

Keeping Your Eternal Perspective

Video Bible Study | First Peter 1:1-2 | 3/20/20

“What Do I See?” (Read the text)

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

“What Does It Mean?” (Answer some questions)

1. What is an apostle?
2. There is significant variation in how English Bibles translate the recipients of v.1. What do these readings teach us about Peter’s audience?

<i>“To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion”</i>	ESV
<i>“To the pilgrims of the dispersion”</i>	NKJV
<i>“To the temporary residents dispersed”</i>	HCSB
<i>“To God’s elect, exiles scattered throughout”</i>	NIV
<i>“To elect sojourners dispersed”</i>	My rough translation

3. There are five places named in v.1 What effect might reading this section of the letter have on the recipients undergoing persecution?
4. Which members of the Trinity are named in v.2? What roles are they performing?

5. What is the role of the dispersed believers?

6. What do you think the relationship is between being an “alien” and being chosen by God?

7. What are we to make of the phrase “be sprinkled with His blood”?

8. What are some conclusions we can draw about the Trinity based on this passage?

9. What are we to make of the words Peter used in his tone of hope at the end of v.2?

“How will I apply the meaning to my life?” (Live for Christ)

Digging Deeper

The Doctrine of God's Foreknowledge

“Foreknowledge” means “to know beforehand.” The verb (*proginosko*) and the noun (*prognosis*) are formed from the Greek verb, *ginosko* (know, understand, perceive, be acquainted with). Scripture uses these terms to signify knowledge of events before they occur or knowledge of things before they exist. These terms occur seven times in the NT. God is “omniscient” (He knows all things—Prov 15:3, Ps 147:5, Ps 139:2).

The Bible speaks of God's foreknowledge in relation to His plan and His people. For example, God foreknew the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:23)—it was part of His “predetermined plan.” Elsewhere, reference is made to His benevolent love toward a people: “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son ...” (Rom 8:29a). Here, God chose to set His love upon a people. It had nothing to do with the choice of the individual (Rom 9:13-18). Besides, God cannot “learn” who will choose Him because He already knows all things. For God to “discover” who will choose Him in time contradicts His omniscience and sovereignty.

When Peter writes that Christians were “chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father” He means that God—of His own sovereign choice—set His love upon a particular people. In addition to many parts of the Bible establishing this, we need not leave chapter 1 of 1 Peter to confirm it. In v.20, Peter writes of Jesus Christ: “He was foreknown before the foundation of the world ...” Again, here the term means that God knew an individual with a deep, relational love. It does not mean that God possessed intellectual facts about Jesus. Rather, just as God foreknew His elect with a sovereign love, He also foreknew His Son with an incomparable love.