

Class 1 - Introduction & Comments

The Israel of God

The apostle Paul wrote about “*the Israel of God*” (Gal 6:16) and the “*children of God*” who were the “*children of promise*” (Rom 9:6-8) become the spiritual Israel of God. They were the “*true circumcision*” (Phil 3:3) and children of the “*Jerusalem above*”, that is, the promised offspring “*born according to the spirit*” and not the flesh (Gal 4:28-31).

Therefore, when Peter talks about the Brothers and Sisters in Asia who have been “*born again*” (1:3, 23), he is referring to them as being part of the new and greater “God’s own people” (vv. 9,10), where both Jew and Gentile believer are in the same situation: “*sojourners and exiles*” (v.11) who are now declared to be God’s holy nation (v.9 cf. Ex 19:6).

Note: “*born again*” = *having regenerated* {cf. RSV Interlinear Greek English New Testament}. Per Strong’s Concordance, the transliterated word is *anagennao*. Two definitions are provided: 1. to produce again, be born again, born anew 2. metaphor — to have one’s mind changed so that he lives a new life and one conformed to the will of God.

OT Allusions

While each chapter contains one or more direct quotation from the Old Testament, Peter alludes to many OT verses and teachings to support and enrich his words. Recognizing these connections can make the reader appreciate the beauty, strength and fittingness of this First Letter. Chapter 1 is filled with examples:

- v.1 *elect exiles* **cf.** God making Israel a chosen people (Ex 19:5, Deut 14:2)
- v.2 *sanctification of the Spirit* **cf.** the cloud of glory (Ex 14:19-20, 29-30)
- v.3 *sprinkling with his blood ...* **cf.** blood covenant at Sinai (Ex 24:7-8)
- v.4 *imperishable, undefiled and unfading* **cf. contrast:** corrupted and defiled golden-calf apostasy and fading glory on Moses’ face (Ex 32:1-10, 34:35)
- v.5 *by God’s power are being guarded ...* **cf.** hovering angel (Ex 12:23)
- v.7 *tested genuineness of your faith* **cf.** Levite loyalty to LORD (Ex 34:25-29)
- v.13 *preparing your minds for action* **cf.** girding up their loins (Ex 12:11)
- v.15 *you also be holy in all your conduct* **cf.** for so your God is (Lev 19:1-37)
- v.17 *throughout the time of your exile* **cf.** years in wilderness (Deut 32:10)
- v.18 *perishable things such as silver or gold* **cf.** Egyptian treasure (Ex 12:35)
- v.19 *a lamb without blemish or spot* **cf.** the Passover lamb (Ex 12: 5)

Bible Text - Chapter 1 [ESV with NGF annotated links]

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles ^{v.17} of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience ^{v.14} to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

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 ^{v.23} to a living hope ^{v.13} through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable ^{v.23}, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ^{v.9} ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while ^{5:10}, 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 ^{v.8} and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ ^{v.13}.

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 ^{v.6, 21}, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation ^{v.5,10} of your souls ^{v.22}.

10 Concerning this salvation ^{v.8,2:2}, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, **11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings ^{4:13} of Christ and the subsequent glories.

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 ^{v:22} to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded ^{4:7}, set your hope ^{v.1, 21} fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ ^{v.7}.

14 As obedient ^{v.2, 22} children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, **15** but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **16** since it is written, "*You shall be holy, for I am holy.*" (Lev 11:44-45).

17 And 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 ^{v.1, 2:11}, **18** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your

forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times ^{v.5} for the sake of you **21** who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory ^{v.8, 24}, so that your faith and hope ^{v. 13, 3:5} are in God.

22 Having purified your souls ^{v.8, 2:11} by your obedience ^{v.14} to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, **23** since you have been born again ^{v.3}, not of perishable seed but of imperishable ^{v.4, 3:4} through the living and abiding word ^{v.25} of God; **24** for *"All flesh is like grass and all its glory ^{v.21, 4:11} like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, **25** but the word of the Lord remains forever."* (Is 40:6-9). And this word ^{v.23, 2:8} is the good news ^{v.12} that was preached to you.

Your Study and Action Notes

1. What do the following words, terms or phrases mean? Write in your answers:

- elect exiles of the dispersion (v. 1,17) —
- sanctification of the Spirit (v. 2) —
- born again/anew (v. 3, 23) —
- at the revelation of Jesus Christ (v. 7) —
- the salvation of you souls (v. 9) —
- the Spirit of Christ in them (v.11) —
- ransomed (v. 18) —
- foundation of the world (v. 20) —

2. What *encouraging* verse or passage would you like to discuss? _____
Points you would like to make:

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3. What *confusing* verse or passage would you like to discuss? _____
Questions you would like to ask:

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4. What *new information* did you encounter and *what might you do* about its teaching?