as the use of WBTC's text on a Web site, or for clarification of any of the above, please contact World Bible Translation Center in writing or by email at [distribution@wbtc.com](mailto:distribution@wbtc.com).

World Bible Translation Center  
P.O. Box 820648  
Fort Worth, Texas 76182, USA  
Telephone: 1-817-595-1664  
Toll-Free in US: 1-888-54-BIBLE  
E-mail: [info@wbtc.com](mailto:info@wbtc.com)

**WBTC's web site** – World Bible Translation Center's web site: <http://www.wbtc.org>

**Order online** – To order a copy of our texts online, go to: <http://www.wbtc.org>

**Current license agreement** – This license is subject to change without notice. The current license can be found at: <http://www.wbtc.org/downloads/biblelicense.htm>

**Trouble viewing this file** – If the text in this document does not display correctly, use Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher. Download Adobe Acrobat Reader from: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

**Viewing Chinese or Korean PDFs** – To view the Chinese or Korean PDFs, it may be necessary to download the Chinese Simplified or Korean font pack from Adobe. Download the font packs from: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/acrrasianfontpack.html>