

“Our Inheritance” - 1 Peter 1:3-12

Ask - Have you ever received any type of inheritance from someone? Share your story.

Background - Peter wrote this letter to the Jewish believers who had, because of persecution, been dispersed from Jerusalem throughout the surrounding regions. He sought to encourage them to persevere in the midst of their sufferings.

“Hope In Anticipation of It” - 1 Peter 1:3-5

(v3) What is the reason in this verse that Peter blesses the name of God? What does he mean by “living hope”? On what is it based? Discuss.

(v4) What do Christians hope to obtain? What is this inheritance?

(v5) What guarantees that Christians will receive this inheritance? When will they receive it?

PETER BEGINS HIS LETTER BY PRAISING THE LORD FOR THE LIVING HOPE THAT ALL CHRISTIANS HAVE IN THE FUTURE INHERITANCE OF GOD.

“Rejoice In Light of It” - 1 Peter 1:6-9

(v6-7) Peter urges believers to rejoice in this living hope even in spite of what? What should trials prove about a believer’s faith? What should be the result of faith that is tested with trials?

(v8) How is faith described in this verse? Compare with John 20:29. How are faith and joy connected?

(v9) What is the outcome of faith that hopes in Christ, endures sufferings in His name, and rejoices in the midst of them?

PETER CONTINUES BY URGING BELIEVERS TO ENDURE PERSECUTIONS AND TRIALS WITH JOY KNOWING THAT THEIR INHERITANCE IS CERTAIN.

“Recognize the Significance of It” - 1 Peter 1:10-12

(v10) According to this verse, what did the Old Testaments prophets prophesy of? What did this grace concern?

(v11) What specifically were they searching or inquiring to know?

(v12) Who actually got to see these Old Testament prophecies about the coming

Messiah be fulfilled? Did the angels know in advance when Christ would come?

PETER STRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE THAT ALL THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT THE COMING OF CHRIST HAD BEEN REALIZED IN THEIR GENERATION.

Application - Christians have the certainty of eternal life with Jesus in heaven. They will enjoy the endless blessings and goodness of God. This should give them a living hope which enables them to rejoice even in the face of trials and sufferings. We as New Testament believers have seen the prophecies of old fulfilled in Christ. They longed for it, but we have actually seen it come to pass! May we allow the assurance of our inheritance as believers be a source of strength for us in this life. Does your hope for tomorrow give you joy today? Pray about it.