

August 3, 2025

1 Peter 1:3-12

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 to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, 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 and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 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, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, 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 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 to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Scriptures for further study:

Psalms 34:19

John 16:33

Micah 4:1

Isaiah 66:15-1

Zephaniah 1:18

Ephesians 1:9-10

“The Christian in 1 Peter is one who has a hope that holds the future in the present...”

- Edmund Clowney

“In the OT, inheritance was connected to the land God promised and gave to His people. Yet the land was not merely an agricultural possession, but the earthly shadow of a heavenly reality... a pointer to the inheritance of God Himself.”

- Geerhardus Vos



Grace and Glory

1 Peter 1:3-12

BIG IDEA: Because of the glory of our future in Jesus, let us walk today in the assurance of our living, precious, and privileged hope as we encounter the sufferings and hardships of life.

OUTLINE

1. Our Living Hope

2. Our Precious Hope

3. Our Privileged Hope

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These “Sermon Discussion Questions” are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. What most influences how you live today: things that happened in the past, the immediate demands of today, or future planning for future living?
2. Refer to 1 Peter 1:3-10. Why did Peter invite his audience, who are currently enduring trials and persecution, to bless or praise God and focus on their inheritance purchased through the resurrection of Jesus?
3. Read verses 6 & 7. How does suffering test our faith? What practical difference can it make to someone suffering to know the duration and purpose of their trials?
4. Read verses 10 - 12. What about our hope was mesmerizing to the angels and withheld from the prophets? How can the source of our hope reshape how we live purposefully today, informed by the wisdom of the past, hope enough in the future to share this privilege with the suffering folks around us who don't have it?

“The covenant inheritance is nothing less than the enjoyment of God Himself, in Christ, through the Spirit, forever.”

- John Owen

“God's inheritance is not a static possession but the consummation of a journey. It is the homecoming of the sons and daughters of God into the glory prepared for them before the world began.”

- Herman Bavinck

“God has appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has ordained. God will have a day of reckoning and judgment, when he will call mankind to account for all their actions.”

- Jonathan Edwards

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

“The faith of Peter’s readers is being smelted in the fire of various kinds of trials in this life. But when the most precious thing of this world – such as gold – has been destroyed by fire, Christian faith that has been proved genuine will be shown to be the most precious of all because it will deliver one from that day of final, fiery destruction when Jesus is revealed.”

- Karen Jobe

1 Peter proclaims that God’s glorious grace in Jesus Christ is the foundation and fuel for a life of steadfast faith, joyful holiness, and courageous endurance. Writing to believers exiled in a hostile world, Peter reminds them that they have been sovereignly chosen, born again to a living hope through Christ’s resurrection, and called to be a holy priesthood. This grace not only secures their future inheritance but strengthens them in present trials, producing Gospel grit—a Spirit-empowered resolve to stand firm, resist the devil, and reflect Christ’s character in every sphere of life. As recipients of undeserved mercy, they are exhorted to live honorably, submit humbly, suffer patiently, and hope confidently, knowing that after a little while, the God of all grace will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish them for eternal glory.

Praise to Jesus – Praise God for salvation in Jesus! Celebrate the incredible reality that our inheritance is God himself. And though we have Him now and He is with us, we will have Him in His fullness and glory in the future. Let us rejoice that this inheritance is so secure that it’s called living hope, not wishful thinking. Let us also praise God that by the Spirit we have the privilege of knowing the greatness and glory of salvation in Jesus!

Repent through Jesus – Confess to God that all too often we elevate the things of this world to the status of precious, when there is only one truly precious thing, and that is faith in Jesus Christ. It is that faith that will not perish in the end. Repent also of the many times we’ve shaken our fist at God when hardships came upon us, not realizing God’s purifying purpose in those trials as a means of delivering us from the greater fire to come.

Consecration for Jesus – Rededicate ourselves to walking in the assurance of our tomorrow in Jesus so that today looks differently for us who believe...for the glory of God, the good of His people, and the advancement of His gospel to the nations. Church, because of the glory of our salvation in Jesus, let us walk in the assurance of our living hope, our precious hope, and our privileged hope, always, but especially as we encounter the sufferings and trials of life!

FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

1 What does Peter mean when he called the Christians “exiles” in verse 1? (Some translations use “strangers” or “sojourners”. You can tell your children that our recent study of the book of Nehemiah was all about the Jews coming back to the land of Israel after God exiled them to Babylon.

Peter used this word because when we become Christians, we are given a new life and are adopted into God’s family. That means that our true Home is with Jesus in the new heaven and new earth. Therefore, as we live in this sinful world awaiting Christ’s return, we are like those who live in a foreign country and are on a journey to their home country.)

2. What does it mean in verse 3 that our blessings in Christ are “according to His (God’s) great mercy”? (Mercy is an undeserved blessing of not getting something we deserve. Therefore, God’s blessings to us are undeserved. We deserve God’s righteous judgment or wrath due to our sin. But in his great mercy, we don’t get judgment; instead, we get God’s love.)

3. How does Peter describe our Christian hope in verse 3? (He calls it a “living hope” since it is based on our living Savior who was raised from the dead. Make sure to tell your children that biblical hope is not wishful thinking but includes a certainty. In our passage, Peter links our living hope to the resurrection of Jesus. Since we know that Jesus truly rose from the dead, then we can be sure that we have a sure and certain hope.)

4. In verse 6, Peter introduces an important theme for this book. He wrote about the “various trials” that these Christians were facing or would face. How does Peter encourage these Christians? (First, he links their living hope in Jesus to how they can face these trials. This living hope is meant to give them the strength to face these trials. Then in verse 4, he teaches that since their hope is built on God, their inheritance is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading”. This meant that they did not need to doubt or lose confidence in their salvation when they faced these trials. These trials were due to living in a sinful world, not because of anything they had done wrong. He adds in verse 5 that they can face their trials with “God’s power”. Finally, he mentions in verses 6 and 8 that they can even rejoice or have joy when they face these trials.)

5. What did Peter write in verse 12 about the gospel revealed in Jesus? How does this change how you think about the gospel and how you respond in your life based on the gospel? (He said something amazing! He said that the gospel is so precious that the angels in heaven “long to look” at this special time of the revealing of the gospel of Jesus.)

Scriptures for further study:

Philippians 3:20

John 3: 3

James 1:2-4

Philippians 4:10-13

Luke 10:24

FOR STUDENTS

Scriptures for further study:

Philippians 3:20-21

James 1:2-4

Hebrews 11:13-16

Romans 5:1-5

1. In verse 1, Peter calls his readers “exiles.” What does it mean to live as an exile or stranger in the world as a Christian? What are some ways you feel out of place or different because of your faith?

2. Peter describes our hope in Jesus as a “living hope” (v.3), our inheritance as “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (v.4), and that we are being guarded by God’s power (v.5). How does focusing on that future hope help you face hard things now? How does it shift the way you live?

3. In verses 6–7, Peter talks about facing “various trials.” According to this passage, what’s the purpose of trials in the Christian life? What’s something difficult you’ve walked through that God used to grow your faith?

4. In verse 8, Peter says we can love and rejoice in Jesus even though we haven’t seen Him. Then, Peter defines the outcome of your faith as the “salvation of your souls.” What helps you grow in your love and trust for someone you’ve never physically seen? How do you personally experience joy in your relationship with Jesus?

5. Verses 10–12 describe how the gospel—the good news about Jesus—is something even the prophets and angels longed to understand. Why do you think our salvation is so amazing, even to angels? How does that impact how you see the gospel?

6. Knowing that God’s grace secures your future, strengthens you in trials, and gives you joy now, what’s one area of your life that you want to surrender more fully to Him this week?

FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

1. Just look at all the blessings we have from God, as delineated in this powerful passage: we are chosen by God (v.1), shown great mercy (v.3), given new birth (v.3), and a living hope (v.3), guaranteed an inheritance (v.4), promised God's shield of protection (v.5), strengthened in faith as a result of trials, and by grace we have received the salvation of our souls (v.9). No wonder we as Christians are a people of praise (v.3), rejoicing (v.6), and inexpressible and glorious joy (v.8)!!

Reflection: Take some time to rehearse and meditate on all the blessings we have from God. And then take some time to praise God and allow him to fill your heart with overflowing joy.

2. Why is it also good that we consider the realism that our faith is often accompanied by suffering and trials (v.6)? According to Peter, however, what good results from suffering (v.7)? Also, how does our understanding of future blessing and inheritance give us some needed perspective and encouragement to endure our trials here and now?

3. Verse 12 refers to the "gospel," or good news. Quite simply, the gospel is that because of the person and work of Jesus Christ (his life, death, and resurrection), we can be saved. That is, we can receive "new birth" now (v.3), and the promise and guarantee of an eternal life in heaven (v.4). Question: Given all that we stand to gain—and also looking ahead to verse 18, which tells us that God desires to save us from an "empty way of life"—why would we not give up our current life and receive the better and more perfect new life offered by God?!

4. When the Old Testament believer heard the word "inheritance," he thought in terms of the Promised Land. But for the Christian, the use of the word "inheritance" (v.4) has a far greater meaning. In short, our inheritance is God himself (!), the full experience of which is waiting for us in heaven. (See Psalm 16:5; 73:23-26; Lamentations 3:24)

Question: Have you ever received (or are you still anticipating) an inheritance of some kind? How does the biblical idea of inheritance far surpass any other?

5. Peter describes Christian believers as being "strangers in the world" (v.1). We could also picture this as being "sojourners" or "exiles" in the world. Question: In what ways can/should we live apart from this world, and yet not remain aloof from the world?

Living Hope: How God's Glorious Grace in Jesus Shapes and Empowers Us by the Spirit to Live with Gospel Grit in a Foreign Land.



Daniel in the Lion's Den by Briton Riviere, 1872

About the Artist: Briton Rivière, a British painter known for his animal paintings, particularly those featuring dogs and wild animals with deep emotion and dramatic flair, came from an artistic family. His father, William Rivière, was a drawing master and art teacher. Rivière initially studied at the University of Oxford, drawn to literary and historical themes, but later developed a fascination with animals and became renowned for his ability to imbue them with emotional depth and narrative presence.

About the Artwork

"Daniel in the Lion's Den" (1872) depicts the biblical story with lifelike lions, a popular and symbolic theme in Victorian England. It explores faith under trial, divine protection, and moral strength against tyranny, themes that resonated with Victorian audiences during a time when Christian values and moral courage were emphasized.

In Riviere's painting, Daniel's calm, unarmed demeanor symbolizes absolute trust in God. His gaze suggests prayer, hope, or spiritual communion, not fear. He represents the righteous man steady in the face of evil. The lions, though fierce, are subdued, a miracle of restraint. Riviere doesn't show angels or supernatural intervention; the restraint is invisible, spiritual. Some lions are relaxed, others alert, suggesting the tension between nature and divine command. Each lion has a distinct personality, reflecting the mystery of creation. The focused light on Daniel recalls God's presence in darkness. The murky den symbolizes the unknown, death, or temptation, yet Daniel remains untouched. Unlike dramatic biblical scenes, there's no movement or violence. The silence emphasizes Daniel's victory through trust, countering 19th-century action-heavy storytelling with a meditation on spiritual endurance.

1 Peter and Daniel in the Lion's Den

This painting, based on a biblical scene, helps us understand the overall theme of the New Testament letter. 1 Peter teaches Christians that as God's elect, they are called to live holy lives of faithful witness, enduring suffering with hope rooted in God's grace, while embracing their Gospel identity as a holy, royal priesthood in a hostile world. Like Daniel in the Old Testament, we are strangers in a distant place. Jesus told his disciples and us in the Gospel of John that we are "not of this world." Hebrews reminds the church that "this world is not their permanent home." Even within 1 Peter, God's people are called "sojourners and exiles."

Like Daniel, the darkness of this broken, sinful, and fallen world is always present. While we may never face a physical lion, Peter's first letter tells us that our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, and the spiritual forces of evil are ever present. Yet, like Daniel, we must face the opposition with a Gospel poise, knowing that which is unseen is more powerful than what is seen and against us. Peter uses the language of "standing firm" in God's grace as we encounter all forms of darkness.

Church, may we see the beauty of 1 Peter in its overall message: God's glorious grace leading us to Gospel grit as sojourners in a dark world. But may we not just perceive its beauty but also embrace God's unique calling in these words: stand firm!