

Studies in 1 Peter

1 Peter 1:1-2 – Chosen Pilgrims Scattered

The Writer

Peter (or Simon as he was called) was one of the “twelve disciples”. An ordinary fisherman from Galilee, he met the man Jesus of Nazareth who called Peter to follow him (Matthew 4:18-19). After witnessing his miraculous power, his wise teaching, and his perfect life, Peter became convinced that this was no mere man, but the Son of God (Matthew 16:15-16). He became one of Jesus’ closest friends (Matthew 17:1; Mark 5:37).

After Jesus rose again from the dead, Peter, as one of Christ’s chosen “apostles” (Mark 3:14-19), became a prominent leader in the Christian Church (Acts 1:15) and preached the good news of Salvation through Christ to many people (Acts 2:14-16, 38).

The Recipients

Peter is writing to a varied group of Christians. People who have personally accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and trusted in him as their saviour from sin. These Christians lived in a place called Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) and the five Roman provinces may describe a route that the courier (probably Silvanus, see 5:12) would travel. See the map on p. 4.

But Peter gives an elaborate and odd description of these people. He calls them “pilgrims” and says they have been “scattered”. This almost certainly wasn’t true in a physical sense for many of Peter’s readers. They and their ancestors may well have lived in the same place for a long time. So in what sense are they “scattered pilgrims”?

Peter is giving these Christians a heavenly perspective on their situation. Those who have faith in Christ are God’s “chosen” or special people. They have become part of God’s family (1:23), through the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross (3:18). They are made into God’s temple and priesthood (2:5). And they are called to share in God’s glory (5:10).

But this privilege comes with consequences for their life down here. They are called to obedience to their new father (1:17) and this makes them look strange to the culture around them (4:4). They are in danger in this world (5:8) and are called to put their focus on the hope that awaits them (1:13)

Sprinkling with his blood

Christ is the fulfilment of all the sacrifices described in the old testament law (Hebrews 10:12).

His death gains us God’s forgiveness and cleanses our guilty conscience (Romans 3:23-25, Hebrews 10:22).

But does Peter have a specific sacrifice in mind? Maybe! Though we can’t be sure which one.

There are four times when people were sprinkled with blood or water.

Which do you think Peter meant?

Exodus 24 – The Covenant

Exodus 29 – The Priests

Leviticus 14 – The Leper

Numbers 19 – The Cleansing

1 Peter 1:1-2



WRITER

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

RECIPIENTS

To those who are

**Spiritual
Condition**

- 1) elect **(chosen)**
- 2) exiles **(pilgrims)**
- 3) of the Dispersion **(scattered)**

In Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,
Asia, and Bithynia,

Physical Location

God's:

- Plan 1) ²according to the foreknowledge
- Power 2) in the sanctification
- Purpose 3) for
 - a) obedience []
 - b) and for sprinkling
with the blood

of God the Father,
of the Spirit,

[of Jesus Christ]:

**Relationship
with God**

GREETING

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Some Keywords in 1 Peter 1:1-2

Apostle: A person chosen by Christ himself to preach and teach with his authority. This included the twelve, Paul, James and others. (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

Foreknowledge: The knowledge God has of every twist and turn that history and our lives will take, long before they happen. In his wisdom, he is able to work through all circumstances to bless his people (Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28)

Sanctification: To be sanctified or "made holy" is to be "set apart". A Christian is sanctified by having their sins forgiven (1 Corinthians 6:11) and having a new destiny (2 Thessalonians 2:13). Christians must also "separate" from sin (1 Thessalonians 4:3) and they do this through the power of God's Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)