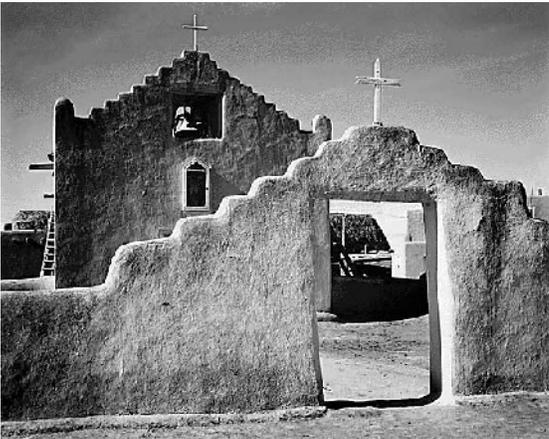




<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.  
I Peter 2:4-5 (NRSV)



The New Church  
(Erected about 1860)

Ansel Adams  
1920/29 Gelatin silver print

## VOCABULARY

(From Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms by Donald McKim)

**Doxology** (Gr. *doxa* "praise", *legein* "to speak") A form of praise to God.

**Theology** (Gr. *Theos* "God", *logos*, "speech") Language or discourse about God. It can be a scientific or methodical attempt to understand God's revelation. It has classically been seen as "faith seeking understanding".

**Soteriology** (Gr. *Soteria*, "salvation") Pertaining to the doctrine of *salvation*.

**Christology** (*Christos*, "anointed one" and *logos*, "study") The study of the *person and work of Jesus Christ*.

**Eschatology** (Gr. *Eschatos*, "last," and *logos*, "study") Study of the *last things* or the end of the world. Includes notions regarding the second coming of Jesus Christ and the last judgment.

**Household codes:** NT passages that provide ethical instruction for various social relationships; wives and husbands, children and parents, slaves and masters (Eph.5:22-6:9; Col. 3:18-41; I Pe 2:18-3:7).

I Peter is a general letter addressed to Christians in northern Asia Minor (modern Turkey) that is meant to encourage and comfort those who are no longer acceptable to their cultural world. In the late first century A.D., Roman authorities recognized that Christ followers were not a sect within Judaism, and were suspicious of new religions and groups that did not fully share their values. Non-conformists were viewed as potential threats to hierarchical relationships and encouragers of immorality. As a result, Christians were subject to outbreaks of persecution. I Peter exhorts Christians to responsible living and not abandoning the world. The letter reminds the reader of the Lord's return, and that obedience to Christ is worth any present, temporary discomfort.

## OUTLINE

- I. **A GREETING TO THE CHRISTIAN DIASPORA OF ASIA MINOR** (1:1-2)
- II. **THE OPENING OF THE LETTER: REASSURANCE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE** (1:3-2:10)
  - A. **Doxology as the basis for Christian life** (1:3-12)
    1. The opening doxology (1:3-5)
    2. Joy and suffering in the new life (1:6-9)
    3. The Christian's advantage over the prophets and even the angels (1:10-12)
  - B. **Be what you are** (1:13-2:3)
    1. Be children of the Father (1:13-21)
    2. Christian love means moral transformation (1:22-2:3)
  - C. **The identity of God's people** (2:4-10)
    1. A spiritual house and holy priesthood (2:4-8)
    2. Now you are the people of God (2:9-10)
- III. **AS GOD'S PEOPLE, LIVE GODLY LIVES** (2:11-4:11)
  - A. **Commendable social behavior as God's people** (2:11-3:7)
    1. Lifestyle evangelism (2:11-12)
    2. Submit even to pagan authority (2:13-17)
    3. Christ's example in society's most basic unit (2:18-3:7)
      - a. Slave as paradigm for believers (2:18-25)
      - b. Instructions to Christian wives and husbands (3:1-7)
  - B. **The Inner qualities of righteous living** (3:8-12)
  - C. **Suffering unjustly for the name of Christ** (3:13-4:11)
    1. Suffering for doing good (3:13-17)
    2. Christ's victory over unjust suffering (3:18-22)
    3. Living out Christ's victory in an unbelieving world (4:1-6)
    4. Living out Christ's victory in the Christian community (4:7-11)
- IV. **CONSOLATION FOR THE SUFFERING FLOCK** (4:12-5:11)



## PRAISE THE FATHER, PRAISE THE SON

(Ed Cash, Chris Tomlin)

### Verse 1

O sovereign God, O matchless King  
The saints adore, the angels sing  
And fall before the throne of grace  
To You belongs the highest praise

### Verse 2

These sufferings, this passing tide  
Under Your wings I will abide  
And every enemy shall flee  
You are my hope and victory

### Chorus

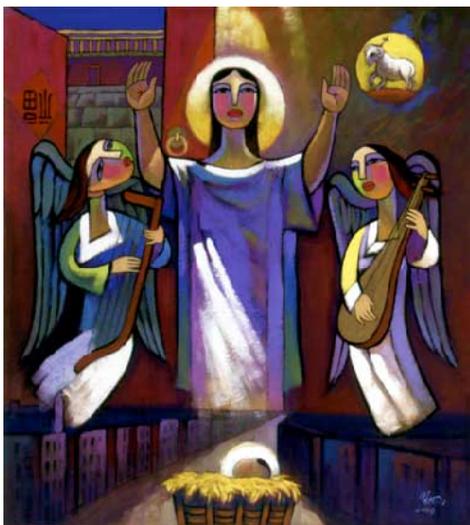
Praise the Father, Praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit, Three in One  
Clothed in power and in grace  
The name above all other names

### Verse 3

To the valley, for my soul  
Thy great descent has made me whole  
Your word my heart has welcomed home  
Now peace like water ever flows

### Bridge

Yours is the kingdom and the power  
Yours is the glory  
Forever



Messiah

He Qi (China)

- A. **Two final thoughts about suffering for Christ** (4:12-19)
- B. **Final exhortations to the community** (5:1-11)
  - 1. Christ shepherds his flock through the elders (5:1-5)
  - 2. Accepting difficult times, standing fast and trust God (5:6-11)
- V. **The letter closing: final words and greetings** (5:12-14)

## THEMES IN 1 PETER

### Christians as visiting foreigners and resident aliens

- This is the primary way readers are to understand themselves and their engagement in society. *Foreignness characterized the children of Israel's experience.* They were scattered away from Jerusalem's theocracy (temple, priest, prophet and king) and into various cultures and societies around the Mesopotamian and Mediterranean worlds.

### Suffering for being a Christian

- When God's call to holiness conflicts with the values and morals of society, devoted Christians can expect to experience opposition (1:6).

### Concept of Jesus Christ (central to 1<sup>st</sup> Peter's theology)

- The work of the Holy Spirit is presented in relation to the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ (*Suffering Servant*- see Isaiah 52:13-53:12), and is connected to the work of God's Spirit throughout the history of ancient Israel.
- By raising Christ from the dead, a new eternal life exists.
- To believe in the resurrected Christ is to have faith and hope in God.
- Christ is essential to new birth and *central to the Christian's new life.*

### Concept of God

- God is the God and Father of Jesus Christ (1:3)
- God is the father of Christians by virtue of the new birth generated by his imperishable seed (living and enduring word- 1:3; 1:23)
- God's nature is merciful, and redemption flows from this mercy. The existence of the Christian church is also evidence of the effectiveness of God's mercy.
- God is impartial judge of each one's life (1:17)

### Concept of Salvation

- Comes through belief in Jesus Christ and is the same salvation foretold by the prophets.
- Occurs when the Gospel is heard and believed.
- The price of redemption (1:18-25) was the *substitution of Jesus Christ in death for the sins of others* (2:21-25).
- Reconciliation with God (3:18)

### Concept of Eschatology

- Embraces past, present and future. It is a calling to future eternal glory based upon the past resurrection of Jesus Christ, and "the yet to be revealed".
- Because *God's judgment is near*, Christians must not be distracted or captured by the things of this world.
- Christian life is one of witness and engagement, not withdrawal or non-participation.