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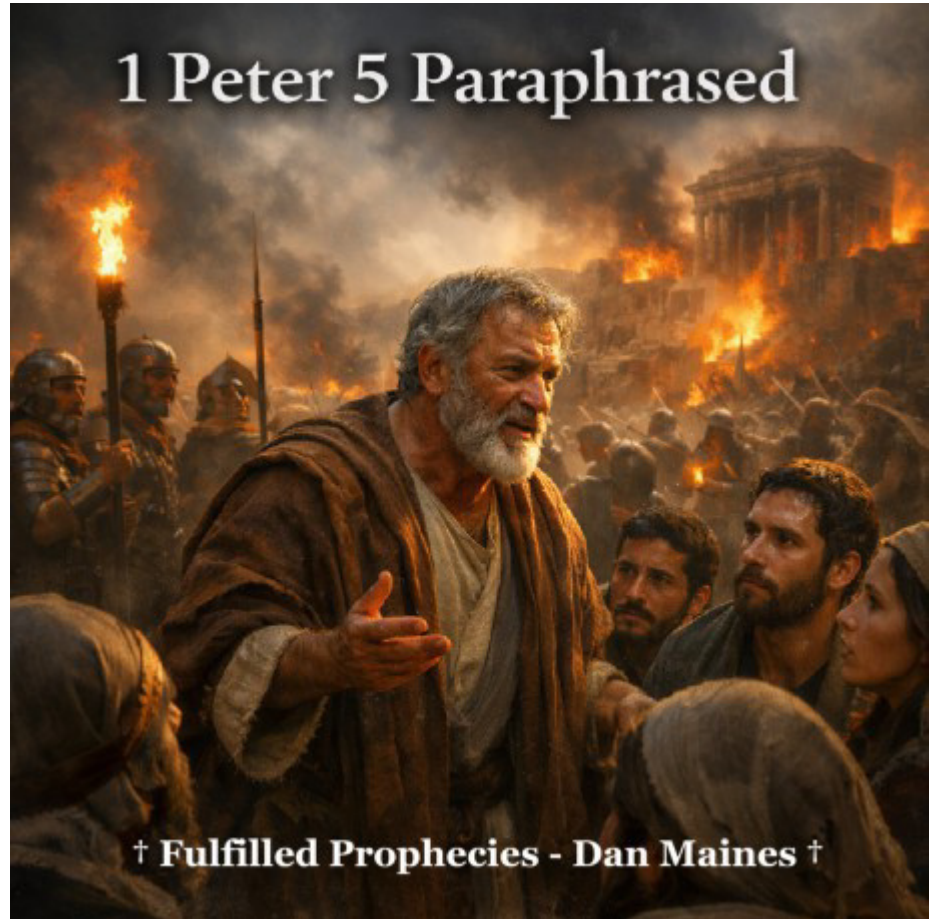
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1 Peter 5 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 Peter 5 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Peter closes this letter by speaking directly to leaders and believers who were living through pressure and persecution. The message is simple, shepherd God's people faithfully, stay humble, stay watchful, and trust that God will strengthen His people. These instructions were written to first century believers who were approaching the end of the Old Covenant age and the persecution surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem. (1

Peter 4:7)

† The apostles repeatedly warned the church that the end of that age was near. Their encouragement was not about events thousands of years away, but about remaining faithful during the trials of their own generation. (Matthew 24:34)

† Peter reminds leaders how to care for God's people and reminds believers that God opposes pride but gives grace to the humble. These truths continue to guide believers today. (James 4:6)

1 Peter 5:1

I speak now to the elders among you. I am an elder like you, a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who shares in the glory that is about to be revealed.

† Peter identifies himself not as a distant authority but as a fellow elder who personally witnessed Christ's suffering. This connects the leadership of the early church directly to those who saw Jesus. (Acts 1:21-22)

† The glory Peter says is about to be revealed refers to the coming judgment and vindication connected to the end of the Old Covenant age, which Jesus said would happen in that generation. (Matthew 16:27-28)

† Peter repeatedly told believers that the end of all things was near for them, reinforcing the immediate expectation of fulfillment in their lifetime. (1 Peter 4:7)

1 Peter 5:2

Care for the flock of God that is among you. Watch over them willingly, not because you are forced to, but because you want to serve God. Do it eagerly, not because you want dishonest

gain.

† Church leaders were called shepherds because they were responsible for caring for God's people just as Christ is the Chief Shepherd. (John 21:16)

† The language of shepherding echoes the Old Testament rebuke of Israel's false shepherds who abused the people. The apostles were called to do the opposite. (Ezekiel 34:2)

† Leadership in the church was never meant to be about profit or control but about serving and protecting God's people. (Acts 20:28)

1 Peter 5:3

Do not rule over those entrusted to you, but be examples for the flock.

† Jesus taught the same principle when He warned His disciples not to lead like the rulers of the nations who exercised authority over others. (Matthew 20:25-26)

† Christian leadership is based on example, not domination. The early church followed leaders who lived the faith they taught. (Hebrews 13:7)

† Peter had personally learned this lesson after Christ corrected the disciples' desire for power and status. (Luke 22:24-26)

1 Peter 5:4

And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

† The Chief Shepherd is Christ Himself, the true shepherd over God's people. (John 10:11)

† The appearing of Christ refers to His coming in judgment and authority against the Old Covenant system, which Jesus promised would occur in that generation. (Matthew 24:30-34)

† The crown of glory symbolizes reward and honor given to those who faithfully served God's people during the time of persecution. (2 Timothy 4:8)

1 Peter 5:5

In the same way, you younger men must submit to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

† Peter quotes the Old Testament principle that God resists pride but blesses humility. (Proverbs 3:34)

† Humility was essential for unity within the early church as believers faced persecution from both Jewish and Roman authorities. (Philippians 2:3)

† The entire Christian community was called to serve one another with humility, following the example of Christ Himself. (John 13:14)

1 Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand so that He will lift you up at the right time.

† The phrase God's mighty hand reflects Old Testament language describing God's power to deliver His people. (Exodus 13:3)

† Peter encourages believers to trust God's timing rather than trying to exalt themselves. (James 4:10)

† Their exaltation would come when God vindicated His people during the coming judgment upon Jerusalem and the end of the Old Covenant age. (Luke 21:28)

1 Peter 5:7

Give all your worries to Him because He cares for you.

† This echoes the teaching of Jesus about trusting God instead of being consumed by anxiety. (Matthew 6:25)

† The early church faced suffering and persecution, so Peter reminds them that God was still watching over them. (Philippians 4:6)

† Trusting God in times of hardship was essential for believers waiting for the promised deliverance. (Psalm 55:22)

1 Peter 5:8

Be clear minded and watchful. Your enemy the devil walks around like a roaring lion looking for someone to destroy.

† The image of a roaring lion reflects the danger believers faced from persecution and deception during that period. (Luke 22:31)

† The devil works through opposition and persecution to destroy faith if believers are not watchful. (Ephesians 6:11)

† Peter had personally experienced Satan's attempt to destroy him before Christ restored him. (Luke 22:32)

1 Peter 5:9

Stand firm against him in faith, knowing that believers throughout the world are suffering the same trials.

† Christians across the Roman world were facing persecution during the first century. (2 Timothy 3:12)

† Peter reminds them that suffering for Christ was not unique to them but was shared by believers everywhere. (Acts 14:22)

† Faith and endurance were necessary to remain faithful through those trials. (Hebrews 10:36)

1 Peter 5:10

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into His eternal glory in Christ, will restore you, strengthen you, and make you firm.

† Peter describes their suffering as temporary compared to the eternal glory promised through Christ. (Romans 8:18)

† God Himself would strengthen believers who endured through persecution and hardship. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

† This promise of restoration assured believers that their suffering was not meaningless. (James 1:12)

1 Peter 5:11

To Him belongs power forever and ever. Amen.

† This statement gives glory to God as the one who holds all authority. (Jude 1:25)

† Early Christians often ended letters and prayers with praise to God for His eternal power. (Romans 16:27)

† Even in persecution, believers recognized that God remained sovereign over history. (Revelation 1:6)

1 Peter 5:12

Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written briefly to encourage you and testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

† Silvanus, also called Silas, helped deliver and likely assist in writing this letter. (Acts 15:40)

† Peter's purpose was encouragement during trials and confirmation that believers were standing in God's true grace. (1 Peter 1:6)

† Standing firm in faith was a repeated instruction throughout the New Testament. (1 Corinthians 16:13)

1 Peter 5:13

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends greetings, and so does my son Mark.

† Babylon was a symbolic reference used by early Christians to describe Rome. (Revelation 17:5)

† Mark mentioned here is John Mark, a companion of the apostles and author of the Gospel of Mark. (Acts 12:12)

† The early church often used symbolic names for hostile cities, especially those connected to persecution. (Revelation 18:2)

1 Peter 5:14

Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

† The kiss of love was a common greeting among early Christians symbolizing unity and fellowship. (Romans 16:16)

† Peter closes his letter with a blessing of peace for all believers in Christ. (John 14:27)

† Christian fellowship and unity were essential for believers enduring persecution together. (Ephesians 4:3)

Historical References

† Eusebius recorded that Peter encouraged believers to remain faithful during persecution under Roman authority. (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.25)

† Clement of Rome wrote that Peter endured suffering and faithfully testified to Christ before his death. (Clement of Rome, First Epistle to the Corinthians)

† Tertullian confirmed that Peter ministered and strengthened believers during the early persecutions of the church. (Tertullian, Prescription Against Heretics)

How It Applies To Us Today

† Church leaders today are still called to shepherd God's people faithfully and serve as examples rather than rulers.

† Believers are reminded to remain humble because God gives grace to the humble and opposes pride.

† Even when facing trials, Christians can trust that God cares for them and will strengthen them.

† The church must remain watchful and steadfast in faith, just as the first century believers were called to do.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Who is the Chief Shepherd mentioned in this chapter?

A: Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd who leads and cares for His people. (John 10:11)

Q: Why did Peter emphasize humility?

A: Because God opposes pride but gives grace to the humble. (Proverbs 3:34)

Q: Why did Peter warn believers to be watchful?

A: Because the devil seeks to destroy faith through deception and persecution. (Ephesians 6:11)

Q: Why did Peter say their suffering was temporary?

A: Because the glory promised through Christ far outweighs present suffering. (Romans 8:18)

Q: Why did Peter instruct elders to shepherd the flock willingly?

A: Because leadership in the church was meant to reflect Christ's example of serving others, not controlling them or seeking personal gain. (John 21:16; Acts 20:28)

Q: What does it mean to humble ourselves under God's mighty hand?

A: It means trusting God's authority and timing instead of trying to elevate ourselves, knowing that He is the one who lifts up His people. (James 4:10)

Q: Why does Peter describe the devil as a roaring lion?

A: Because believers were facing real danger through persecution and deception, and they needed to stay alert and firm in their faith. (Ephesians 6:11)

Q: What does it mean to stand firm in the true grace of God?

A: It means remaining faithful to the gospel and the hope given through Christ despite trials or pressure from the world. (1

Corinthians 16:13)

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

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Source Index

† 1 Peter 4:7; Matthew 24:34; James 4:6; Acts 1:21-22; Matthew 16:27-28; John 21:16; Ezekiel 34:2; Acts 20:28; Matthew 20:25-26; Hebrews 13:7; Luke 22:24-26; John 10:11; Matthew 24:30-34; 2 Timothy 4:8; Proverbs 3:34; Philippians 2:3; John 13:14; Exodus 13:3; James 4:10; Luke 21:28; Matthew 6:25; Philippians 4:6; Psalm 55:22; Luke 22:31; Ephesians 6:11; Luke 22:32; 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:22; Hebrews 10:36; Romans 8:18; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; James 1:12; Jude 1:25; Romans 16:27; Revelation 1:6; Acts 15:40; 1 Peter 1:6; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Revelation 17:5; Acts 12:12; Revelation 18:2; Romans 16:16; John 14:27; Ephesians 4:3

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.25; Clement of Rome, First Epistle to the Corinthians; Tertullian, Prescription Against Heretics.

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