

Secure: When Life Hits Hard

1 Peter 1:1-12

1. You Must Remember This

You live near the coast. The National weather service is warning that a Category 5 hurricane is headed your way.

Will you:

_____ evacuate to a safer location?

_____ stay and ride out the storm?

List items you must remember to take with you if you choose to evacuate.

List items you must remember to have with you if you choose to stay

Difficult times come into your everyday life like a hurricane. When they do, we have to be able to do more than flee to higher ground or hide behind some boarded-up windows. There might come a few blue-sky seasons in life where things seem to be going well and everything is falling perfectly in place. But for most of life we are about to go into a trial, will already be in a trial, or will have just come out of a trial. Hurricanes vary in intensity from a Category 1 (least intense) to a Category 5 (most intense). Trials and hard times also vary in intensity.

Peter wrote this letter to people who were starting to feel the pain of persecution. They apparently were struggling to understand why they were going through these difficulties or what they should do about them. We do the same thing—”Why is this happening to me?” “When will this end?” “Am I ever going to get through this?” “What should I do?” When life hits like a hurricane, we don’t need some Christian cliché or bumper sticker theology. We need our roots dug down deep into the rich soil of God’s Word to gain the nutrients that we need. When the retirement account evaporates; when the company goes bankrupt; when the doctor says radical treatment is necessary; when the spouse says it’s over; when the bottom falls out; we need to remember 1 Peter 1:1-12.

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,



2. Historical Background

3. *How is the Lord's church today in a similar situation?*

4. Agree or disagree with this statement:

“Too many Christians become frightened by cultural challenges because they do not have a firm understanding of who they are”

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. 10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

5. Who is Peter?

Based on your prior knowledge and by reading: Matthew 4:18-20
Matthew 14:28-31
Matthew 17:1-5
Matthew 26:33-35, 69-75
John 18:10

how might Peter's contemporaries have completed this statement:
Peter is...

According to I Peter 1:1, how did Peter complete this statement:
I am...

What made the difference between who Peter was and who Peter became?

6. Who Are You?

Who does the world say you are? (Use the prompt below or write your own description.)

Based on my age, gender, ethnicity, physical appearance, personality, and socio-economic status, the world says I am ...

If you are a follower of Christ, who does Peter say you are in 1 Peter 1:1-2?

“strangers”- aliens, exiles, foreigners

Peter started off by addressing his audience as exiles or temporary residents. He repeated the idea again in 2:11. His word choice reminded them that they were not in home territory. Some translations use “aliens” or “strangers” to render the Greek word. The designation recalled the Jews as they had been driven out of Israel to live in foreign lands, first in Egypt then in Babylon. Peter here used that designation for the church. It’s the idea of remembering we don’t belong here. This is not our permanent home. The follower of Christ marches to the beat of a different drummer and must never fall into step with this world

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father chosen twice (1) grace to all (2) foreknown through sanctification of the Spirit-- set apart to God by the work of the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ

I Cor 6: 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

7. What is our role in this world?

When you are not from a country, you can either be in that country as an immigrant or a tourist. An immigrant makes the new country his home. A large number of Christians live this way. All their focus is down here. All their resources (time, influence, money, etc.) go for things that won’t last. Other Christians act like tourists. Tourists are people who don’t really get involved in the country they are visiting. They enjoy the attractions but stay somewhat separated from the native population. A lot of churches/Christians act like this. Instead of living on mission and involving themselves in their communities, they go from one church event to the next and have little impact for the kingdom.

God calls believers to plant their lives here, while realizing their permanent home is not here. (See Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:10.) First Peter 2 (as well as other places such as 2 Cor. 5:20 and Eph. 6:20) encourages us to think like an ambassador. An ambassador is someone sent from one country with a mission to another country.

What values and decisions would change...

8. Ambassadors have trials too.

Considering the trials the believers were experiencing because they followed Jesus, why would Peter praise God rather than express sympathy for them?

Our inheritance is:

imperishable – that is, unable to be corrupted or defiled

undefiled – unpolluted, unstained, unspoiled, pure

unfading – something that never wears out but retains its luster

kept – the idea of being guarded and protected by God

Contrast the world's hope with biblical hope

How would you explain the gospel from just these verses? (1 Peter 1:3-5)

How can worldly hope drain and exhaust us?

How does living hope motivate us to live for Jesus in the midst of the storms?

9. A perspective based on a bigger reality 1 Peter 1:6-7

Christians' trials:

1) are temporary and short in light of eternity

2) are purposeful:

A) Prove our faith genuine

"The trial is not for God to find out how much you believe but for you to find out how much you believe."

B) Transform and purify us.

fiery trials cause impure attitudes and beliefs to rise to the surface in our lives. That's when God can work repentance and cleansing in our lives.

C) Glorify God

believers can bring God glory by the way they handle trials

10. What are the "earmarks" of the right perspective on trials? Peter 1:8-12.

- love Jesus supremely even though we, like the original recipients of this letter, have never physically seen Him.
- trust Jesus wholeheartedly.

Will You or Won't You?

"Take the toughest trial going on right now in your life—physical, relational, financial or whatever—and ask yourself, Am I going to trust God in this or not?"

Identify a trial you're having

Physically

Relationally

Financially

Spiritually

Identify attitudes and actions that will be evident in your life if you don't trust God in this matter.

Identify attitudes and actions that will be evident if you choose to trust God with this matter.

Biblical references on WHO is *elect*, and HOW they are *elect*

Secure because you were chosen, are chosen, and will be chosen

Ro 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

All were chosen in Christ

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Joh 1:29...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Isa 53: 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

I John 2: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

II Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Universal conditions to be met for salvation

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Specifically called

“Re 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Joh 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Joh 7:37...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:

John 1: 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

(God has made the choice to call ALL—we make the choice to respond or not)

Rom 1: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

There are none who are specifically appointed by God to be cursed

There are many who appoint themselves to condemnation by rejecting God’s offer of salvation

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

1Co 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

John 3: 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but **he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

Those which He foreknew He secured

II Thes 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, **brethren beloved of the Lord**, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

This narrower group is doubly secured based on God’s fore knowledge

(God knows everyone before they exist in time- He knows the choices they will make)

Rom 8: 29 For whom he did foreknow (*proginosko*), he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren

I Pet 1: 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge (*prognosis*) of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.