

Citizens of Another World (1Peter 1:1-13)

I. INTRODUCTION – THE MAN PETER

- A. The Apostle Peter is one of the 12 disciples called by Jesus (Matt 10:2), called Simon and Cephas (little stone). He was a fisherman. He was one who had a big mouth (he would speak before thinking). He said some amazing things to Jesus, but he often spoke before he thought about what he was saying, and had to be corrected (ex. Matt. 16:16, 16:22. 17:4-5, Jn. 21:15). He boasted that he would never take offense at Jesus, but in the end he denied Christ three times (Matt 26:33-35, 26:69-75).
- B. Peter became a leader in the early Church. He was part of the disciples who waited 10 days in the upper room for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He became a major leader who preached boldly in the name of Jesus Christ resulting in 3000 people turning to Christ.
- C. Peter was a Jew who began his ministry primarily to the Jews. Later God showed him that salvation through Christ was not just to the Jews but to all people, including the Gentiles in all nations (Acts 10:1-48, Peter speaking to Cornelius' household).

II. CALLED TO A HEAVENLY INHERITANCE

- A. This chapter begins by mentioning to whom this epistle is addressed to. The Apostle Peter uses the word “pilgrims” which means exiles, sojourners (to live somewhere temporarily). The idea being that this world is not our permanent home. Back in my early years, we used to use these phrases a lot: “*I’m just passing through!*” and “*It’s all going to burn!*”
¹“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 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.” (1Pet. 1:1-2).
- B. There are several in scripture whom God called out of the place they were into another land. Abraham was one such person. God said: “*Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; and I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed*” (Gen. 12:1-3).
- C. “***elect***” (v.2) Means, *chosen by God*. We are chosen by God to salvation through Christ. There are 4 “elects” in the Bible: Jesus Christ (1Pe. 2:6), All Christians (Rom 8:33), Israel Isa. 45:4), Angels (1 Tim. 5:21).
- D. “***foreknowledge***” (v.2): The word foreknowledge (*prognosis*) means *a perceiving beforehand*. It means that God saw, in eternity past, that He would have to send a Savior to redeem mankind.
³Blessed 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, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1Pe. 1:3-4)

- E. **“begotten us again” (v.3)** speaks of the new birth through Christ (Jn. 3:3). Peter reminds us that Jesus Christ has caused us to be born again when we surrendered our lives to Christ. One cannot know God, or be called a part of the family of God, without this taking place.
- F. **“Living hope” (v.3)** Means, having a joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation. The resurrection of Christ guarantees us a “living hope” for the future.
- G. **“Inheritance” (v.4)** means, *a possession, property received by inheritance*. Christ is our inheritance. The covenant promises He has made with us is our inheritance. This inheritance is *incorruptible and undefiled*. It is un-decaying, unsoiled, pure and it is kept in heaven for us until the “last time” (v.5)

III. THE POSSITIVE SIDE OF SUFFERING

- A. Suffering is probably one of the least favorite topics to talk about. A right view of the Bible tells us that no one is immune from suffering. Jesus said, *“In this world you will have tribulation... (Jn. 16:33). “Thlipsis”* Pressure, oppression, stress, anguish, crushing, affliction, squashing, etc.

*6“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, **if need be**, you have been grieved by various trials, 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. (1Pe.1:6-7).*

- B. **“trial” (v.6)** Is the word, *“a putting to the proof, proving”*. **“if need be”** I have always wondered why *“if need be”* is written there. Who needs a “need be” trial? But trials are a part of life that we have to learn to live through and still keep our testimony in Christ. There are many precious saints who serve as examples of *“being a fragrant aroma”* (example: Corrie Ten Boom) though being tested in the fire.
- C. **“that the genuineness of your faith” (v.7)** Here is the reality: Your faith “tested” through trials of fire, will produce a far more precious substance than anything this world can buy! That’s the plain teaching of scripture. Genuine tested faith is of more value, and is more precious, than gold that perishes.

IV. SALVATION PREDICTED BY THE PROPHETS -- ENQUIRED OF BY ANGELS

- A. Finishing this section, Peter reminds us that though you don’t see Jesus now, and though you may be going through testing, you believe and rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory (v.8). These “things” were searched out by the prophets of old, and are eagerly looked into by the angels of God. Someone has said, “We are God’s university to the angels of God!”

10“Of this salvation the prophets inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you... things which angels desire to look into” (1Pe. 1:10-12).