



Author: Simon Peter, apostle
(for more, see “Peter’s Life and Ministry” in The Lutheran Study Bible p. 2148)

Date: Before AD 67

Genre: Letter; possibly a sermon or early baptismal liturgy

Purpose: To instruct and encourage the Lord’s people as they endure suffering for the sake of righteousness

Outline:

II. Thanksgiving (1:3–12)

III. Christians Lead Holy Lives (1:13–2:10)

A. New status: Be holy as God is holy (1:13–16)

B. The redemption price (1:17–21)

C. Maturing in faith and love (1:22–2:3)

D. Living stones, royal priesthood, chosen people (2:4–10)

IV. Specific Instructions and Encouragement for Holy Living (2:11–4:11)

Commit to Memory Verses: Ransomed by Christ’s blood (1:17–19); the chosen people (2:9–10)

The Letter of Hope

1 Peter 1:13–2:10

hope with holiness of life

Overview: Having hope through Christ, even those who face hostility and suffering can live holy lives with boldness and confidence.

1 Peter 1:13–21 ▪ New Status

+ In contrast to their “former ignorance” and “futile ways,” how are Christians to live in the world? List the verbs/verbal forms (words denoting actions and states of being) used here.

+ What does it mean to “be holy”? From where does holiness come? See Leviticus 19:1–2. What is the purpose and context of the Book of Leviticus? See also Isaiah 6:1–7.

+ In what ways is 1 Peter 1:18–21 like a hymn or a creed?

What Does This Mean?

+ In what ways are you “holy”? In what ways are you “unholy”? How is our holiness connected to Jesus Christ? To the Holy Spirit? To the Holy Scriptures and the Holy Sacraments?

+ If we merit forgiveness of sins by our acts, of what benefit is Christ? If we can be justified by reason and the works of reason, what need is there of Christ or regeneration?

1 Peter 1:22–2:3 ▪ Maturing in Faith and Love

+ St. Peter writes, “Having purified your souls” and “since you have been born again.” When did these things happen? What do they mean for the present?

+ What is perishable? What is imperishable? See Isaiah 40:6–8; Psalms 102:11; 103:15.

+ What is “the pure spiritual milk”? What occurs in those who receive it? See Ephesians 4:13–14.

+ How is this image of “milk” applied elsewhere in the New Testament? See 1 Corinthians 3:2; Hebrews 5:12–13.

What Does This Mean?

+ Why has Christ ransomed us?

+ How could the words of 1 Peter 1:25—“The Word of the Lord Remains (or Endures) Forever”—serve as motto for life?



+ Do we long for and crave things other than the pure spiritual milk? If so, what and why?

1 Peter 1:13–2:10

hope with holiness of life

+ How can Christian congregations function in a priestly way?

1 Peter 2:4–2:10 ▪ Living Stones, Royal Priesthood, Chosen People

+ What image is used for Jesus? What does that make us?

+ Which of the descriptions of the Church resonate most with you: A spiritual house, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people for His own possession? Why?

What Does This Mean?

+ If all believers are a “royal priesthood,” does that mean everyone is a minister? Why do we have pastors?

Melanchthon: We know that confidence is to be placed in Christ’s intercession, because this alone has God’s promise. We know that Christ’s merits alone atone for us. Because of His merits we are regarded righteous when we believe in Him, as the text says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.” (Ap XXI, 31)

Conclusion: Christ, the light of the world, has called us out of darkness into His light. He makes us His own, gives us a place as citizens of His kingdom, and empowers us to live as His royal priesthood. We are not alone but are part of His people, a holy nation.

Next week . . . 1 Peter 2:11–3:7—hope while living in the world

Opening/Closing

Like newborn infants,

long for the pure spiritual milk of the Word.

If you call on Him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds

conduct yourselves with fear through the time of your exile,

knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers,

not with perishable things such as silver or gold,

but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession,

that we may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness

into His marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;

once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Before the study

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, without Your help our labor is useless, and without Your light our search is in vain. Invigorate our study of Your holy Word, that by due diligence and right discernment, we may establish ourselves and others in Your holy faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.***

After the study

*Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light now and in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.***