

# A Letter to the DISPERSED & PERSECUTED

1 Peter 1:1

Genesis 39:1-20

Acts 8:1-8



21 July 2024

## A Letter to US - 2024 Saints

- 1 Peter is the Word of God. To ignore or be ignorant of 1 Peter is to ignore God!
- **“Man lives** on every Word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Jesus Christ, Luke 4:4) **NOTE: “Man” not just believers.**
- God is ETERNAL, therefore, His Word is ETERNAL. (Isaiah 40:6-8; Psalm 119:89, **160**; Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:23-25)
  - ▶ **“THE WORD OF OUR GOD STANDS FOREVER!”**
- God’s Word does not change over time.
- God’s Word is not different for different cultures.
- When God moved holy men to write down His Word He had ONE meaning. Man does not have the authority to “say what God meant” - pastors and teachers are to “preach the Word of God”. (2 Timothy 4:3)
- Everything was written for OUR LEARNING! (Romans 15:4)

## Author: Peter

- An apostle - As an apostle, one commissioned by Christ, writes with the SAME authority of Christ.
- From where is Peter writing: “Babylon” (1 Peter 5:13)

## Author: Silvanus (1 Peter 5:12)

- Also *“Silas”*, a traveling companion of Paul. (Acts 15:40; 16:25, 37; 2 Corinthians 1:19; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1)
- Silas was a Romans citizen, like Paul.
- (2 Corinthians 1:19) – Silvanus was a faithful saint serving the LORD where ever God had him.

## Timing

- Both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter were written near the end of his life – between 62 and 65 AD.

- These letters are from a man who witnessed the life, teachings, miracles, death and resurrection of Christ. (See 1 John 1:1-4)
- This man lived his life serving Christ and after almost 30 years of service he writes to us. He writes with 30 years of wisdom and experience.
- ★ Peter is near DEATH. Yet his desire is to serve his Lord and his fellow believers. READ 2 Peter 1:13-14.
- ★ We are called to follow Peter's example. (Psalm 71:17-18)

## Reasons for Letter

- Reasons for God moving Peter to write THIS letter to THESE saints:
  - ① These people were suffering PERSECUTION.
  - ② ERROR had infiltrated their ranks and churches.
  - ③ A tendency toward a lack of HOLINESS (obedience).
  - ④ To stir these saints up to steadfastness in their faith.
  - ⑤ To encourage these saints to grow in their faith.
  - ⑥ To remind these saints to rejoice in their suffering.
  - ⑦ To warn them of more severe persecution was coming.

## The Doctrine of Diaspora

- διασπορά diaspora {dee-as-por-ah'} – “a scattering”; “dispersion”  
→ See Acts 8:1-4
- παρεπίδημος parepidemos {par-ep-id'-ay-mos} – “one who comes from a foreign country”; “a stranger”; “sojourning in a strange place”; “a pilgrim”; “a foreigner”  
★ A person whose citizenship is in heaven but is sojourning (passing through) the “Wilderness” called the Earth. (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 2:11; Hebrews 11:13-16)

### • DOCTRINE OF DIASPORA

- ① No matter where God has us (Acts 17:26) we are to LIVE our Christianity.
- ② We must “earnestly contended for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints”. (Jude 3)
- ③ We must “pursue . . . holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)  
★ (Genesis 39:1-20) Joseph as an example:
  - God promises that there is no temptation too great for us. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
  - But temptations can and many times be very hard and great. Joseph's temptation is a good example.

- ① It was a temptation of the *natural* appetite. Though it was a natural (God-given) appetite it was not right in this case.
- ② It happened when he was away from home. Business trips, university, vacations, etc.
- ③ It was made by someone of importance. To please the person would secure his job. To displease her would put his job in jeopardy.
- ④ It came after an important promotion. Temptation normally follow victory. A way of God reminding us that the power is in HIM not us.
- ⑤ It came repeatedly.
- ⑥ It came at the perfect time – no one would know!
- Joseph’s fight against temptation:
  - ① (vv. 8-9) He gave the moral answer: “My master trusts me and I will not betray that trust.” SIN HURTS OTHERS.
  - ② (v. 9) He gave the spiritual answer: “How can I sin against God?”
    - All sin is sin against God. (Psalm 51:4)
    - His relationship with God was *central* to his dealings.
    - Even though this God had ~~allowed~~ sent him to be sold by his brothers and enslaved in Egypt. (Psalm 105:17; Lamentations 3:37-38; Job 1:20-22)
  - ③ (v. 9) He called sin sin! He called sin *great wickedness!*
  - ④ (v. 12) He ran away! (**2 Tim 2:22 contrast with Psalm 1:1-3**)
- Although Joseph acted in accordance to the will of God he was falsely accused.
- ④ We must stir each other up to STEADFASTNESS – no matter where we are. We need to PERSEVERE to the END! (Hebrew 10:36-39; Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Hebrews 3:6, 14)
- ⑤ We must intimately join ourselves with other true believers and be steadfast in doctrine, prayer, fellowship, and worship. (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:25)

### Those Who Have Gone Before Us (Hebrews 11:13-16)

- (v. 13) “They died in faith” – to die in faith necessitates that one must have lived in faith!
  - They fought the good fight of faith. (2 Tim 4:6-8; 1 Tim 6:12)
  - They ran and finished the race. (Acts 20:24; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Philippians 3:13-14; Hebrews 12:1-2)
  - They lived the Christian life! (Galatians 2:20)

- (v. 13) They SAW the Promises
  - God’s Word was REAL to them.
  - See John 8:56; Hebrews 11:25-27; Job 42:5
- (v. 13) They were ASSURED.
  - Their faith gave them confidence.
  - What they “saw” persuaded them.
- (v. 13) They made the promises their own.
  - They “embraced” the Word of God
- (vv. 13-14) They CONFESSED!
  - They were not afraid to speak of what they believed!
  - See Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 12:8
- (v. 13) Strangers and Pilgrims
  - They were STRANGERS! They were DIFFERENT!
- (vv. 15-16) They set their minds on thing above, not here on earth. (Colossians 3:1-3)
- They were **seeking** (v. 14) and **desiring** something greater than this place!
- They **groaned** to be HOME! A city PREPARED for us by GOD! (Romans 8:23-25)
- They **groaned** to be with the Father! (Genesis 15:1; Psalm 73:25-26)

## Living on Every Word of God

- ❶ We must take 1 Peter as the WORD of GOD for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These truths remain as true today as when the Holy Spirit moved Peter to write them! (2 Peter 1:19-21)
- ❷ We must prepare ourselves for REAL PERSECUTION. First & Second Peter were written to those who were in the midst of great persecution with a promise of more to come! These books have been preserved for our learning. (Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18-20; Acts 14:22; 1 Peter 4:12-17)
- ❸ No matter where God has us we must LIVE the Christian life – not alone but with others as well. (Hebrews 10:25)
- ❹ No matter where God has us we must be steadfast in our study, prayer, fellowship, and worship. (Acts 2:42-27)
- ❺ No matter where God has us we must “walk blameless before Him” (Genesis 17:1) Temptations to conform with the culture must be overcome!
- ❻ We must live by faith so that we might “die in faith”. (Hebrews 11:13)
- ❼ We must set our minds on thing above! (Colossians 3:1-3; Isaiah 26:3-4)