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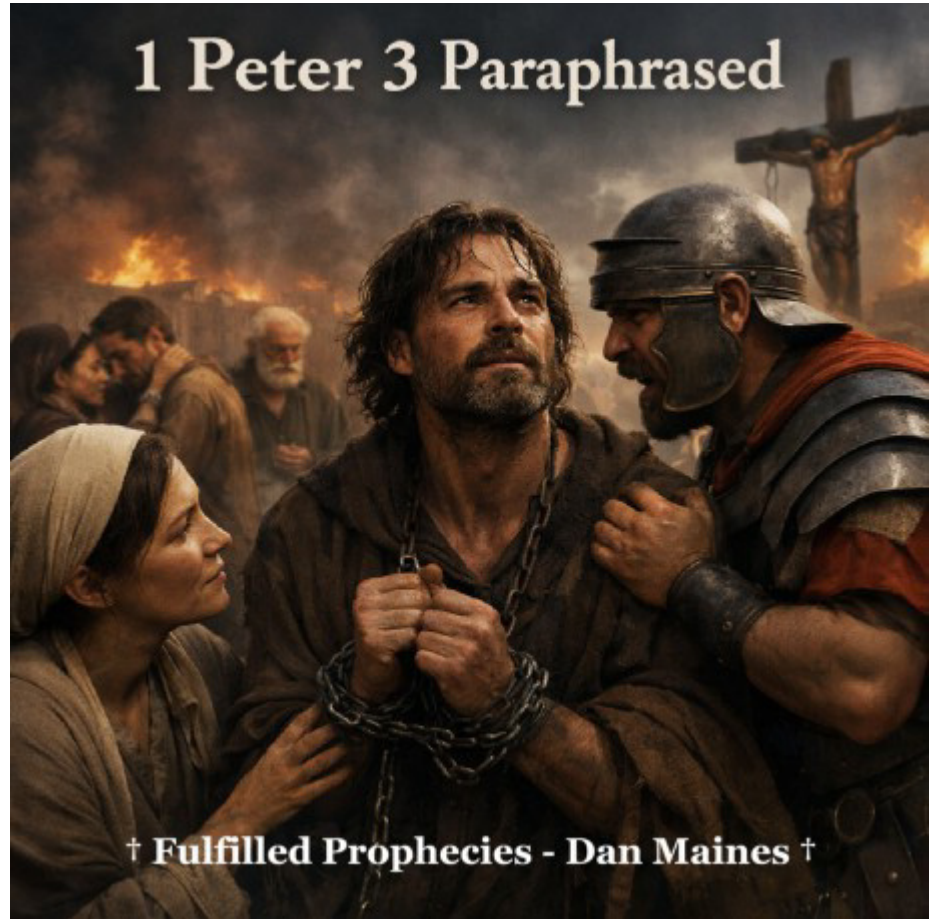
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## 1 Peter 3 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## 1 Peter 3 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Peter continues explaining how believers were to live during the final years of the old covenant age, when persecution was increasing and the judgment of Jerusalem was approaching (1 Peter 4:7).

† The focus in this chapter is conduct, especially within marriage, within the Christian community, and in the face of suffering. Peter shows that righteous living was a witness during

that transitional time (Matthew 5:16).

† This instruction wasn't about earning salvation, it was about demonstrating the character of Christ while the gospel was spreading before the end of the age (Matthew 24:14).

### **1 Peter 3:1**

In the same way, wives should live in respect toward their husbands, so that if some husbands don't believe the message yet, they might be won over by the way their wives live, even without many words.

† Peter emphasizes conduct over argument. A godly life could persuade unbelieving husbands when words alone might not (1 Corinthians 7:16).

† Quiet, faithful behavior often spoke louder than debate, especially in households where one spouse believed and the other did not (Colossians 4:5-6).

† This shows the power of daily faithfulness as a testimony.

### **1 Peter 3:2**

They will notice the purity of your life and the respect you show.

† The transformation of a believer's life was meant to be visible (Matthew 5:16).

† Peter points out that moral character and respect had the power to soften hearts (Titus 2:7-8).

### **1 Peter 3:3**

Your beauty shouldn't come mainly from outward things like elaborate hairstyles, gold jewelry, or expensive clothing.

† Peter wasn't forbidding appearance care, he was correcting misplaced priorities (1 Samuel 16:7).

† The culture of the Roman world often emphasized external

status displays, but believers were called to value inner character (1 Timothy 2:9-10).

### **1 Peter 3:4**

Instead, let your beauty be the inner person of the heart, the lasting beauty of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which God considers very valuable.

† Inner character reflects the work of God in the heart (Galatians 5:22-23).

† Peter stresses that what God values is not outward status but spiritual character.

### **1 Peter 3:5**

This is how faithful women in the past honored God. They trusted Him and showed respect toward their husbands.

† Peter connects Christian conduct with the examples of the faithful women of Israel (Hebrews 11:11).

† Faith in God produced humility and trust within family life.

### **1 Peter 3:6**

Sarah followed Abraham and respected him as her husband. You are her daughters if you do what is right and refuse to live in fear.

† Sarah's life showed trust in God's promises even when circumstances were uncertain (Genesis 18:12).

† Peter encourages courage, reminding believers they were heirs of the same faith.

### **1 Peter 3:7**

Husbands must also live with their wives in understanding. Treat them with honor as the weaker partner, recognizing that they are also heirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

† Peter balances his instruction by addressing husbands directly, emphasizing honor and understanding (Ephesians 5:25).

† Failure to treat one's spouse with respect damages spiritual life, even affecting prayer.

### **1 Peter 3:8**

Finally, all of you should live in unity, showing compassion, loving one another as family, and being humble and kind.

† Christian unity was essential during persecution (John 13:34-35).

† Humility and compassion reflected the character of Christ.

### **1 Peter 3:9**

Don't repay evil with evil or insult with insult. Instead respond with blessing, because this is the calling you received so that you may inherit a blessing.

† Peter echoes Jesus' teaching about loving enemies (Matthew 5:44).

† Believers were called to reflect God's mercy even when mistreated.

### **1 Peter 3:10**

Whoever wants to love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from speaking deceit.

† Peter quotes Psalm 34, applying it to Christian living (Psalm 34:12-13).

† Speech reveals the condition of the heart.

### **1 Peter 3:11**

They must turn away from evil and do what is good. They must seek peace and pursue it.

† Righteous living requires both avoiding evil and actively doing good (Romans 12:18).

† Peace must be pursued intentionally.

### **1 Peter 3:12**

Because the Lord watches over the righteous and listens to their prayers, but He stands against those who practice evil.

† God remains attentive to those who follow Him (Proverbs 15:29).

† Persistent evil places a person in opposition to God.

### **1 Peter 3:13**

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

† Peter encourages confidence in righteous living (Romans 13:3).

† While suffering may come, a life devoted to good removes many causes of conflict.

### **1 Peter 3:14**

But even if you suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Don't be afraid of threats or intimidation.

† Jesus taught that suffering for righteousness brings blessing (Matthew 5:10-12).

† Peter prepares believers for persecution during that generation.

### **1 Peter 3:15**

Instead, honor Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to explain the hope you have, but do it with gentleness and respect.

† The early believers were often questioned about their faith in hostile settings (Acts 4:13).

† The defense of the faith was to be done calmly and respectfully.

### **1 Peter 3:16**

Keep a clear conscience so that when people speak against you, they will be ashamed because your life proves their accusations false.

† Integrity exposes false accusations (Titus 2:8).

† A clear conscience strengthens the believer's witness.

### **1 Peter 3:17**

It is better to suffer for doing good, if that is God's will, than to suffer for doing wrong.

† Peter distinguishes between deserved suffering and suffering for righteousness (1 Peter 2:20).

† Faithfulness sometimes brings hardship, but it honors God.

### **1 Peter 3:18**

Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous one for the unrighteous, so that He might bring us to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the spirit.

† Peter summarizes the heart of the gospel, Christ died once for all (Hebrews 9:26).

† His resurrection life demonstrates victory over death.

### **1 Peter 3:19**

In that spiritual state He also went and proclaimed His victory to the imprisoned spirits.

† This refers to Christ declaring His triumph over rebellious spiritual powers (Colossians 2:15).

† The message was one of victory, not a second chance for salvation.

### **1 Peter 3:20**

These spirits had been disobedient long ago in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared, when only a few people, eight in total, were saved through the water.

† Peter connects Noah's generation with judgment and salvation (Genesis 7:7).

† The flood became a pattern showing how God saves the faithful while judging the wicked.

### **1 Peter 3:21**

This also points to baptism, which now represents salvation, not by washing dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a clean conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

† Baptism symbolizes participation in Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:4).

† The emphasis is spiritual cleansing, not the physical act itself.

## **1 Peter 3:22**

Jesus Christ has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand, with angels, authorities, and powers all placed under His authority.

† Christ's reign began after His resurrection and ascension (Ephesians 1:20-22).

† All spiritual authority has been placed under Him.

## **Historical References**

† Clement of Alexandria taught that Christian conduct in marriage and society was a witness that brought unbelievers toward faith.

† Tertullian wrote that the quiet faithfulness of Christian wives often converted pagan husbands.

† Eusebius recorded that early believers endured persecution with patience and humility, which astonished their Roman observers.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Peter reminds believers that character and conduct are powerful testimonies.

† Faith is demonstrated not only through words but through daily actions.

† When believers respond to hostility with patience and goodness, they reflect the character of Christ.

† Even today, integrity, humility, and compassion remain central marks of a faithful Christian life.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Why did Peter emphasize behavior over arguments when dealing with unbelievers?

**A:** Because a godly life can persuade hearts when words alone cannot (1 Peter 3:1-2; Matthew 5:16).

**Q:** What does Peter mean by inner beauty?

**A:** The character formed by the Spirit, especially humility, peace, and gentleness (1 Peter 3:4; Galatians 5:22-23).

**Q:** Why did Peter mention suffering for doing good?

**A:** Because believers in that generation faced persecution and needed encouragement to remain faithful (1 Peter 3:14; Matthew 5:10-12).

**Q:** What does baptism represent in this passage?

**A:** It represents a clean conscience before God through the resurrection of Christ, not merely the physical act of washing (1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:4).

**Q:** Why did Peter bring up Noah when talking about salvation?

**A:** Noah's deliverance showed how God saves the faithful while judging the wicked. Peter used that example to show that salvation comes through God's provision while judgment falls on the disobedient (1 Peter 3:20; Genesis 7:23; Hebrews 11:7).

**Q:** What does it mean that Christ proclaimed victory to the imprisoned spirits?

**A:** After His resurrection, Christ demonstrated His authority over every spiritual power. His triumph showed that all rebellious forces had been defeated through the cross (1 Peter 3:19; Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 1:20-21).

**Q:** Why did Peter stress having a clear conscience?

**A:** A clear conscience means living in integrity before God. When believers live uprightly, false accusations lose their power and the truth becomes visible through their conduct (1 Peter

3:16; Acts 24:16; Titus 2:7-8).

**Q:** Why does Peter say suffering for doing good is better than suffering for doing wrong?

**A:** Suffering for wrongdoing brings shame, but suffering for righteousness reflects Christ's example and leads to blessing from God (1 Peter 3:17; 1 Peter 2:20-21; Matthew 5:10).

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

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## Source Index

† 1 Peter 3; Matthew 5:16, 44; Matthew 5:10-12; Matthew 24:14; John 13:34-35; Acts 4:13; Romans 6:4; Romans 12:18; Romans 13:3; Ephesians 1:20-22; Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 2:15; Colossians 4:5-6; Titus 2:7-8; Proverbs 15:29; Psalm 34:12-13; Genesis 7:7; Genesis 18:12; Hebrews 9:26; Hebrews 11:11.

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Tertullian, Apology; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History.

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