



Peter's First Epistle

1 Peter 1:1-2– Salutation

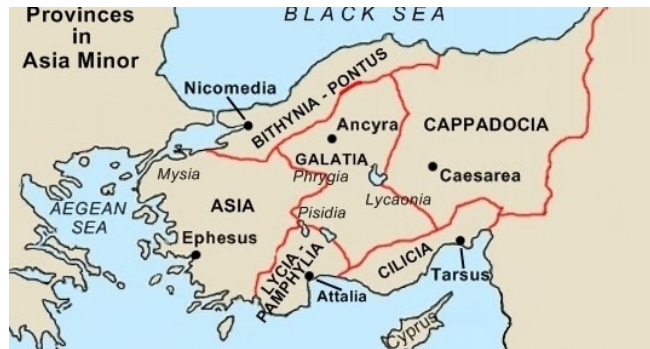
- Major purpose for Peter's first epistle:
 - To encourage believers all around Asia Minor to stand firm in the persecution they were suffering in the non-Christian world.
- *1 Peter 1:1 – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*
 - » *John 1:42 - And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).*
 - Wuest – ‘*apostolos* from *apo*, "off," and *stello*, "to send," a technical word used of one sent from someone else with credentials on a mission.’
 - Stanford M – ‘In Christian theology, the term “**apostle**” comes from the Greek *apóstolos*, meaning “**one who is sent**” or “**messenger**”. In the New Testament, it refers to someone **commissioned by Christ or the early Church** to proclaim the Gospel, often with divine authority and a specific mission. The original apostles were the Twelve chosen by Jesus, who accompanied Him, learned from Him, and were sent to preach and perform

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miracles. Outside the Twelve, figures like Paul were also recognized as apostles because they received direct commission from Christ (e.g., Acts 9:1–22).'

- Let's begin with *apóstolos* and pose a straightforward question.
 - What books have the most and second most references to *apóstolos*?
 - Acts – #30, 1 Cor - #10
- *To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,*



- Is the order of the provinces to whom the letter is addressed relevant?
 - Can you think of another such sequence in NT scripture?
 - *pilgrims* – one who sojourns on earth; also translated as *strangers or aliens*.



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- From where else are they (and we) strangers or aliens?
 - » *Heb 11:13 - These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of and embraced and confessed **that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.***
- *of the Dispersion – or scattering (diasporas) of Jewish Christians among the Gentiles in Asia Minor.*
 - » *John 7:35 – Then the Jews said among themselves, “Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? **Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?***
 - » *James 1:1 - James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, **To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.***
- Wuest – **‘The great majority of the Jews living outside of Palestine in the first century and before A.D. 70. were living where they were by their own choice, the chief reason being the opportunity for business activity which the Gentile centers of population afforded. There they were when the Christian missionaries contacted them.’**
- Hort FJA in Constable – **‘Peter Davids estimated that when Peter wrote this epistle about one million Jews lived in Palestine and two to four million lived outside it. Asia Minor held the third largest concentration of Diaspora Jews after Babylon and Egypt.’**



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- ***1 Peter 1:2 - Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.***
 - *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit,*
 - How about this for a comprehensive package of truth!!
 - *Elect (eklektos) - to obtain salvation through Christ, the chosen (ones) of God (Strong).*
 - Oh no, not this God's choosing vs. our own free will issue again!
 - » *John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*
 - » *Rom 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
 - » *Rom 10:13 - For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*
 - » *1 Tim 2:4 - who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
 - » *Titus 2:11 - For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,*





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- J. Vernon McGee - “**God sees the believer in Christ and He accepts the believer just as He receives His own Son.** That is wonderful. That is the only basis on which I will be in heaven. I cannot stand there on the merit of Vernon McGee. I am accepted only in the Beloved. God loves me just as He loves Christ, because I am in Christ.”
- *foreknowledge (prognosis)* –used by Peter in *Acts*, and as a verb with unequivocal certainty later in chapter 1.
 - » *Acts 2:23 - Him, being delivered by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*
 - » *1 Peter 1:20 - Who verily was foreordained (proginōskō) before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*
- *sanctification (hagiasmos) of the Spirit* – consecration or purification, being set apart for growth by (of) the Spirit.
 - A process that is the continued outcome of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.
 - » *Heb 10:10 - By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once.*
- *unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:*
 - Our *obedience* is to the faith and the pathway for growth or *sprinkling of the blood* takes us back to the cross – penalty of sins and power of the sin nature removed!



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» Gal 6:14 - *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

- Constable – ‘**Obedience** is our responsibility, and **sprinkling** is our privilege.’

– *Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

- *Grace* – all of God, not of us!
- *Peace* – this is not peace with God (justification), but Holy Spirit enabled *peace* of God in these new creations we are in Christ Jesus.

- Wuest translation – ‘***chosen-out ones, this choice having been determined by the foreordination of God the Father, those chosen out to be recipients of the setting-apart work of the Spirit resulting in obedience (of faith) and (thus) in the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. Grace (be) to you, and (heart) peace be multiplied.***