

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 7 | LESSON 21

Letters – The Promise Explained Through the KING’S Church




God is a PROMISE Completing God

JESUS as the 1) **PROMISED KING** has 2) **RESCUED** His people through His Perfect Law Keeping Life and Sacrificial, Substitutionary Death on the Cross, whereby 3) **DEFEATING** the enemy of sin and death, and is 4) **RESTORING** them to the PLACE OF REST where Heaven and Earth are rejoined and God reigns and abides 5) so that His people shall be with Him forever for their **JOY**.

“You Are A Chosen Race”

1 Peter 2:4-12

⁹ But **you are A CHOSEN RACE**, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know why the world, the flesh, and the devil seek to persecute the Christian. Q – How does being a stranger or an alien [i.e. foreigner] in this world [a citizen of another country] change the way people look at you or treat you?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose Jesus even if and when we suffer for His name’s sake. Q – Is it hard to stand fast when others treat you poorly?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray God will not lead us into suffering, but deliver us from it. Q – What can be our attitude when we suffer for the sake of the gospel?</p>

EMPHASIS

The EMPHASIS of this lesson is . . .

“Peter is writing to encourage his readers to endure suffering and persecution (1:6–7; 2:18–20; 3:9, 13–17; 4:1–4, 12–19; 5:9) by [trusting in God’s good providence] (4:19).”¹

“First Peter focuses on the importance of believers **bearing up under unjust suffering** [notice how much of the NT deals with suffering] yet continuing to live well (1 Peter 2:20). In this way, 1 Peter might be called the Job of the New Testament, providing encouragement for the true believer to continue on in the way that Jesus has laid out for all His followers. The endurance Peter called these believers to is similar to Job’s, a man who suffered despite his righteousness. Peter maintained that this was the kind of true perseverance that God [enables] from His people.”²

“Jesus becomes the focal point for ordering one’s life in the midst of trials and tribulations. By rooting their perseverance in the person and work of Christ, believers can always cling to hope in the midst of suffering.”³

LITERARY EMPHASIS

See Structure

HISTORICAL EMPHASIS

Elect exiles (1:1,17; 2:11; 5:13). Christians are a displaced people.

“Peter wrote to a group of people that probably included both Jews and Gentiles. The apostle addressed the letter’s recipients as “aliens” (1:1), a word indicating that Peter was speaking not just to Jews or just to Gentiles but to Christians who were living their lives in such a way that they would have stood out as aliens among the surrounding culture.”⁴

“Peter, probably writing from Rome (called “Babylon” in 5:13), addressed 1 Peter to believers in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. These names all referred to Roman provinces in Asia Minor, north of the Taurus Mountains.”⁵

STRUCTURE

In the circumstances of suffering and persecution, Peter reminds his audience what they truly are in **2:4-12**.

Although the entire outline for 1 Peter is provided,⁶ the focus will be on **1 Peter 2:4-12** and the three descriptions of those who are in Christ.

- Greetings (1:1–2)
- Praise to God for His Grace and Salvation (1:3–12)
- Exhortations to Holiness of Life (1:13–5:11)
 - The Requirement of Holiness (1:13–2:3)
 - **The Position of Believers (2:4–12)**
 - 1. A spiritual house (2:4–8)**

“The temple is where a holy God lives with imperfect people. It’s only made possible by sacrifices which somehow deal with the problem of our sin. The temple is where God lives with his people. It’s where God shows his glory. It’s where God’s people worship. It’s where he deals with their sin. As Peter writes these verses, the temple still stands in Jerusalem. It’s in its last years before being completely destroyed in 70AD. But something’s happened. The temple is no longer where God lives with his people anymore. It’s changed. Peter speaks of the church — the ordinary company of followers of Jesus who are bound together in Christ — as the new place where God lives with his

people. Peter mixes metaphors, actually. We're not just stones in his temple, but we're priests in the temple doing God's work."⁷

"We also "like living stones" are built into a spiritual temple. This theme of Christians being collectively the temple of God built upon Jesus, the chief cornerstone, is found elsewhere in the New Testament. "Built into" is the Greek verb *oikodomeō*, "to construct a building, build." Jesus spoke this same word to Peter when he said, "I will build my church!" (Matthew 16:18)."⁸

Now the analogy moves from a holy temple to a holy priesthood.

2. A chosen people (2:9–10)

You, as part of this community, were chosen by God. See also Ephesians 1:3-14.
1:1-14

Chosen by the Father (v. 4) to the praise of His glorious grace (v. 6)

Redeemed by the Son (v. 7) to the praise of His glory (v. 12)

Sealed by the Spirit (v. 13) to the praise of His glory (v. 14)

3. Aliens and strangers (2:11–12)

Finally, Peter warns us of our tenuous position here on earth.

We've seen these words before in 1 Peter, reminding of our status on earth:

- "**Aliens**" (NIV, NRSV), "strangers" (KJV) is the Greek adjective *paroikos*, "pertaining to being a resident foreigner, stranger, alien, one who lives in a place that is not one's home."
- "**Strangers**" (NIV), "pilgrims" (KJV), "exiles" (NRSV) is the Greek adjective *parepidēmos*, "pertaining to staying for a while in a strange or foreign place, sojourning, residing temporarily - stranger, sojourner, resident alien."⁹

Peter speaks of this same idea in 1 Peter 1:1.

- ¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those **who reside as aliens, scattered** throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

In the "Hall of Faith" chapter, the author of Hebrews points this out about God's People.

- Heb. 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that **they were strangers and exiles on the earth.**

It is amazing to think that even though Christians are citizens of another country and are displaced they are still a spiritual house and a chosen people! Wow. Who we are in Jesus is our true identity.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

Although we are in the world, we are not of the world. Although God Almighty is creator of heaven and earth, Satan currently sits as the prince of the power of the air. This duality or tension tells us that we are citizens of another country. Inside of this tension, God is reclaiming what is rightfully His and will once more and forever unite heaven and earth. We look for and long after this fulness.

Jesus is the king who governs the kingdom in which we are citizens. His rule is compassionate and generous.

The rule of Jesus will reach all the way around the world until the knowledge of His glory covers the earth like the waters cover the sea, HALLELUJAH!

VISUALS | CRAFTS

1. A child's log cabin kit. Each of us are pieces making up the building.
2. FIND some objects that are special. Something that is special to you for sentimental reasons or because of its uniqueness. Items from a trip or from a family member and explain why they are special. Jesus makes us special. We are a chosen race, etc.
3. Use construction paper or an old deck of cards to have the kids build a "house / Temple." This is what God is doing and this is who we are.

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 2:9 But **you are A CHOSEN RACE**, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

APPLICATION

"The lesson of 1 Peter is to push through the troubles, recognizing their temporary presence in our lives while walking in holiness and hope as people of faith."¹⁰

- A spiritual house (2:4–8)
- A chosen people (2:9–10)
- Aliens and strangers (2:11–12)

RESOURCES

ENDNOTES

- ¹ <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-1-peter/>
- ² <https://www.insight.org/resources/bible/the-general-epistles/first-peter>
- ³ <https://www.insight.org/resources/bible/the-general-epistles/first-peter>
- ⁴ <https://www.insight.org/resources/bible/the-general-epistles/first-peter>
- ⁵ <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-1-peter/>
- ⁶ <https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-1-peter/>
- ⁷ <https://dashhouse.com/belonging-matters-1-peter-24-12/>
- ⁸ http://www.jesuswalk.com/1peter/3_temple.htm
- ⁹ http://www.jesuswalk.com/1peter/3_temple.htm
- ¹⁰ <https://www.insight.org/resources/bible/the-general-epistles/first-peter>