

Is Peter Writing to You? 1 Peter 1:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

Peter is best known of the apostles of Jesus.

He figures prominently in the Gospels as well as the first part of the book of Acts.

In every list of the apostles, Peter is the first name listed.

He was very impetuous in the Gospels as well as being very bold for Jesus.

The portrait of Peter that comes through all four accounts pictures him as impulsive, often rash; he is the first to act and speak his mind and was typified by his enthusiasm for everything in which he had a part. *Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "Peter, The Apostle," Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1661.*

Consulting any Bible dictionary will give you a good understanding of him.

He was a fisherman when Jesus called him.

He had a wife although nothing is ever said of children.

His home town was Capernaum where Jesus healed his mother in law.

In the first two verses of this book Peter addresses the people to whom he is writing.

It is good to ask if we are a part of those to whom the letter is addressed.

I. Pilgrims Scattered

A. Pilgrims

1. 3927 *παρεπίδημος* [parepidemos /par·ep·id·ay·mos/] adj. From 3844 and the base of 1927; TDNT 2:64; TDNTA 49; GK 4215; Three occurrences; AV translates as "pilgrim" twice, and "stranger" once. **1 one who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to reside there by the side of the natives. 2 a stranger. 3 sojourning in a strange place, a foreigner. 4 in the NT metaph. In reference to heaven as the native country, one who sojourns on earth.** James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).
2. One of the first things that we teach a child is their address, just in case they become lost.

3. We all have an address and the enhanced 911 system is supposed to know where that is at.
4. But often when I would travel for work people would ask, “Where are you staying?”
5. They knew that was not where I lived but that I was only visiting their city and would one day go back home.
6. For the Christian this is not our home, we are like a soldier stationed in another country and would one day go home.
7. This is how the first century Christians saw themselves, Pilgrims, sojourners in a foreign land.
8. 1 Peter 1:17 (NKJV)
 - a. 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;
9. 1 Peter 2:11 (NKJV)
 - a. 11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,
10. Philippians 3:20 (NKJV)
 - a. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
11. Hebrews 11:13 (NKJV)
 - a. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
12. Hebrews 13:14 (NKJV)
 - a. 14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.
13. So if this world is your permanent residence then Peter is not writing to you.

B. Scattered

1. These believers were a “scattered” people as well as a “strange” people. The word translated “scattered” (diaspora) was a technical term for the Jews who lived outside of Palestine. It is used this way in John 7:35 and James 1:1. However, Peter’s use of this word does not imply that he was writing only to Jewish Christians, because some statements in his letter

suggest that some of his readers were converted out of Gentile paganism (1 Peter 1:14, 18; 2:9–10; 4:1–4). *Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 389.*

2. They were scattered because of the persecution that was taking place.

II. The Chosen of God.

- A. God is the sovereign architect, He doesn't leave His eternal purpose to chance.

1. Acts 15:18 (NKJV)

- a. 18 "Known to God from eternity are all His works.

2. Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

- a. 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

3. John 15:16 (NKJV)

- a. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

4. The word translated "elect" is generally found in the plural and refers either to the members of God's people as a whole or to those in a particular local church (Rom 8:33; Col 3:12; 1 Thes 1:4; 2 Tm 2:10; Ti 1:1; 1 Pt 1:1; 2 Pt 1:10; Rv 17:14; Rom 16:13 and 2 Jn 13 have the singular form). The use of the plural may partly be explained by the fact that most of the NT letters are addressed to groups of people rather than to individuals. *Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "Elect, Election," Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 682.*

- B. According to the foreknowledge of God.

1. Some suppose that God simply looked down through history to see who would believe in Him and then chose to save those.

- a. But this begs the question, if they were going to believe then why did not have to choose them.

- b. And doesn't that make salvation by works where man get the credit for his salvation.

- (1) Ephesians 2:7–9 (NKJV)

- (a) 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have

been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

c. But actually the Bible does talk about God looking down from heaven.

(1) Psalm 53:2–3 (NKJV)

(a) 2 God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.

2. But there is another sense in which knowledge is used in the Bible.

a. It is said that Adam knew his wife Eve and she conceived.

b. So the word can be used of to know intimately or to love.

c. Amos 3:2 (NKJV) Speaking to Israel as a nation.

(1) 2 “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

d. Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

(1) 21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

3. The idea of foreknowledge as used in 1 Peter 1:2 is to love beforehand.

4. Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

a. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

b. Notice that it is whom He foreknew, not what He foreknew.

c. Notice the security of the believer in that those whom He foreknew

will eventually be glorified.

d. Romans 11:2 (NKJV)

(1) 2 God has not cast away His people **whom He foreknew**. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel,

e. Genesis 18:19 (NKJV)

(1) 19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

(2) The him is Abraham

f. John 10:14–15 (NKJV)

(1) 14 I am the good shepherd; and **I know** My sheep, and **am known** by My own. 15 As the Father **knows Me**, even so **I know** the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

(2) There is much more in this word than simply to take knowledge of, it has the idea to love and to know intimately.

g. 2 Timothy 2:19 (NKJV)

(1) 19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

So is this letter written to you?

If not then you are not a Christian.

2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

Are you pursuing God in your life?

If you seek Him you will find Him when you do it with all your heart.

John 6:37 (NKJV)

37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, **and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**