

TEXT FOR OBSERVATIONS

1 Pet 1:13-2:3

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OBSERVATIONS

Because the great salvation, announced by the prophets, gives you hope THEN you should live in this way...

Hope in the future—revelation of Jesus Christ.

Obedient children—key idea in this section, gets at identity Identity before Christ: ignorant to the things of God

BUT—contrast don’t live like you did in ignorance but live holy now

Holiness in character is based on the holiness of God

OT quote: Lev 11:44f; 19:2; 20:7 God gave these commands to Israel to be separate from the nations around them by observing his laws.

God is Father and impartial judge each one’s work

Since He is this way, it should motivate fear in following him

Your stay on earth—gets at the idea of pilgrims passing through, not home

Contrast: redemption not by perishable idol items but by Christ’s blood

Redemption: by Christ’s blood, spotless lamb of God

Gets at deity, appeared for our sake

We believe in God through Christ’s resurrection and glory

This fact gives us hope that we put in God

Exhortation: fervently love one another out of the heart

This love is based on the word of truth that God has given: can be trusted

Word that was preached is what new birth has been based on. This is a trustworthy source because it is imperishable!

Contrast: Two seeds—one that will fade away and one that will not

Metaphor: Men and their glory fade like the grass that quickly withers

BUT—contrast—God’s word endures forever, far outlasts the generations and words of men.

OT quote: Is 40:6-8 His word in comfort to the people is trustworthy

Characteristics of God’s word: Worthy to be obeyed, agent of new birth in Christ, imperishable, living and enduring, it is the word of God, it was preached to believers.

Therefore—since this word endures and is trustworthy THEN...

Put aside malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.

This is based on tasting the kindness of the Lord through Christ

Long for the word so that you may grow in your salvation

Metaphor: Like babies long for milk, so they should crave after the word of God so they can learn and grow and apply this to their lives.

TEXT FOR INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

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QUESTIONS

How do you prepare your mind for action? What does this mean?

How do you keep sober in spirit?

Negative exhortation: do not do former lusts What were these?

How will God judge believers according to their works?

What is the futile way of life inherited from forefathers? Temple sac’s?

Why is it significant that Christ was like a unblemished and spotless lamb?

Christ: foreknown before world by God What does this word mean?

How do you purify your soul so that you can love brothers in Christ?

How do you grow in your salvation? Isn’t it a one time deal?

OBSERVATIONS ON SYNTAX AND/OR TEXT FOR SENTENCE DIAGRAMMING

Rough draft

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keep sober *in spirit*,
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¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you,
be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;

¹⁶ because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

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conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*;

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things
like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
¹⁹ but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ. ²⁰

For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,
but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you
²¹ who through Him are believers in God,
who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory,
so that your faith and hope are in God.

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fervently love one another from the heart,

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that is, through the living and enduring word of God. ²

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AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS.
THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,
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And this is the word which was preached to you.

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and all deceit and hypocrisy
and envy and all slander,

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Primary Clauses:

17b

22

2:1

HISTORICAL SITUATION AS WELL AS IMMEDIATE CONTEXT AND BROADER CONTEXT

Theme of 1 Peter

To help them see that their temporary sufferings in the full light of the coming eternal glory of Christ. To encourage them to follow Christ's perseverance under suffering as they suffer in a society that does not understand them. Have joy by faith. Help one another to grow, especially help the least of the members.

- Encourage believers by giving them hope in their sufferings for Christ. 1 Pet 4:19

Date: Probably written shortly before Nero's persecution AD 62-64 (1Peter)

KEY GREEK/HEBREW WORDS AND PHRASES WITH IMPORTANT CROSS REFERENCES

1827 ἐλπίζω (*elpizō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 1053, 2879, 3498; Str 1679; TDNT 2.517—**1.** LN 25.59 **hope for**, an attitude of looking forward to, usually, adj. trusting, confident hope (Lk 24:21; 1Ti 4:10); **2.** LN 30.54 **expect**, look forward to something happening (Ac 24:26; Lk 6:34; 2Co 8:5; Ro 15:24; 1Co 16:7; 2Jn 12; 3Jn 14)

Used 32 times in the NT

1679 ἐλπίζω [*elpizo /el·pid·zo/*] v. From 1680; TDNT 2:517; TDNTA 229; GK 1827; 32 occurrences; AV translates as “trust” 18 times, “hope” 10 times, “hope for” twice, “things hoped for” once, and “vr hope” once. **1** to hope. 1A in a religious sense, to wait for salvation with joy and full confidence. **2** hopefully to trust in.

General: Confident expectation that something will happen in the future

whenever I^ago to Spain—for I hope to see you in passing, and to be^bhelped on my way there by you, when I have first^cenjoyed your company^dfor a while— Ro 15:24

Specific: It is trust, fixation, on the God who will bring salvation

For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed^aour hope on^bthe living God, who is^cthe Savior of all men, especially of believers. 1 Tim 4.10

Summary:

In the NT it means to expect, to look forward with confidence to something. To wait eagerly for salvation with joy and full confidence and trust in God that salvation will be granted.

Here in Peter, it means to set one's mind on the confidence that God will bring about salvation when Christ will be revealed. This gives a joy in the midst of persecution and a purpose for endurance.

KEY INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS



QUESTION 1 How do you prepare your mind for action? What is the action we are to prepare for?

Literally: gird the loins of your mind

“Prepare your minds for action” (v. 13). Obedience is a conscious act of the will. Christians in conflict need a tough-minded holiness that is ready for action. KBC

1:13. Men wore long robes and would tuck them into their belt, “gird up their loins,” so they could move more freely and quickly. Although the image also occurs elsewhere in the Old Testament, here Peter may specifically allude to the Passover (Ex 12:11): once God’s people had been redeemed by the blood of the lamb (1 Pet 1:19), they were to be ready to follow God forth until he had brought them safely into their inheritance (cf. 1:4), the Promised Land IVP Background

“Gird up the loins of your mind” simply means, “Pull your thoughts together! Have a disciplined mind!”

The image is that of a robed man, tucking his skirts under the belt, so he can be free to run. When you center your thoughts on the return of Christ, and live accordingly, you escape the many worldly things that would encumber your mind and hinder your spiritual progress. Peter may have borrowed the idea from the Passover supper, because later in this section he identifies Christ as the Lamb (1 Peter 1:19). The Jews at Passover were supposed to eat the meal in haste, ready to move (Ex. 12:11). Bible Exposition



QUESTION 2: How will God judge believers according to their works?

But those who address God in this way must remember who he is. As Father he does not cease to be judge. Christians are not in a position where it doesn’t matter how they live because they believe in Christ and all will be forgiven at the last judgment. On the contrary, they should live in this world, filled with its temptations, with reverence for God in the face of his judgment. IVP

The God whom Christians call upon and turn to as their Father will sit in judgment over all the earth. His judgment will be based upon each person’s actions and it will be impartial. The fact that Christians are God’s children (cf. v. 14) is not an excuse for unfaithfulness. The idea that God will judge each one according to his actions is a repeated biblical theme (e.g., Ps 62:12; Prov 24:12; Rom 2:6; Rev 22:12). By speaking of judgment based on each man’s work, Peter does not intend to nullify grace, which he has already introduced and will turn back to almost immediately. His perspective may be understood by extending Peter’s analogy of father and child. Obedient children are not perfect children, but they may expect grace for what they do wrong. Rebellious, disobedient children are another matter. Certain partial and biased fathers may tolerate rebellion, but the impartial father will not treat a rebellious child in the same way as an obedient one. College Press

For we must all appear before ^athe judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for ¹his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Cor 5:10



QUESTION 3: Christ: foreknown before world by God What does this word mean?

Select in advance, choose beforehand, know beforehand

4589 προγνώσκω (proginōskō): vb.; = Str 4267; TDNT 1.715—**1.** LN 28.6 **know beforehand**, foreknow (Ac 26:5; 2Pe 3:17+); **2.** LN 30.100 **select in advance**, choose beforehand (Ro 8:29; 11:2; 1Pe 1:20+), note these verses may be put in prior entry
For those whom He ^aforeknew, He also ^bpredestined to become ^cconformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the ^dfirstborn among many brethren; Rom 8:29

Yada Yet the Hebrew term is broader than the Greek word *ginōskein* and embraces objects such as blows (1 Sam. 14:12), childlessness (Is. 47:8), and sickness (Is. 53:3) that sound odd in Greek. Sexual intercourse may also be denoted (Gen. 4:1 etc.), and while the element of information can be stressed (Ps. 94:11), more attention is paid to the knowing subject, TDNT

OTHER INFORMATION FROM COMMENTARIES AND SOURCES

Define “holiness.” How does the context of Leviticus (1 Pet 1:16; Lev 11:44ff; 19:1ff; 20:7) inform your definition? What does holiness look like in day to day life? What are the motivations for personal holiness in this section?

⁴⁴ I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground. ⁴⁵ I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy. Lv 11.14

Holiness is setting oneself apart for God. Staying away from sin. Keeping away from sin each day.

Motivations: to reflect the characteristics of the one who called us, children of God in obedience, God will judge each person according to his actions.

What is “the fear of God” (v. 17; cf. Exod 20:20; Deut 1:17; 5:29; 6:2,13; 2 Kings 17:34-36; Prov 1:7; Jer 5:22-24; 2 Cor 5:11; 7:1; Rev 14:7; 19:5)? What is the role of “fear” in our lives, and what reasons does Peter give that we should “conduct ourselves in fear during the time of our stay upon earth”?

Awe, reverence, fear of his wrath upon sin—

Reasons: God is our Father but also he will judge our actions. God has redeemed us back from sin to live for Christ.

How is God pictured in v. 17? What is the significance of this two-fold portrait (cf. Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6,7; Rev 19:11-16; 20:11-15)? Pictured as Father and Judge

Father: Significance we are adopted as Sons, will receive an inheritance, we have the Spirit of Christ in us.

Judge: Rev 19—treads down, rules, destroys his enemies, judges those who oppose him. Rev 20 Throne of judgment—all deeds of people written in books—judged according to deeds—those not in book of life are thrown into lake of fire

Revelation 20:11-15 (NIV)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

What things interfere with the work of God's word in our spiritual growth? Why is it that we often don't "long" for God's word?

Why does v. 1 precede v. 2? (cf. Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:5-10; Jas 1:21; II Pet 1:5).

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV) ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Colossians 3:5-10 (NIV)⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

James 1:21 (NIV)²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 2 Peter 1:5 (NIV)⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

Walking in evil ways of old self

You can't long for God's word in purity and authenticity if you are walking in sin.

SUMMARY OF MESSAGE OF TEXT (CHART, PARAGRAPH, LIST, PICTURE)

In this section, Peter exhorts the believers to live holy lives, hope in Jesus' coming, love one another, and crave the enduring word of God. These exhortations should be based on an appreciation of Christ's redemption through his blood and on the truths in God's imperishable word.

HOW TEXT POINTS TO CHRIST/GOSPEL AND HUMAN NEED/S THE TEXT ADDRESSES

Christ:

- Believers are redeemed by Christ's blood
- This was planned before the foundation of the world
- This is based on Christ's work on the cross
- All of this is the basis for the commands/exhortations

Human Needs Addressed:

- Redemption from sin
- Hopelessness apart from grace
- Putting aside sin and longing for Christ and his word

THE BIG IDEA (CATCHY, 3-7 WORDS)

As obedient children, live holy lives

UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES DERIVED FROM TEXT—HOW IT SPEAKS TO OUR WORLD TODAY

- We are motivated to live holy lives because Christ has redeemed our souls.
- God's kindness motivates longing for the word of Christ, which is imperishable.
- We can hope in God amidst sufferings because Christ has conquered death and forgiven our sins.

LIST OF POTENTIAL PERSONAL APPLICATIONS ONE COULD MAKE

- List an area where you are not trusting and hoping in God
- Work on one thing that can make your walk with God holy
- Brainstorm ideas on how you can dig into the imperishable Word of God.
- Are there any struggles with the sins listed in this text?
- What is the most meaningful verse? How can it be applied?

MY APPLICATIONS AND PRAYER

Spend a few hours this week meditating over God's imperishable word in the Psalms with the hope that it would increase my longing for his Word.

Lord, you have redeemed me! You have sacrificed yourself on my behalf. This is such a gift! I thank you that I can hope in you no matter what is going on in my life because you are constant and faithful. Show me how to live a life of holiness that is pleasing to you. When I fail, show me my wrongs and turn my desires back to you. Thank you for giving me your imperishable word! May I long for it more and more this week. You are the holy God! I worship you today. Amen.