

## 1 Peter 1:4b – 13

New International Version (2011)

1 This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through  
2 faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the  
3 salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In  
4 all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while  
5 you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.  
6 <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your  
7 faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even  
8 though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and  
9 honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have  
10 not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not  
11 see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an  
12 inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the  
13 end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

14 <sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of  
15 the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and  
16 with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and  
17 circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was  
18 pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah  
19 and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to  
20 them that they were not serving themselves but you, when  
21 they spoke of the things that have now been told you by  
22 those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy  
23 Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into  
24 these things.

25 <sup>13</sup> Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set  
26 your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus  
27 Christ is revealed at his coming.

**Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.**

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**Observation (What does it say?):**

*Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?*

- *Repeated words or ideas?*
- *Comparisons or contrasts?*
- *Purpose or explanation?*
- *Unusual or symbolic language?*
- *Commands or instructions?*
- *Conditional (if–then) statements?*
- *What else do you observe in this passage?*

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

*After observing the passage:*

- *What parts seem clear and straightforward?*
- *What parts seem unclear or confusing?*
- *What parts challenge your previous thinking?*
- *What questions come to mind as you read?*
- *How would you title this passage?*

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- *What parts of this passage fit your current life situation?*
- *What parts seem unrelated to your circumstances?*
- *How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?*
- *What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?*
- *What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?*

**For additional thought and discussion:**

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

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For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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