



ABOUT “SCATTERED”

“Peter ... to God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered ...” 1 Peter 1

During the Covid-19 Lockdown I was asked by people isolated in their homes with limited opportunity to join virtual groups for help with a Bible Study suited to the times. This is my response: Bible studies that don’t require a group, a leader or a marker. Please feel free to pass them to others. They can be downloaded, emailed, printed or posted. I’d encourage you to share your thoughts, answers, and questions, with at least one other person: phone them up if you can’t meet. I’d also love to see your answers and questions: email or post them to me (details below) if you want to. If I can, I’ll answer you – and if not, be assured every response contributes to the ongoing development of these studies. In Christ, Michael L Drake

INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER 1:1-2

Peter writes this letter to encourage believers in Jesus who have been scattered around the world of his day. In Galatians 2:8, Paul identifies Peter’s ministry as especially to the Jews, and this letter appears to be written to Jewish Christians who have been scattered in yet another “diaspora.” That is another word for “scattered,” but it has special meaning for Jews who over the centuries, and even today, have been forcibly scattered all over the world.

Yet the letter applies just as meaningfully to Gentile believers in today’s world – and not just during a Covid-19 pandemic that has so isolated us that we might as well be scattered. Thousands of believers in today’s world are scattered through persecution, war, famine, floods and so on. Yet right from the start Peter calls Christians strangers in the world, even though they obviously still live in the world.

As you read through this letter, it will become clear that *all* Christians are strangers and foreigners in this world. This world is not our home. God wants us to view ourselves as refugees from this sinful world, on a journey to “*an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade – kept in heaven for you.*” [1 Peter 1:4] It’s Peter’s aim to help us see that, and learn to live as those who don’t belong here.

Although we will study sections of this letter – a few verses at a time – we need to remember that it is a letter, and that Peter would have expected it to be read from beginning to end in one sitting. So if you can, just as you read letters when you receive them (or perhaps you can’t remember when you last received a letter in the post!), read the whole letter through before you begin this study.

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SCATTERED #1 1 Peter 1:1-2

GETTING STARTED

Please remember that this is God's Word. God used Peter to write God's words in God's way for us. So

1. Pray, asking God to give you his Spirit so that you will honour him, understand his word, and learn how to live better for Jesus.
2. Read the passage listed above for this study. What is it mainly about?
3. Now discuss/think about/answer the questions that follow.

PETER, WRITER OF THIS LETTER

1. **How does Peter describe himself? What would that indicate to his readers? What does it indicate to us?**

(Paul gives us a several clues as to what an Apostle is: 1 Corinthians 9:1,2; Galatians 1:1)

2. **The Bible tell us a lot about Peter, but Peter says little about himself in this letter apart from identifying himself as an Apostle. He underwent a massive transformation in faith as well as character between Luke 9:33 & 22:33-62 and Acts 2. What two events in Acts 1 & 2 have been instrumental in that change?**

STRANGERS, THOSE RECEIVING THIS LETTER

3. **Peter uses three different terms to describe those he writes to. What are they and why do those terms specially fit Christians?**

4. **You'll find all the places Peter mentions on this map. How does this reinforce the idea that they were scattered?**



5. **In verse 1 Peter says these Christians are God's elect. In verse 2 he uses the expression "chosen." How have they been elected or chosen and what follows on from that election?**

6. **The things listed in verse 2 are listed in the order in which they are worked by God. Why does the order help believers have confidence in God’s saving work for them?**

(If you’re not sure they are in order, see what happens when you change the order around!)

7. **For Peter (and all the New Testament writers) the fact that God saves the people he chooses is a foundation for their assurance that their salvation isn’t something that depends on them, their faith, or their choice: it depends on God who saves through Christ. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Why was that so important for them in a time of trial? How is it the same or different for us?**

(Some people find the idea of God choosing or electing those he saves difficult. You might want to look at these passages for greater understanding of the grace God shows to us in choosing us when, as Paul puts it in Ephesians 2:1, we were dead in our sins and incapable of choosing God or having faith in Jesus: John 15:16; Deuteronomy 7:6-7; Romans 9; and Ephesians 2:1-10.)

A BLESSING FOR A GREETING!

8. **We often have a “blessing” to end a service or meeting, but here Peter begins with one. How do you greet people when you meet them? Would a blessing be a better way to way to greet people? What sort of “blessing” could you use?**

9. **Peter can’t “zap” his readers with a blessing from God any more than we can. So is he just hoping they can be blessed? Explain.**

10. **“Grace” and “peace” have special significance in this letter. What is the “grace” and the “peace” Peter has in mind?**

(Skim through the rest of 1 Peter for clues!)

PRAY & LIVE!

11. **In the light of these two verses: What can you thank God for? What can you pray for others? What can you trust God for?**

12. **In the light of these two verse, what changes do you need to make: In your faith? In your worship? In your attitude? In your life?**