

Building the Foundation: Author & Audience

1 Peter 1:1-2

I. Introduction (1 Peter 1:1-2)

1. Bible often uses the metaphor of BUILDINGS, especially their FOUNDATIONS in teaching and illustrating Doctrine.
2. Jesus Christ in Sermon on the Mount: Mt 7:24-27
24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 “The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”
3. SEEMINGLY OBVIOUS – FOUNDATION NECESSARY.
4. 1 Peter 2 – Jesus Christ as the CORNER STONE – Which the BUILDERS REJECTED
 - a) whole section talks about living stones, choice stones,
 - b) Believers being built into a spiritual house...
5. BEGIN STUDY in THIS BOOK of 1PETER
6. 1 Peter is a HOUSE BUILDING MANUAL – PRACTICAL BOOK
7. TELLS YOU HOW to BUILD A SPIRITUAL HOUSE
 - a) To LIVE VICTORIOUSLY during life’s TRIALS & PERSECUTIONS
 - b) PRACTICAL BOOK – CHALLENGING BOOK

B. Today we introduce the book of 1 Peter and see TWO foundational aspects to understanding how Christians can live victoriously under persecution and in trials. – 2 STONES to put in your SPIRITUAL HOUSE!

C. REM: Jesus’ words–FOUNDATION is CRITICAL!

FIRST FOUNDATION STONE:

II. THE AUTHOR V.1: Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ.

A. Let me Give HIS SENIOR TESTIMONY!

B. Clearly the leader among Christ’s apostles.

1. Gospel writers place his name at the head of each list of apostles
2. Acts 1-12 shows his leadership

C. Originally: Simon -Christ renamed him Peter (Gr.), or Cephas (Aram.), both words meaning “detached stone or boulder,” i.e., “rock.”

D. Son of Jonas From family of fishermen who lived in Bethsaida and later in Capernaum.

E. Andrew, brother, brought him to Christ

F. Married,- wife apparently accompanied him

G. Called to follow Christ in Christ's early ministry

H. SPOKESMAN for the 12, articulating their thoughts and questions as well as his own.

I. person in gospels MENTIONED > Peter is Jesus

J. Jesus spoke more often to Peter than to any other of His disciples (both praise and blame)

K. No other disciple was so directly and pointedly REPROVED as Peter was

L. No one else but Peter TRIES TO REPROVE His Lord!

M. No other disciple so boldly confessed and acknowledged Jesus as Lord as Peter did

† John 6:68-69 “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.69 “And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”**

† Matt 16:13-16...**who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**

N. No one intruded/tempted/interfered w/Jesus as Pet.

O. His 3 denials of Jesus Christ are second only to Judas' treachery - if non-Christians know one thing about Peter it is probably that story.

1. And His re-commissioning stands on the pages of Scripture for all time – one of the most humbling stories in the NT (John 21).

P. The Lord spoke words of praise, approval, and blessing unlike He spoke to any other person.

Q. think about life experiences behind this book

1. Submission to government
 - a) Peter pulled the coin from the fish's mouth to render unto Caesar what was Caesar's
2. Submission of Jesus Christ –
 - a) Peter tried to stop Jesus Christ from going to Jerusalem to die and here so boldly sets forth Jesus Christ as our example of submission
3. Suffering and Humility-

† **1 Peter 4:12-16**
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, ... to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; ... If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, ... By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian let him not feel ashamed but in that name let him glorify God.

 - a) YET Peter denied Christ 3 times
4. Love – John 21 and Peter's restoration
 - a) 2X he tells his readers to “fervently love” – 1:22; 4:8
5. OPPORTUNITY WITH PETER– you can contrast many details of his past life

with this letter and see the growth he has gone through.

R. Time of Writing

1. First Peter was most likely written just after July, A.D. 64 when the city of Rome burned, thus a writing date of ca. A.D. 64–65.

S. Place of Writing

1. Peter wrote he was in “Babylon” (1 Pet 5:13)
2. Most likely, “Babylon” -alias / code word for Rome
3. In times of persecution, writers exercised unusual care not to endanger Christians by identifying them.
4. Peter, according to some traditions, followed James and Paul and died as a martyr near Rome about two years after he wrote this letter, thus he had written this epistle near the end of his life, probably while staying in Rome.

T. APPLICATION:

1. WE ALL GROW – WE ALL NEED TO GROW
2. BE WILLING TO FIND YOUR NEEDED GROWTH AREAS SO THAT THE TIME DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OLD PETER AND THE NEW PETER CAN BE AS SHORT AS POSSIBLE!
3. WITH RESPECT TO PERSECUTION:
 - a) Peter witnessed the sufferings Jesus Christ (5:1)
 - b) Tradition: Peter HAD to watch his wife crucified - he encouraged her with words “Remember the Lord”
4. Study Peter not only for trials and growth but also to study the testimony of his growth.
5. Consider Peter part of the HEBREWS 11 CLOUD OF WITNESSES (named so in 12:1) that has GONE BEFORE YOU that you can draw upon!

U. TRANSITION: We’ve talked about our AUTHOR, now let’s talk about our CHOSEN AUDIENCE as a FOUNDATION STONE for our Spiritual House that will with stand trials and persecutions.

III. THE CHOSEN AUDIENCE: Elect Gentile Christians

V.1-2... To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

A. Election Introduced

1. Essence of the salutation – **emphasize audience is chosen by foreknowledge of God – Elected!**
2. CHOSEN = Election – one of the most hated doctrines of the Bible
 - a) truth most loathed and reviled by believers
 - b) hated by most “free-will” folks
3. Salvation is an act of God – without any credit or responsibility to man.
4. Seems unfair to only choose some.

5. Why do we want a part?
 - a) Fallenness expresses itself in pride.
6. Is God unfair?
 - a) Never measure God by any human standard!
 - b) Our standards are a function of our fallenness.
 - c) Ps 50:21 - you thought I was like you
 - d) Ps 97:2 – righteous / justice foundation of His throne
 - (1) All God does proceeds from this base
 - e) Is 55:8-9- My thoughts not your thoughts/ My ways...
 - f) no position as fallen creatures to determine what God as right, just or fair.
 - g) Rom 11:33 Oh the Depth of wisdom / intelligence of God. How unsearchable are His judgments, how unfathomable are His ways.
 - h) Divine Justice – essential attribute of God – perfectly and infinitely just, totally unto Himself
 - i) Ps 11:7 loves righteousness
 - j) Source – His free will
 - k) something is just BECAUSE God wills it – not something is just THEREFORE God wills it.
 - (1) God the source- the standard.
 - l) Justice is the issue –if justice was served – hell 4us!
 - m) election unjust? No, its a matter of grace, not justice!
 - n) YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO TRY TO FIGURE THIS CHOSEN / ELECTION THING OUT FROM THE POINT OF "IS IT FAIR?"
 - o) If you don't understand what God does – your std doesn't live up to His std! Not vice versa.
7. Mystery – even after studying it!
 - a) Fallen – you do not think pure divine thoughts
 - b) Finite – cannot grasp fullness of infinite mind of God
 - c) Therefore calls upon faith for what He reveals!

B. AUDIENCE Identified two ways:

1. **EARTHLY identification: ALIENS SCATTERED:** “aliens scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia”
2. **HEAVENLY identification: CHOSEN** “chosen according to the foreknowledge of God,” etc. in V.2

C. EARTHLY Identification: ALIENS SCATTERED

1. Gentiles - not Jews
 - a) Scriptural References
 - (1) 1:14,18 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,
...18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

- (2) 1 Peter 2:10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.
- (3) 4:3-4 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.⁴ And in *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign *you*;
- b) NO DOUBT there are many OT themes (29X) – many that quote the Old Testament Scriptures.
- c) Conclusion: Peter is writing to a Gentile audience as if they were Jewish –
- (1) They are now a people of God
 - (2) Their theology is built from the OT too.

2. residing as aliens scattered...

- a) “Aliens”
- (1) person in environment foreign to their nature
 - (2) Also use in 1 Peter 2:11 from where we see it means “spiritual aliens” to Peter
 - (3) Another way of saying “Christians” BUT
 - (a) In the context of PERSECUTION here EMPHASIZES this is not our home
 - (b) Sets stage for understanding how to deal with Persecution here
 - (c) Remember Col 3:1-4 – set mind on things above not on things of the earth...
 - (4) ie. “to you Christians who are aliens to earth” – not your true home
 - (5) Our Citizenship is in heaven – we are aliens here
- b) “Scattered”
- (1) Scattered = dispersed
 - (2) Literally: “through a sowing”
 - (a) These were not seeds in a basket, but rather seeds sown over a large field – Asia Minor!
 - (3) Jas 1:1 used for Jews “**The** dispersion”
 - (a) For all Jews since the captivities who are scattered throughout the world
 - (4) Used here without that meaning – simple English usage for scattered people
 - (a) Not the scatter Jews of the dispersion
 - (i) No definite article
 - (b) Just means a people scattered.
- c) they reside scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappodicia, Asia, and Bithynia
- (1) Areas mentioned are provinces – part of the Roman Empire

- (2) Peter does a CIRCLE with the names of the provinces
- (3) Today this is Turkey
- (4) Wide audience for letter
- (5) Area that was mostly Gentile
- d) WHY SCATTERED? NERO –MORE NEXT 2 wks

D. HEAVENLY Identification: CHOSEN

1 ... , who are chosen

1. Heavenly identification: CHOSEN (elect)
 - a) Elect = called out ones
 - b) 2:9 you are a CHOSEN race, a royal priesthood...
 - c) Seen through NT:
 - (1) 2 Tim 2:10 chosen, to obtain salvation
 - (2) Titus 1:1 chosen of God
 - d) Again – another name for Christians!
 - e) Together with aliens = “chosen aliens”
 - (1) In the overall context of this letter, Peter is saying to his audience, “You may not be the choice of the world, but you are the choice of God!
 - (2) CHOSEN FOR ETERNITY
 - (3) TEMPORARY ALIENS ON EARTH
 - (4) HAVE ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE
 - f) Pink – the only reason anyone believes in election is because He finds it taught in God’s word – men could have never come up with this doctrine.
 - (1) It is an immediately humbling doctrine
 - (2) He chose us, not we chose Him! Eph 1:4
 - (3) By God’s free sovereign grace
 - g) V.2 Describes / expands on this word “chosen” and the doctrine we call “election”

[v. 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.](#)

2. 4 independent phrases BEFORE a closing sentence
 - (1) [According to the foreknowledge of God](#)
 - (2) [In the sanctifying work of the Spirit](#)
 - (3) [to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood:](#)
 - (4) [May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.](#)
- b) Each phrase expands / defines “chosen” from V.1.
- c) **Labeled these as sub-points to our HEAVENLY IDENTIFICATION:**
 - (1) **SOURCE of our Election**
 - (2) **PROCESS of our Election**

(3) PURPOSE of our Election**(4) BENEFITS of our Election****3. SOURCE of our election** (CHOSEN v. 2 – [“according to foreknowledge of God the Father”](#))

a) Source: foreknowledge

(1) FOREKNOWLEDGE Means: God’s predetermined choice/plan/act of establishing relationship

(2) Eph 1:4 – Chosen BEFORE the foundation of the world = eternity past.

(3) Some: foreknowledge = foresight – God looked ahead to what you would do; chose according to our choice

(a) Men love this interpretation – Why?

(i) In fallenness you want desperately some responsibility in your salvation

(ii) Gives man the credit and allows man to share the glory with God!

(iii) Man loves that!

(iv) Is God a bookkeeper? NO

1Cor 1:29 – No man boast before God

Eph 2:9 – No boasting

(v) In fallenness the other sounds unfair

(b) Makes God a victim of man’s choice

(i) could thwart God’s plans! God does all things by the counsel of His own will. – all his good pleasure

Is 46:9-11 God – There exists no other . . . I will do it.

b) BTW – this isn’t the only “foreknowledge in this chapter! Jesus Christ was foreknown...1 Peter 1:20

[20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you](#)

(1) Does it mean foresight v.20? - God looking down from heaven saying “Oh! I see what Christ is going to do!”? - v 20 not foresight!

(2) Acts 2:23 – Peter at Pentecost

- Jesus Christ “this man” delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God – God delivered Jesus Christ to die!
- Foreknowledge is linked to the predetermined plan!
- Deliberate choice! Predetermined relationship in the knowledge of God.

c) We are FOREKNOWN in the SAME WAY.

d) Source = God’s predetermined choice/plan/act of establishing relationship

e) **TRANSITION:**

(1) So, within the AUDIENCE’S HEAVENLY IDENTIFICATION as CHOSEN / ELECT we see that the

(2) **SOURCE** of our Election being the FOREKNOWLEDGE of GOD

next we see...

4. **PROCESS of our election** “by the sanctifying work of the Spirit” -
- a) Being elect and being saved are two different things – all elect are unsaved at some time
 - b) This is the PROCESS in which election goes from being a plan to a reality is salvation
 - c) New birth, regeneration, faith, repentance – **ALL WORK OF HOLY SPIRIT**
 - d) Sanctifying work Is a Greek word for PROCESS – not result
 - e) THIS IS COMFORTING!
 - (1) God is not a distant God in the comforts of Heaven
 - (2) God tells that something VERY REAL happens TO BRING ELECTION to REALITY – TO SALVATION
 - (3) Also know from Eph 1 that HE is the guarantee of our salvation – the security we have of our eternity
 - (4) AND, HE indwells us!
 - (5) God IN US – making election a reality and working in us as we reside here as aliens!
 - f) **TRANSITION:**
 - (1) So, within the AUDIENCE’S HEAVENLY IDENTIFICATION as CHOSEN / ELECT we see that the
 - (2) **SOURCE** of our Election being the FOREKNOWLEDGE of GOD
 - (3) **PROCESS** of our Election in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit
 - (4) Next:
5. **PURPOSE of our election** “To obedience and sprinkling of blood of Jesus Christ” -
- a) “To obedience...of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Set apart to obey – result of salvation
 - (2) True salvation produces obedience
 - (3) 1 Tim 6:3–“doctrine conforming to godliness”
 - (4) Rom 1:5 Gospel is called bringing people to the obedience of the faith!
 “through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name’s sake,
 - b) “and sprinkling of blood of Jesus Christ”
 - (1) Where did this come from?!!!
 - (2) = Consequence of Salvation – sanctification of Spirit
 - (3) In v.18-19 of Chapter 1 Peter writes:

✠ **1 Peter 1:18-19**
 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

- (4) Ex 24:3-8 – the blood of the covenant – 3 months after leaving Egypt Moses called to the mountain and God gives him the law and he brings down to the people...

† **Exodus 24:3-8**

3 Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances;...”

- (a) Moses proclaimed God’s word to people
- (b) People respond with promise to obey it
- (c) Moses wrote words down – built altar, did sacrifices – ½ blood – altar REST SPRINKLED ON THE PEOPLE.
- (d) Took book of covenant, read it,
- (e) Got another promise of obedience
- (f) They were making covenant of obedience with God, mediated through sacrifice –
 - (i) Blood on people indicated their part of covenant = obedience
 - (ii) Blood on altar = God’s commitment to faithfulness TO Forgiveness, grace – God promises to forgive when we don’t obey.
- (g) Parallel to election
 - (i) When people saved – making past election a reality, They were brought into a covenant with God that was sealed in blood
 - (ii) Covenant of blood -In death of Christ
 - (iii) BOUND IN THAT - A COVENANT OF OBEDIENCE – when we come and accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ we’re not just accepting the benefit of his death on our behalf, WE ARE COVENANTING WITH HIM IN OBEDIENCE.
 - (iv) Peter’s point: you are set apart to God for a life of obedience sealed in the blood of Christ.

c) **TRANSITION:**

- (1) So, within the AUDIENCE’S HEAVENLY IDENTIFICATION as CHOSEN / ELECT we see that the
- (2) **SOURCE** of our Election being the FOREKNOWLEDGE of GOD
- (3) **PROCESS** of our Election in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit
- (4) **PURPOSE** of our Election being OBEDIENCE to Jesus Christ
- (5) And next we see...

6. **BENEFITS of our Election:** May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure”

- a) Often FORGET this SIMPLE phrase
 - (1) CAN ONLY be said to CHRISTIANS!
 - (2) ONLY ones who can KNOW the FULLEST MEASURE of God’s GRACE
 - (a) UNMERITED FAVOR for those He has chosen

- (3) ONLY ones who can KNOW the PEACE of GOD because of the
- (4) CARE we have for us HERE as ALIENS and the
- (5) ETERNITY we have to look forward to.
- b) SO these are TWO BENEFITS of Election!
- c) BUT, Peter is stating these as a DESIRE in his use of "MAY"
 - (1) MEANS we can LIVE such that THESE ARE NOT OURS TO ENJOY!
 - (2) WE PARTICIPATE in SOME of the benefits of election.
- d) HOW do we get these- especially in TRIALS and PERSECUTION?
- e) Peter will unfold that answer in this Epistle
- f) Will BE SEEN in the major themes
 - (1) Faith, Hope, Love
 - (2) Conduct / Behavior -Holiness
- g) This is what we have to look forward to in this book!

IV. Conclusion

A. 1 PETER: show YOU HOW TO LIVE VICTORIOUSLY in the midst of TRIALS and PERSECUTION

B. First TWO verses Peter has given us TWO PARTS to the FOUNDATION of a live that can WITHSTAND TRIALS and PERSECUTION.

C. PETER is part of the CLOUD of WITNESSES that has gone before YOU

- 1. You can LEARN from him that
 - a) YOU TOO can LIVE VICTORIOUSLY
 - b) YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S FAITHFULNESS as PETER DID.

D. You are also the CHOSEN.

- 1. PART of GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN.
- 2. EVERY PART of the TRINITY INVOLVED.
- 3. THE greater your understanding of ELECTION, the greater your TRUST in GOD will Be
 - a) UNDERSTAND His SOVEREIGNTY
 - b) UNDERSTAND His FAITHFULNESS
 - c) HIS LOVE, MERCY, GRACE...

E. NEXT WEEK – CONTINUE to BUILD this HOUSE that will enable to withstand TRIALS VICTORIOUSLY

F. Conclude as Peter did - May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure