Study Guide

for

1 Peter



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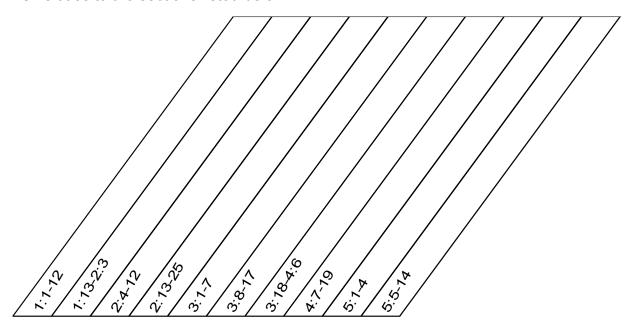
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Introduction

First Reading

Give titles to the sections listed below.



Second Reading

Highlight or write down words or phrases that stand out to you that you look forward to learning more about through this study.

Verse	Word or Phrase	Verse	Word or Phrase

	1		•
ıntı	roa	uci	tion

Third Reading

Identify the different names given for Christ and count how many times they are used.

Names of Christ and times used	Scriptures

Fourth Reading

The word therefore is used 9 times in the book. Summarize what is said in these six instances using the verses before and after each instance to give the context.

1:13 (1:10-16)

2:1 (1:22-2:3)

2:13 (2:11-17ff)

4:1 (3:18-4:6)

4:19 (4:12-19)

5:6 (5:1-11)

Chapter 1

Section 1 - 1:1-12

1. Who is the writer and who is he writing to?

v1

ⁱDefinitions:

FOREKNOWLEDGE, n. Knowledge of a thing before it happens; prescience. **SANCTIFICATION**, n. The act of making holy.

OBEDIENCE, n. Compliance with a command, prohibition or known law and rule of duty prescribed; the performance of what is required or enjoined by authority, or the abstaining from what is prohibited, in compliance with the command or prohibition.

2. How does Peter describe the people and what role do all three persons of the Trinity play in that process?

2
ather:
pirit:
esus:
. What are the two reason that we are "elected" by God and what two things does eter wish for the readers of his letter?
2
. Verses about sprinkling of blood in the Old Testament.
xo 24:5-8
xo 29:19-21
ev 14·1-9

b. By what have we been begotten?
/3
Definitions: ABUNDANT, a. Plentiful; in great quantity; fully sufficient; as an abundant supply. In scripture, abounding; having in great quantity; overflowing with. NCORRUPTIBLE, a. That cannot corrupt or decay; not admitting of corruption. JNDEFILED, a. Not defiled; not polluted; not vitiated. RESERVED, pp. Kept for another or future use; retained. SALVA'TION, n. The act of saving; preservation from destruction, danger or great calamity.
6. To what are we begotten and how is that different from our life prior to being begotten again?
<i>y</i> 4-5
7. We are kept by the power of God through what and for what? 7. (Joh 10:27-29)
3. Even though we rejoice in the salvation that God has given us, what are some of the various trials that you have endured by which your faith has been purified and made genuine?
/6-7 (Mat 5:11-12; Jas 1:2-3)

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v8 (Joh 20:29;1Jo 4:20)
Definitions: GENUINENESS, n. The state of being native, or of the true original.
10. What is the ultimate goal of all our suffering and rejoicing now, in the present time?
<u>v8-9</u>
11. What do we experience now that the prophets of old inquired and searched for?
v10-11
12. Here are some of the previews of what the OT prophets looked for but did not experience.
Lev 16
Psa 22
lsa 53
Dan 7
13. To whom were the prophets ministering and who else desires to look into their ministry?
v12
14. By who is the message preached?
v12

Section 2 - 1:13-2:3

Definitions:

GIRD, v.t. To bind by surrounding with any flexible substance, as with a twig, a cord, bandage or cloth; as, to gird the loins with sackcloth.

SOBER, a. Temperate in the use of spiritous liquors; Not intoxicated or overpowered by spiritous liquors. Not mad or insane. Regular; calm; not under the influence of passion. Serious; solemn; grave.

CONFORMING, ppr. Reducing to a likeness; adapting; complying with.

IGNORANCE, n. Want, absence or destitution of knowledge.

HOLY, a. Properly, whole, entire or perfect, in a moral sense. Hallowed; consecrated or set apart to a sacred use, or to the service or worship of God.

1. Having laid the foundation of having a heavenly inheritance in the first section, what does Peter command the readers to do?

v13	
2. How does Peter implore the readers to act while in this state of reading	ess?
v14 (Rom 12:2; Eph 4:23)	

3. Based on the definition of holy, how are we to conduct ourselves and why?

v15-16 (Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7)

Definitions:

PARTIALITY, n. Inclination to favor one party or one side of a question more than the other; an undue bias of mind towards one party or side, which is apt to warp the judgment.

AIMLESS, a. Without aim. **AIM**, v.t. To direct or point as a weapon; to direct to a particular object.

TRADITION, n. The delivery of opinions, doctrines, practices, rites and customs from father to son, or from ancestors to posterity; the transmission of any opinions or practice from forefathers to descendants by oral communication, without written memorials.

4. Why does Peter tell the reader to conduct them selves with fear?
v17
5. Why is this important in light of God being an impartial judge? Use the definition to assist you.
v17 (Act 10:34-35)
6. What is it that we are not redeemed with and what are we redeemed with? v18-19
V10-19
7. What were some of the traditions of men that were aimless in God's eyes? Isa 1:13-14
Hos 6:1-6
8. When was the plan of salvation formed and when did it come to people on earth and in whom?
v20-21

Definitions:

PURIFY, v.t. To make pure or clear; to free from extraneous admixture. To free from pollution ceremonially. To free from guilt or the defilement of sin. **FERVENTLY**, adv. Earnestly; eagerly; vehemently; with great warmth. With pious ardor; with earnest zeal; ardently.

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9. Peter implies another action to be taken by using the word since. The reader is suppose to act in the manner described above for what reason?
v22-23 (Heb 13:1)
10. To what is God's word compared?
v24-25
11. Why is it significant that the Gospel is God's word?
v24-25
12. How is the reader then suppose to act based on this gospel? What are some of the examples they should be living out?
v2:1-3

Chapter 2

c	_	•	4	4	_
Section	วท 3	1 - Z	:4-	7	Z

1. In review, how are we suppose to come to Jesus?
2:1-3
2. How is Jesus described in verse 4?
v4 (Psa 118:22)
3. Peter refers to the readers as what also and what is being made out of the readers?
<u>v</u> 5
4. As a royal priesthood what are the readers able to offer?
v5
Mar 12:28-33
Rom 12:1
Heb 13:15-16

5. Next there are three Old Testament references that Peter uses to describe who Jesus is and his relationship to people tied to the Old Testament law. Summarize

them in your own words.
<u>v6 (lsa 28:16)</u>
v7 (Psa 118:22)
v8 (Isa 8:14)
6. Peter uses four phrases to describe the readers as compared to those who were blinded by the Law.
v9
7. Peter then describes what it is that this people will do. What is it?
v9-10
8. This is not the first time that there has been a promise related to God's special people. Summarize these verses in your own words.
Exo 6:6-8
Lev 26:9-13
2Ch 7:14

<u>Isa 5:13</u>
Jer 24:7
Jer 31:33
Hos 2:23
Zec 13:9
Definitions: SOJOURNER, n. A temporary resident; a stranger or traveler who dwells in a place for a time. PILGRIM, n. A wanderer; a traveler; particularly, one that travels to a distance from his own country to visit a holy place, or to pay his devotion to the remains of dead saints. In Scripture, one that has only a temporary residence on earth. 9. Why are we considered sojourners and pilgrims and why does that means that our conduct should be different?
<u>***</u>
10. Verse 12 gives us some insight into why our conduct should be different. Summarize the verse in your own words.
11. Reflect on your life for a moment. Are there actions or attitudes in your life that non-Christians might be able to say is evidence that you have forgotten where your citizenship is?

Peter's day	Modern day
v13	
v14	
v14	

3. One question that people always want to know the answer to is what is the will of God. Peter gives us some insight here and explains why this is the will of God too.

v13-15

4. Here are some more verses that talk about the will of God. What do they teach us about the will of God?
1Th 4:3
1Th 5:8
Heb 10:36
1Pe 3:17
1Jn 2:17
Definition: BONDSERVANT , n. A slave; one who is subjected to the authority of another, or whose person and liberty are restrained.
5. Peter gives a warning regarding Christian liberty. What is it?
v16
6. Peter summarizes this section on the Christians attitude and actions toward government with four statements. What are they?
v17
7. Here are passages that talk about the Christians relationship to governments and people in authority. Summarize them in your own words.
1Ti 2:1-4
Mat 22:17-21
Rom 13:1-8

Peter then begins a section describing the relationship between servants and masters. The modern day equivalent would be employees and employers, subordinate and manager, etc.

8. What is to be the attitude of servants to masters?
v18
9. Is there a distinction for good and bad masters?
v18
10. What is considered commendable by Peter?
<u>v19</u>
11. Peter describes an attitude that the Christian is to adopt regarding being treated wrongly. Summarize that attitude here.
<u>v</u> 19-20
12. Peter seems to imply that we should expect to be treated wrongly. Why is that?
<u>v21</u>
13. What was Christ's attitude during his suffering?
v22-23
14. Why did Christ commit himself to "Him who judges righteously"?
v24
15. What is the benefit to the reader from Christ's attitude?
v24
16. What position does Christ now hold?

	Cha	pter	2
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25
17. Based on these two sections of scripture, what should the readers attitude be oward Christ?

Chapter 3

Section 5 - 3:1-7

This is a continuation of the last section and just as Christians are to be good citizens and good employees, they are to be good examples in their family relationships as well.

Definition: **SUBMISSIVE**, a. Yielding to the will or power of another; obedient. Humble; acknowledging one's inferiority; testifying one's submission. 1. Who are wives to be submissive toward? v1 2. What is the possible result of the wives being submissive to their husbands, especially if they are not Christians? v1 3. Paul writes a similar exhortation in Ephesians regarding wives. Summarize it here. Eph 5:22-24 4. How much will the wife have to say to the unbelieving husband if she acts this way to witness to him? v1

5. What will a non-Christian husband observe that will be a witness to him concerning the truth of Christianity?

٧2

6. Looking back at the last section, what might be the fear that Peter is referring to accompanying the wife's chaste conduct?

<u>V2</u>
7. Paul writes about Christians being married to unbelieving spouses. Summarize what he says here.
1Co 7:10-16
8. Peter earlier gave supporting commands to this idea.
1Pe 2:11-12
9. Peter now starts to talk about adornment. What does Peter tell the women not to adorn themselves with?
v3
10. What does he tell them to adorn themselves with?
v4
11. Paul writes to Timothy regarding the adornment of women also. What does he say about this matter?
1Ti 2:9-10

11. We are reminded that God always looks to the heart to see the true nature of a man. What do the following verses have to say about God's attitude toward the heart of man.

1Sa 16:7
Psa 119:2
Jer 24:7
Rom 8:28-29
12. Who are to be the examples for Christian women and why?
v5-6
13. Peter doesn't let the men off the hook. What does Peter have to say to the husbands?
v7
14 What reason does Peter give for why husbands should do this?
v7
15. Paul has much to say to husbands as well. Summarize what he had to say to husbands here.
Eph 5:25-32

16. The Corinthian church had many questions regarding the marriage relationship. Summarize what Paul has to say regarding this here.

	s one thing that you can do or change with regard to your relationshipse or significant other that would fulfill God's desire for the married p?
on 6 - 3:	8-17
on 6 - 3: Peter con	8-17 inues his exhortations to live a changed life.
Peter con Definition COMPAS excited b TENDERH COURTEC	inues his exhortations to live a changed life.
Definition COMPAS excited b TENDERH COURTEC condesce 1. Peter §	cinues his exhortations to live a changed life. SION, n. A suffering with another; painful sympathy; a sensation of some the distress or misfortunes of another; pity; commiseration. EARTED ⁱⁱ adj. soft-hearted; sympathetic. US, a. Polite; wellbred; being of elegant manners; civil; obliging;
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2. What would be the benefit of all the readers being of one mind?
v8
3. Paul wanted his readers to be of one mind also. Summarize what he has to say concerning this here.
Rom 15:5-6
2 Co 13:11
Php 1:27-28
Php 2:2
4. Peter gives a twofold reason why these virtues should be followed at the end of verse 9. What are they?
v9
5. In the Old Testament quote from Psa 34:12-16, there are four things that the person "who would love life and see good days" should do. What are they? v10-11
<u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>
6. What does James have to say about the tounge?
Jas 1:26

7. Paul has something to say about repaying evil for evil. What does he say?

Rom 12:17-21
8. We don't know what God really looks like and it is common to ascribe human qualities to Him to help us understand Him better. There are three "human" body parts that are used to describe God's attitude toward people who do these things. What are they and what action is God said to do with them?
v12
9. Peter asks his readers a rhetorical question in verse 13, but who would do harm to someone who does good?
10. What is the result of suffering for righteousness sake?
v14
11. James writes about this blessing. What is it?
Jas 1:12
Definition: SANCTIFY, v.t. To cleanse, purify or make holy. To separate, set apart or appoint to a holy, sacred or religious use.
12. We know that the Christians are sanctified or set apart, but how would we sanctify God in our hearts?

13. Peter gives another exhortation when those times come when we are oppressed for our faith and good works and for no other reason. What does he say to be ready to do and what kind of attitude are the readers to have when doing this?
v15
14. When we have an opportunity to give a defense of our good conduct, we can have a good conscience for what reason?
v16
15. Why would God will it that we would suffer for doing good?
v17
16. What insights might we gain from Job's experience?
Job 1:6-12

Section 7 - 3:18-4:6

Peter now begins a section discussing Christ's suffering and ours.

1. How many times has Christ suffered for the readers sins?

v	1	β
v		

Definitions:

JUST, a. Innocent; blameless; without guilt.

UNJUST, a. Not just; acting contrary to the standard of right established by the divine law; not equitable; as an unjust man.

2. Who suffered once for sins and for whom?

v18

3. Why did Jesus suffer once for sins?

v18

4. What is the process of suffering that Christ went through for the unjust?

v18

5. Who went and preached to the spirits in prison and by whom?

v19

6. From what time period are these "spirits" from?

v20

See the endnote regarding the three possible interpretations of this passage

7. How many souls were "saved through water" in Noah's day?

v20

Definition:

ANTITYPE, n. A figure corresponding to another figure; that of which the type is the pattern or representation. Thus the paschal lamb, in scripture, is the type of which Christ is the antitype. An antitype then, is something which is formed according to a model or pattern, and bearing strong features of resemblance to it.

8. What is the antitype of the people being saved on Noah's ark through water?

v20-21
9. What is baptism not?
v21
10. What is baptism then?
v21
11. Through what is baptism given it's power?
v21
12. Where is Christ now?
v22
13. What does he have authority over?
v22
14. This is a fulfillment of a Messianic prophecy.
Psa 110:1
14. Paul writes to the Romans and Colossians concerning this idea. Summarize what he says to them here.
Rom 8:37-39
Col 2:15

15. What are the readers to have since Christ suffered in the flesh?		
v4:1		
16. What has the person who has suffered in the flesh ceased from?		
<u>v1</u>		
17. What does this person no longer live for and what does he live for?		
<u>v2</u>		
Peter now begins to describe the mindset that the reader is suppose to have.		
18. What have the readers spent enough of their past lifetime doing?		
v3		
19. How do non-Christians think of Christians who have adopted this mindset?		
v4		
20. How are the Christians treated by the Gentiles?		
v4		

21. What is the fate of people who continue in this lifestyle?

V5	
22. Who is the gospel preached to and for what two reasons?	
v6	

See the endnote regarding the four possible interpretations of this verseⁱⁱⁱ.

Chapter 4

Section 8 - 4:7-19

Peter is writing to Christians who are starting to face overt daily persecution from the government and society.

1. Why do you think Peter uses the phrase "but the end of all things is at hand"?
v7
2. What is to be the attitude of the reader since this is the case?
v7
3. There are 3 "commands" from the apostle that the readers are to follow with regard to one another. What are they?
v8-10
4. What are some of the other "one another's" found in the New Testament?
1Co 11:33
1Co 12:25
2Co 13:12
Gal 5:13
Gal 6:2
Eph 4:32

Eph 5:21
Heb 3:13
Heb 10:24-25
Jas 4:11
Jas 5:9,16
5. What is to be the result of the readers using the gifts that God has given them? v11
6. Have you identified the gifts that God has given to you? If so, what are they and how are you using them to bring glory to God?
7. What do you think it says about your attitude toward God if you are not using your gifts or if you are using them for something other than bringing glory to God?
8. What does Peter tell his readers should be their attitude toward trials when they come?
<u>v12</u>

9. Why does Peter tell his readers to rejoice in trials?
<u>v13</u>
10. If we encounter trials because we are Christians, what can we be sure of?
v14
11. Peter identifies two groups relating to being reproached. What does he say about each of them?
v14
12. Peter then gives a list of people the readers are not to be persecuted for being. Who are they and why would he not want his readers to be persecuted for being part of these groups?
v15
13. Again what is the reader to do if he suffers as a Christian?
v16
14. Why are they to do this?
v17

15. Peter quotes from Proverbs 11:31 regarding the fate of the righteous and sinner. What does that passage say about them?

<u>v18</u>
16. Jesus spoke of the judgment in Matthew 25:31-46. Summarize here what the Son of Man will do in the day of judgment.
17. What are Peter's readers to do then since this is the case?
v19

Chapter 5

Section 9 - 5:1-4

Peter has presented a case for serving for God's glory and for suffering for God's glory, now he moves on to leadership within the local church.

Definitions:

EXHORT, v.t. To encourage, to embolden, to cheer, to advise, to incite by words or advice; to animate or urge by arguments to a good deed or to any laudable conduct or course of action.

WITNESS, v.t. To see or know by personal presence.

PARTAKER, n. One who has or takes a part, share or portion in common with others; a sharer; a participator; usually followed by of.

SHEPHERD, v. Lead, protect and govern the people, and provide for their welfare.

OVERSEER, n. One who overlooks; a superintendent; a supervisor, an officer who has the care of the poor or of an idiot.

COMPULSION, n. The act of driving or urging by force, physical or moral; force applied; constraint of the will; the application of a force that is irresistible; the state of being compelled or urged by violence.

EAGERLY, adv. With great ardor of desire; ardently; earnestly; warmly; with prompt zeal.

EXAMPLE, n. A pattern; a copy; a mode; that which is proposed to be imitated. A pattern, in morals or manners. Precedent; a former instance. A person fit to be proposed for a pattern; one whose conduct is worthy of imitation.

1. Who does Peter address this next section to?

v1

The Greek word used for elders, $\pi \varrho \epsilon \sigma \beta \dot{\upsilon} \tau \epsilon \varrho \sigma \varsigma$ - presbúteros, can refer to a number of things: those having seniority, a bishop or presbyter, older or aged, or the oldest in the church. $\dot{\upsilon}$

2. What qualifications does he give for being able to exhort the elders?

<u>v1</u>	
3. What is the command that Peter gives	ves the elders of the church?
<u>v2</u>	
4. Peter also tells them to serve as ov might that entail?	verseers. Based on the description, what all
5. Peter then gives three reasons for r being an elder or how to be an elder.	not being an elder followed by three reasons for What are they?
Not or Nor	But
v2	
v3	
v3	

Peter describes.

6. What is the ultimate reward of those who hold the office of elder in the way that

v4
The role of elder is an important one in the church. Let's see what some of the other writers have to say regarding this.
Paul writes to Timothy and Titus regarding choosing elders and deacons for the churches where they are serving.
7. What are the qualifications for being an elder?
1 Ti 3:1-7
Tit 1:5-8
8. What are the qualifications for being a deacon?
1 Ti 3:8-13

r 5	
9. James	has this to say about the role of elders in the church?
Jas 5:14	
10. What	conclusions then can we make concerning the role of elders and deac church?
11. Wha	t should our attitudes be in relationship to the elders and deacons of t

Section 10 - 5:5-14

Peter just finished writing to the elders of the church, exhorting them to be good examples. Now he writes to the rest of the church.

1. Who does Peter address in the beginning of this section and to whom are they to submit themselves?
v5
2. Next Peter writes to everyone. What are they suppose to do?
<u>v5</u>
Definitions: SUBMISSIVE, a. Yielding to the will or power of another; obedient. HUMILITY, n. In ethics, freedom from pride and arrogance; humbleness of mind; a modest estimate of one's own worth. In theology, humility consists in lowliness of mind; a deep sense of one's own unworthiness in the sight of God, self-abasement, penitence for sin, and submission to the divine will.
3. What reason does Peter give for the readers to be submissive to one another and to clothe themselves in humility?
v5 (Pro 3:34)
4. What reason does Peter give to be humble before God?
<u>v6</u>
5. One of the ways that Peter gives regarding how to humble oneself before God is what?
<u>v7</u>

6. What reason does Peter give to do this?

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There is a song that uses this verse as its inspiration.

CARES CHORUS

I cast all my cares upon You I lay all of my burdens down at your feet And any time that I don't know what to do I will cast all my cares upon You.

Kelly Willard

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7. Let's look at some other verses that talk about how God cares for his people. Summarize what they say below.

Psa 42			
Lam 3:32			
1 Co 10:13			
Eph 3:20			
Heb 6:19-20			
Psa 146:5-6			

Mat 6:25-34
Rom 15:13
Definitions: SOBER, a. Temperate in the use of spiritous liquors. Not intoxicated or overpowered by spiritous liquors; not drunken. Not mad or insane; not wild, visionary or heated with passion; having the regular exercise of cool dispassionate reason. Regular; calm; not under the influence of passion. néphō; fut. népsō. To be sober-minded, watchful, circumspect (1Th_5:6, 1Th_5:8; 2Ti_4:5; 1Pe_1:13; 1Pe_4:7; 1Pe_5:8). The word does not mean to abstain from the use of alcohol but rather to refrain from the abuse of it which leads to intoxication. VIGILANT, a. Watchful; circumspect; attentive to discover and avoid danger, or to provide for safety. STEADFAST', a 1.fixed in direction; steadily directed: a steadfast gaze. 2.firm in purpose, resolution, faith, attachment, etc., as a person: a steadfast friend. 3.unwavering, as resolution, faith, adherence, etc. 4.firmly established, as an institution or a state of affairs. 5.firmly fixed in place or position. 8. Why does Peter exhort his readers to be sober and vigilant? What would being
sober and vigilant look like?
<u>v8</u>
9. How does Peter describe our adversary?
v8

10. Peter asks his readers to take an active role in resisting the adversary. What reason does he give for taking this posture?

<u>v9</u>
11. What would be examples in your life of you being steadfast in your faith?
12. Peter implies that his readers will suffer. Who does he say will bring them through the suffering?
v10

Definitions:

PERFECT, v.t. To finish or complete so as to leave nothing wanting; to give to any thing all that is requisite to its nature and kind. To instruct fully; to make fully skillful; as, to perfect one's self in the rules of music or architecture; to perfect soldiers in discipline.

katartízō; fut. katartísō, from katá (G2596), with, and artízō (n.f.), to adjust, fit, finish, from ártios (G739), fit, complete. The fundamental meaning is to put a thing in its appropriate condition, to establish, set up, equip, arrange, prepare, mend. Also from artízō (n.f.): exartízō (G1822), to accomplish.

ESTABLISH, v.t. To set and fix firmly or unalterably; to settle permanently. To found permanently; to erect and fix or settle; as, to establish a colony or an empire. To enact or decree by authority and for permanence; to ordain; to appoint; as, to establish laws, regulations, institutions, rules, ordinances, &c. To settle or fix; to confirm; as, to establish a person, society or corporation, in possessions or privileges. To make firm; to confirm; to ratify what has been previously set or made. To settle or fix what is wavering, doubtful or weak; to confirm. To confirm; to fulfill; to make good.

STRENGTHEN, v.t. To make strong or stronger; to add strength to, either physical, legal or moral; as, to strengthen a limb; to strengthen an obligation. To confirm; to establish; as, to strengthen authority. To animate; to encourage; to fix in resolution. To cause to increase in power or security.

SETTLE, v.t. To place in a permanent condition after wandering or fluctuation. To fix; to establish; to make permanent in any place. To establish; to confirm. To

determine what is uncertain; to establish; to free from doubt. To fix; to establish; to make certain or permanent. To fix or establish; not to suffer to doubt or waver.
13. What does Peter say that God wants to do to his readers when they have gone through sufferings?
v10
14. Peter really drives home this point by using four very strong words to describe what God wants to do. What are they? Also, describe a person who has had this happen to him. Remember you are one of Peter's readers!
<u>v10</u>
15. Peter ends the paragraph by giving a short prayer of praise. It summarizes why all of this would happen. What is that reason?
<u>v11</u>
We find out in v12 that it is Silvanus that is the secretary for Peter in writing this letter and we find out a little bit about how Peter feels about him. He calls him a faithful brother.
16. Who are some people in your life that you would call a faithful brother or sister?
·

17. Peter summarizes the reason that he is writing to his readers. What is it?

<u>v12</u>
v13-14 are Peter's final greetings. The phrase, "she who is in Babylon," refers to the church in Rome. Mark is believed to be the Mark that writes the gospel of Mark.
18. In our culture we don't usually kiss each other when we meet. How might the church today greet fellow believers when we meet them somewhere?
19. Peter ends with a benediction, praying that peace be evident in their lives. We know that Peter is writing to people who are suffering. How are they to experience peace in the midst of suffering?

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- i All definitions are taken from Webster's 1828 Dictionary, e-Sword Bible software, www.e-sword.net, unless otherwise noted.
- ii tenderhearted. (n.d.). Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1). Retrieved November 05, 2007, from Dictionary.com website: http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/tenderhearted.
- iii The Nelson Study Bible, copyright © 1997, by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

Interpretation of the spirits in 1 Peter 3:19, three possibilities.

- 1.Some interpret these verses as describing Jesus as going to the place where fallen angels are incarcerated and declaring His final victory over evil in His work on the Cross. These commentators suggest that Peter is referring to the days of Noah because these fallen angels were typified by the gross immorality of those "spirits" who married human women at that time (Gen 6:1-4; 2 Pe 2:4; Jud 1:6). Depending on the commentator, this proclamation is assigned to the time between Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, or to a time after Christ's ascension to heaven.
- 2.Other hold that spirits refers to human spirits. Thus Christ preached to human beings who had died in Noah's day and were in the realm of the dead (hell of Hades). Although some have insisted that Christ's preaching included an offer of salvation to these people, this is at best unlikely and at worst misleading, for Scripture never concedes a "second chance" for sinners after death. The content of Christ's preaching was most likely a proclamation of His victory over sin.
- 3. Finally, another major interpretation understands this passage as describing Christ preaching through Noah to the unbelievers of his day. Since they rejected Noah's message of salvation, they were presently in prison that is, hell.

Interpretation of the dead in 1 Peter 4:6, four possibilities. The first two maintain a connection to 3:19,20 and the last two don't.

- 1. Some see a connection between the gospel preached in this verse and the proclamation in 3:19,20. Accordingly, they understand this verse to be about Christ offering salvation to those who lived in pre-Christian times (see note above). This is most likely mistaken, because there is no indication in Scripture that anyone gets a "second chance" to be saved after death.
- 2. Another group of commentators also connects this preaching to 3:19,20, but holds that this verse is speaking of Christ preaching to righteous people of Old Testaments times.
- 3. One view has Peter speaking of the gospel which was preached to believers who are now dead. They had died just like other people, but they were now living with God.
- 4. The final and perhaps the most sound interpretation of this verse is that Peter is referring to the spiritually dead. The gospel was being preached to them so that they could come alive spiritually.
- iv Original language definitions are taken from The Complete Word Study Dictionary, e-Sword Bible software, www.e-sword.net, unless otherwise noted.
- v steadfast. (n.d.). Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1). Retrieved December 06, 2007, from Dictionary.com website: http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/steadfast