

# 1 Peter 1:1-9

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,  
2 To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus,  
3 Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup> according to the  
4 foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of  
5 the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling  
6 with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.  
7 <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
8 According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born  
9 again to a [living hope] through the resurrection of Jesus  
10 Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is  
11 imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for  
12 you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith  
13 for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In  
14 this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary,  
15 you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested  
16 genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that  
17 perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result  
18 in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus  
19 Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him.  
20 Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and  
21 rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,  
22 <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your  
23 souls.

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

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

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

- Connect repeated words or ideas.
- Mark where Peter writes of **P**ast, **C**urrent, and **F**uture.
- Bracket [ideas you want to know more about.]
- What else do you observe in this passage?

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

After observing the passage:

- How does Peter relate the past, current, and future aspects of his message?
- How would you summarize:
  - Past \_\_\_\_\_
  - Current \_\_\_\_\_
  - Future \_\_\_\_\_
- What questions come to mind as you read?

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

- What part does “a living hope” play in your experience?
- What would “joy inexpressible and full of glory” look like?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

**Observation** – *What does it say?*      **Interpretation** – *What does it mean?*      **Application** – *What does it mean for me?*

**For additional thought and discussion:**

- What does it mean to “bless” God (v. 3)?

How does this relate to the Beatitudes (“Blessed are the meek...” Matthew 5)?

- 1 Peter 1:3 **εὐλογητός** (eulogētos) cf. Romans 1:25, etc. “worthy of being praised, blessed, or commended”
- Matthew 5 **μακάριος** (makarios) cf. 1 Peter 3:14, 4:14, etc. “blessed (receiving God's favor), fortunate, good (in a position of favor), happy (feelings associated with receiving God's favor)”

<https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary>

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/>

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## 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.