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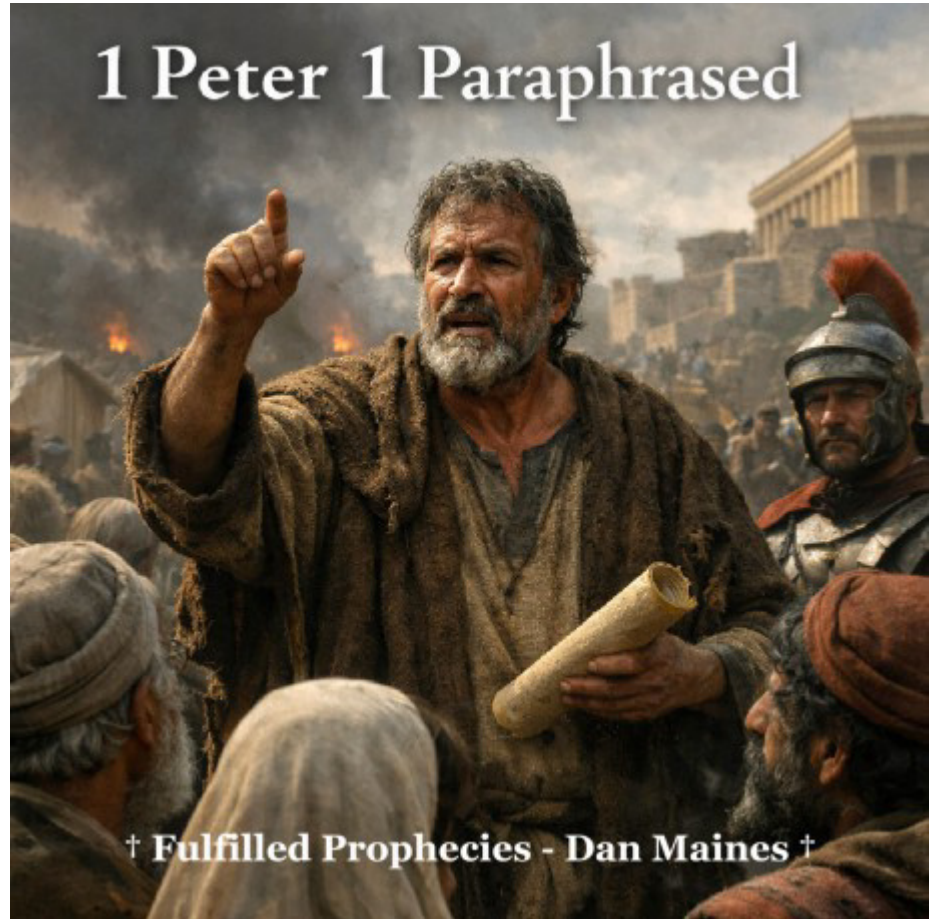
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1 Peter 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 Peter 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Peter wrote this letter to believers scattered throughout the Roman provinces during a time when the Old Covenant world was nearing its end (Hebrews 8:13).

† The chapter centers on the living hope believers received through the resurrection of Jesus and the salvation unfolding in

their generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

† From the fulfilled perspective, Peter was encouraging believers who were living in the final transition from the Old Covenant age to the established kingdom of Christ (Hebrews 9:26).

1 Peter 1:1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, writes to God's chosen people scattered as strangers throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

† These believers were scattered across Asia Minor as the gospel spread outward from Jerusalem (Acts 2:9-11).

† They were called strangers because their true citizenship now belonged to the kingdom of Christ rather than to the old covenant system (Philippians 3:20).

† The church had become the gathered people of God across the nations (Ephesians 2:19).

1 Peter 1:2

You were chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, set apart by the Spirit so that you would obey Jesus Christ and be cleansed by his blood. May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

† God's foreknowledge shows that redemption through Christ was planned long before the events of that generation unfolded (Acts 2:23).

† The cleansing through Christ's blood fulfilled what the temple sacrifices could never permanently accomplish (Hebrews 10:10-12).

† Through the Spirit believers were set apart as the new covenant people of God (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

† The resurrection confirmed that Christ had defeated death and established the foundation of the new covenant kingdom (Acts 2:24).

† This living hope rested on the historical reality of the resurrection witnessed by the apostles (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

† Through the new birth believers entered the life promised through the prophets (Ezekiel 36:26).

1 Peter 1:4

We were born again to receive an inheritance that cannot decay, cannot be stained, and cannot fade away, reserved in heaven for you.

† The inheritance promised to believers is the kingdom secured by Christ rather than the land promises tied to the old covenant nation (Galatians 3:29).

† Unlike the temple and city that would soon pass away, this inheritance cannot be destroyed (Hebrews 12:28).

† The language of heaven emphasizes the permanence and authority of God's kingdom (Matthew 6:20).

1 Peter 1:5

You are being protected by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

† The last time refers to the closing period of the Old Covenant age that culminated in the judgment of Jerusalem (Hebrews 1:2).

† The salvation about to be revealed involved deliverance from the judgment that was coming upon that generation (Luke 21:22).

† Peter expected this fulfillment within their lifetime just as Jesus taught (Matthew 24:34).

1 Peter 1:6

Because of this you rejoice, even though for a little while you have been distressed by various trials.

† Early Christians experienced persecution from both Jewish authorities and Roman rulers (Acts 8:1).

† Their trials were temporary compared to the glory that followed the end of the old covenant order (Romans 8:18).

† Their suffering reflected the same rejection Christ endured (John 15:20).

1 Peter 1:7

These trials test your faith so that it proves genuine, far more valuable than gold that perishes even though it is refined by fire, and it will result in praise and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

† Faith refined through suffering proved who truly belonged to Christ (James 1:2-3).

† The revealing of Christ refers to his judgment presence in that generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Just as gold is purified by fire, persecution exposed the difference between true believers and those clinging to the old system (Malachi 3:2-3).

1 Peter 1:8

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Even now, though you do not see him, you believe in him and rejoice with a joy that cannot be fully expressed and is filled with glory.

† Their faith rested on the testimony of the apostles who had seen the risen Christ (Acts 2:32).

† The joy they experienced came from knowing the kingdom promises were being fulfilled in their generation (Luke 10:23-24).

† Christ ruled from heaven while his authority was being revealed on earth (Acts 2:33-36).

1 Peter 1:9

Because you are receiving the result of your faith, the salvation of your lives.

† Salvation included deliverance from the judgment that was about to fall upon Jerusalem (Luke 21:28).

† Believers who trusted Christ would escape the destruction that Jesus warned about (Luke 21:20-21).

† Their faith secured their place in the kingdom that could not be shaken (Hebrews 12:28).

1 Peter 1:10

The prophets searched carefully and tried to understand this salvation as they spoke beforehand about the grace that would come to you.

† The prophets spoke of the coming salvation but did not see the full timing of its fulfillment (Daniel 12:8-9).

† Their writings pointed forward to the Messiah and the new covenant blessings he would bring (Jeremiah 31:31).

† Peter's readers were witnessing the fulfillment of what the prophets anticipated (Luke 24:44).

1 Peter 1:11

They were trying to understand what time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating when it predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

† The prophets foretold both the suffering of the Messiah and the glory that would follow (Isaiah 53:5).

† Christ's suffering came first, then the glory of his kingdom was revealed through the gospel (Luke 24:26).

† The apostles lived in the period the prophets longed to understand (1 Peter 1:12).

1 Peter 1:12

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things now announced to you through those who preached the gospel by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things that even angels long to look into.

† The gospel fulfilled the promises spoken through the prophets (Acts 3:24).

† Even angels observed the unfolding of God's plan of redemption (Ephesians 3:10).

† The first century church witnessed the climax of God's redemptive work (Hebrews 9:26).

1 Peter 1:13

So prepare your minds for action, stay alert, and place your hope fully on the grace that is being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

† Peter urged believers to stay spiritually alert because the end of the age was near (1 Peter 4:7).

† The revelation of Christ refers to his judgment coming in that generation (Luke 21:27).

† Their hope was tied to the completion of God's promises unfolding in their lifetime (Romans 13:11).

1 Peter 1:14

As obedient children, do not be shaped by the desires you once followed when you lived in ignorance.

† The gospel called believers to turn away from their former sinful lifestyles (Acts 3:19).

† Both Jews and Gentiles were called into a transformed life under the new covenant (Ephesians 4:22-24).

† This new life stood in contrast to the fading world of the old covenant order (2 Corinthians 5:17).

1 Peter 1:15

Instead, just as the One who called you is holy, you also must be holy in everything you do.

† God's people have always been called to reflect his holiness (Leviticus 11:44).

† Under the new covenant holiness comes from a transformed heart (Hebrews 8:10).

† The church became the holy people of God in Christ (1 Peter 2:9).

1 Peter 1:16

Because it is written: You shall be holy, for I am holy.

† Peter quotes the law to show that God's character and moral standard never change (Leviticus 19:2).

† The moral call continues even though the covenant system changed (Romans 7:6).

† Holiness flows from the new birth believers receive through Christ (John 3:3).

1 Peter 1:17

If you call on the Father who judges each person's work without partiality, live your time here with reverence.

† God judges every person without favoritism (Romans 2:11).

† This warning was urgent during the years leading to Jerusalem's destruction (Luke 21:36).

† Believers were called to live faithfully while the old age was passing away (1 Corinthians 7:31).

1 Peter 1:18

You know that you were not redeemed with things that decay, like silver or gold, from the empty traditions passed down from your ancestors.

† Religious traditions without Christ could not bring redemption (Mark 7:8).

† Wealth and ritual offerings could never purchase salvation (Psalm 49:7).

† Christ's sacrifice replaced the ineffective systems of the old covenant (Hebrews 9:12).

1 Peter 1:19

Instead you were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a spotless and perfect lamb.

† Jesus fulfilled the role of the Passover lamb who takes away sin (John 1:29).

† His sacrifice ended the need for animal offerings forever (Hebrews 10:18).

† Through his blood the forgiveness promised in the new covenant was secured (Matthew 26:28).

1 Peter 1:20

He was known before the foundation of the world but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

† God's plan of redemption existed before creation itself (Ephesians 1:4).

† Christ appeared during the last days of the old covenant age (Hebrews 1:2).

† Peter reminds his readers they were living in that final transition period (1 Peter 4:7).

1 Peter 1:21

Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

† The resurrection proved Jesus is the promised Messiah (Acts 2:36).

† Faith in Christ replaced dependence on the temple system (John 4:21-23).

† Christ now rules with full authority over heaven and earth (Ephesians 1:20-22).

1 Peter 1:22

Since you have purified your lives by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for one another, love each other deeply from the heart.

† Obedience to the gospel produces genuine love among believers (John 13:34).

† The church became a new family united through Christ (Galatians 3:28).

† Love is the evidence of true spiritual transformation (1 John 3:14).

1 Peter 1:23

You have been born again, not from seed that perishes, but from seed that cannot perish, through the living and enduring word of God.

† The new birth comes through the gospel message proclaimed by the apostles (James 1:18).

† This new birth creates a spiritual family beyond physical ancestry (John 1:12-13).

† God's word establishes a kingdom that will never fade away (Isaiah 40:8).

1 Peter 1:24

For all flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like the flower of the field. The grass dries up and the flower falls.

† Peter quotes Isaiah to remind readers how temporary human glory is (Isaiah 40:6-7).

† Even powerful systems and nations fade away with time (Psalm 103:15).

† The old covenant order itself was fading away in their generation (Hebrews 8:13).

1 Peter 1:25

But the word of the Lord remains forever. And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

† The gospel message remains forever even when earthly institutions pass away (Matthew 24:35).

† Through that message believers entered the everlasting kingdom promised by the prophets (Daniel 7:14).

† Peter closes by reminding them that the gospel they received fulfilled God's eternal plan (Acts 13:32-33).

Historical References

† Justin Martyr explained that the church had inherited the covenant promises that once belonged to Israel's system.

† Irenaeus wrote that the apostles lived during the time when the prophetic promises were coming to fulfillment.

† Eusebius recorded that early Christians understood the destruction of Jerusalem as the completion of the old covenant

order.

How it applies to us today

† Our hope rests in the finished work of Christ rather than in a future earthly system.

† The inheritance Peter spoke about belongs to believers now because Christ has already established his kingdom.

† We live as God's holy people by loving one another and remaining faithful to the gospel that never fades.

Q & A Appendix

Q: What are the last times Peter mentioned?

A: Hebrews 1:2 and 1 Peter 4:7 show that the apostles believed they were already living in the final days of the Old Covenant age.

Q: What inheritance was Peter referring to?

A: Galatians 3:29 teaches that believers in Christ inherit the promises given to Abraham.

Q: What salvation was ready to be revealed?

A: Luke 21:28 connects redemption with the approaching deliverance tied to the events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem.

Q: What does Peter mean by being born again through the word of God?

A: James 1:18 explains that God brought believers forth by the word of truth, meaning the gospel message produced the new birth that created the new covenant people.

Q: Why does Peter emphasize holiness in this chapter?

A: Leviticus 11:44 and 1 Peter 1:15 show that God's people

have always been called to reflect his holiness, and under the new covenant that holiness comes from a changed heart.

Q: What traditions was Peter referring to when he spoke about empty traditions?

A: Mark 7:8-13 shows how religious traditions had replaced God's commands, and Peter reminds believers that redemption did not come through those systems but through Christ's sacrifice.

Q: Why did Peter quote Isaiah about grass fading and flowers falling?

A: Isaiah 40:6-8 contrasts the temporary nature of human systems with the enduring word of God, and Peter used it to show that God's promises remain even while earthly orders pass away.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 1 Peter 1:1-25; Matthew 16:27-28; Hebrews 1:2; Luke 21:20-28; Acts 2:23-36; Galatians 3:29; Daniel 7:14; Hebrews 12:28

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History.

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