

I P E T E R

How Does God Shape His People?

Trinity Dallas Study Notes

1 Peter: How Does God Shape His People?

Part Two – 1 Peter, Chapter 1: The Amazing Privileges of Salvation

Introduction & Theme

This is a pastoral letter written to Christians living over a wide geographically area...most of whom were suffering persecution at the hands of a world that did not understand them or appreciate the changes in their lives as a result of coming to faith in Christ.

Peter uses these Greek words frequently in his letter:

<u>WORD</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
anastrophe	6 times	"way of life", "conduct" or "behavior"
pascho	6 times	"suffer"
hypotasso	12 times	"subordinate" or "subject"
agathopoieo	4 times	"do good"

So, if we consider these words together, we see that Peter emphasizes **a godly life of submission and good works in the midst of suffering**. By their good deeds and godly lifestyles, Christians can glorify God through suffering and difficult circumstances looking to God to sustain us and give us joy.

1 Peter can be divided into three sections:

1. Salvation – 1 Peter 1:1-2:10
2. Submission – 1 Peter 2:11-3:12
3. Suffering – 1 Peter 3:13-5:14

I. The Salutation (1 Peter 1:1:2)

- How many of you know Dwayne Johnson...“The Rock?”
- Today, I want to tell you about another Rock...

^{1a}Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

- Peter begins by using his name in its most common NT form.
- His name in Hebrew was “Simeon,” the Greek equivalent of which is “Simon.”

- He also had an Aramaic nickname, “Cephas.” “Cephas” means “Rock” and “Peter” is the Greek translation of “Cephas” or most simply, “Rock.”
- Based on this, **Peter should have been properly named, “Peter The Rock!”**

^{1b} To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,



Map of the world Peter was very familiar with

*larger map can be found on the last page of the Study Notes

² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

- Foreknowledge: God knows what is going to happen to you in your life, but more than that, He had a plan, a purpose and a part for you before Creation even began!

II. The Privileges and Responsibilities of Salvation (1 Peter 1:3-2:10)

A. God's Plan of Salvation (1 Peter 1:3-12)

1. The Praise of God for Salvation (1 Peter 1:3-9)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

2. The Prophecy of Salvation (1 Peter 1:10-12)

¹⁰ Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,

¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

¹² To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

B. The Lifestyle of Salvation (1 Peter 1:13-25)

1. A Life of Hope and Holiness (1 Peter 1:13-16)

¹³ Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

2. A Life of Reverence Before God (1 Peter 1:17-21)

¹⁷ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

²¹ who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

3. A Life of Love (1 Peter 1:22-25)

²² Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

²⁴ because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,

²⁵ But the word of the Lord endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

- Peter will finish his thought on salvation with the next 10 verses in Chapter 2 by exhorting believers to drink that pure milk of the WORD and Grow!

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some examples of how you have seen others in your life glorify God through suffering and difficult circumstances in their own lives?
2. What difficult circumstance are you currently going through and how can you glorify God during this time period?
3. What are some examples of how God shapes you by encouraging a godly life of submission in the midst of suffering?
4. How do you encourage yourself to praise God through the storms?

*Map of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, referenced in 1 Peter 1:1b

