

# Outline of the Book of 1 Peter

The book of 1 Peter, written by the Apostle Peter, addresses Christians living in Asia Minor who are experiencing persecution. The letter encourages them to stand firm in their faith, live holy lives, and find hope in their salvation through Christ. Below is an exhaustive outline of 1 Peter, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

## I. Introduction (1:1-2)

### A. Salutation (1:1-2)

1. Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ (1:1a)
2. To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces (1:1b)
3. Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father (1:2a)
4. Through the sanctifying work of the Spirit (1:2b)
5. To be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood (1:2c)
6. Grace and peace be yours in abundance (1:2d)

## II. The Believer's Living Hope (1:3-12)

### A. Praise to God for a Living Hope (1:3-5)

1. New birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus (1:3)
2. Inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade (1:4)
3. Shielded by God's power until the coming of salvation (1:5)

### B. Joy in the Midst of Suffering (1:6-9)

1. Rejoicing despite various trials (1:6)
2. Faith refined by fire and resulting in praise, glory, and honor (1:7)
3. Love for Christ and belief in Him resulting in inexpressible joy (1:8)
4. The outcome of faith: salvation of souls (1:9)

### C. The Prophets' Inquiry and the Angels' Interest (1:10-12)

1. Prophets searched intently about this salvation (1:10-11)
2. Revealed to prophets that they were serving future generations (1:12a)
3. Even angels long to look into these things (1:12b)

## III. The Call to Holy Living (1:13-2:10)

### A. Be Holy (1:13-16)

1. Prepare minds for action and be sober-minded (1:13)
2. Set hope on the grace to be brought at Jesus' revelation (1:13)
3. Be obedient children and not conform to evil desires (1:14)
4. Be holy in all conduct as God is holy (1:15-16)

### B. Live as God's Children (1:17-21)

1. Live in reverent fear during your exile (1:17)
2. Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ (1:18-19)
3. Christ chosen before creation but revealed in these last times (1:20)
4. Faith and hope are in God who raised Christ from the dead (1:21)

- C. Love One Another (1:22-25)
  1. Purified by obeying the truth and sincere love for each other (1:22)
  2. Born again through the living and enduring word of God (1:23)
  3. The word of the Lord endures forever (1:24-25)
- D. The Living Stone and a Chosen People (2:1-10)
  1. Rid yourselves of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander (2:1)
  2. Crave pure spiritual milk for growth (2:2-3)
  3. Christ as the living Stone rejected by humans but chosen by God (2:4)
  4. Believers as living stones being built into a spiritual house (2:5)
  5. Christ as the cornerstone, a stone that causes people to stumble (2:6-8)
  6. Believers as a chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation (2:9-10)

#### IV. Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society (2:11-4:11)

- A. Living as Servants of God (2:11-17)
  1. Abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul (2:11)
  2. Live good lives among the pagans to glorify God (2:12)
  3. Submit to every human authority for the Lord's sake (2:13-14)
  4. Silence foolish people by doing good (2:15)
  5. Live as free people, but do not use freedom as a cover-up for evil (2:16)
  6. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers (2:17)
- B. Submission to Masters (2:18-25)
  1. Submit to masters with all respect, not only to the good but also to the harsh (2:18)
  2. It is commendable to endure suffering for doing good because of conscience toward God (2:19-20)
  3. Christ's example of suffering for us (2:21-23)
  4. Christ bore our sins in His body on the cross (2:24-25)
- C. Wives and Husbands (3:1-7)
  1. Wives, submit to your husbands so that even if they do not believe the word, they may be won over (3:1-2)
  2. Inner beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (3:3-4)
  3. Example of holy women of the past (3:5-6)
  4. Husbands, be considerate and treat your wives with respect (3:7)
- D. Suffering for Doing Good (3:8-22)
  1. Live in harmony, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble (3:8)
  2. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing (3:9)
  3. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it (3:10-12)
  4. Suffer for doing good, not for doing evil (3:13-17)
  5. Christ's suffering and victory (3:18-22)
- E. Living for God (4:1-11)
  1. Arm yourselves with the same attitude as Christ (4:1-2)
  2. Do not live as the pagans do, indulging in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry (4:3-4)
  3. They will have to give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead (4:5-6)
  4. Be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray (4:7)

5. Above all, love each other deeply (4:8-9)
6. Use whatever gift you have received to serve others (4:10-11)

## V. Suffering for Being a Christian (4:12-19)

- A. Do Not Be Surprised at the Fiery Ordeal (4:12-14)
  1. Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ (4:13)
  2. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed (4:14)
- B. Do Not Suffer as a Criminal (4:15-16)
  1. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer, thief, or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler (4:15)
  2. If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name (4:16)
- C. Judgment and Suffering (4:17-19)
  1. Judgment begins with the family of God (4:17)
  2. If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner? (4:18)
  3. Commit yourselves to your faithful Creator and continue to do good (4:19)

## VI. To the Elders and the Flock (5:1-11)

- A. To the Elders (5:1-4)
  1. Be shepherds of God's flock under your care (5:2-3)
  2. When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory (5:4)
- B. To the Young Men (5:5-6)
  1. Young men, be submissive to those who are older (5:5)
  2. Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another (5:5-6)
- C. Humility and Trust in God (5:7-9)
  1. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you (5:7)
  2. Be self-controlled and alert; your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (5:8)
  3. Resist him, standing firm in the faith (5:9)
- D. Promise of Restoration (5:10-11)
  1. The God of all grace will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast (5:10)
  2. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. (5:11)

## VII. Final Greetings (5:12-14)

- A. Commendation of Silas (5:12)
  1. Silas is commended as a faithful brother (5:12)
- B. Greetings from the Church in Babylon (5:13)
  1. She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends her greetings (5:13a)
  2. So does my son Mark (5:13b)
- C. Final Exhortation and Benediction (5:14)
  1. Greet one another with a kiss of love (5:14a)
  2. Peace to all of you who are in Christ (5:14b)

## Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in 1 Peter

### 1. Persecution and Suffering (1:6-7; 4:12-19):

- **Danger:** Being discouraged or disheartened by trials and persecution.
- **Application:** Rejoice in trials, knowing they refine faith and result in praise and glory. Commit to God and continue doing good.

### 2. Worldly Desires (1:14; 2:11):

- **Danger:** Conforming to evil desires and letting sinful desires wage war against the soul.
- **Application:** Be holy in all conduct, abstain from sinful desires, and live good lives among unbelievers.

### 3. Lack of Holiness (1:15-16):

- **Danger:** Failing to live a holy life as God commands.
- **Application:** Be holy in all actions, following God's example.

### 4. Ignoring the Word of God (1:23-25; 2:1-2):

- **Danger:** Not craving pure spiritual milk and growing in salvation.
- **Application:** Rid oneself of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Crave pure spiritual milk for growth.

### 5. Failing to Submit to Authority (2:13-17):

- **Danger:** Disobeying or disrespecting human authorities, which can harm one's witness.
- **Application:** Submit to authorities for the Lord's sake and show proper respect to everyone.

### 6. Retaliation and Repaying Evil (3:9):

- **Danger:** Repaying evil with evil or insult with insult.
- **Application:** Repay evil with blessing, seeking peace and pursuing it.

### 7. Fear of Suffering (3:14-17):

- **Danger:** Being afraid of threats and suffering for doing good.
- **Application:** Do not fear threats but revere Christ as Lord. Be prepared to give an answer for the hope within.

### 8. Worldly Living (4:2-4):

- **Danger:** Returning to a life of debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and detestable idolatry.
- **Application:** Live for the will of God, not for evil human desires. Be clear-minded and self-controlled.

### 9. Pride and Lack of Humility (5:5-6):

- **Danger:** Being proud and not submitting to one another.
- **Application:** Clothe oneself with humility and humble oneself under God's mighty hand.

## 10. Anxiety and Lack of Trust in God (5:7):

- **Danger:** Being overwhelmed by anxiety.
- **Application:** Cast all anxieties on God because He cares for you.

## 11. Spiritual Complacency (5:8-9):

- **Danger:** Being spiritually complacent and not alert to the devil's schemes.
- **Application:** Be self-controlled and alert. Resist the devil, standing firm in the faith.

## Well-known Passages from 1 Peter

[1 Peter 1:3-9 ESV] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

[1 Peter 2:9-12 ESV] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

[1 Peter 3:13-22 ESV] Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into

heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

[1 Peter 4:12-14 ESV] Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

[1 Peter 5:6-11 ESV] Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## Conclusion for 1 Peter

By understanding these dangers and applying the exhortations in 1 Peter, believers can stand firm in their faith, live godly lives, and find hope and encouragement despite trials and persecutions.