

## I Peter 4 and 5 – Building a Community Out of an Exile

Since studying this letter from Peter, I have been thinking about what it means to build a community from a group of people escaping threats and persecution. I try to imagine all the issues they have been experiencing.

So, this leads to my first questions.

1. Tell me your thoughts; from historical context and written text, what were probably some of the issues these religious refugees faced or lived with?
2. What value do you think their faith and spiritual journeys have in this context?

Just like this group experienced a physical relocation, Peter talks about their spiritual relocation.

### Chapter 4

1. Note Peter's comparison with being finished with sins and following the will of God. Practically, what might that look like?
2. Ch 4:3-5. Look at that list and compare it with the concept of "sin is the willingness to cause harm to get what you want". What might that have meant in behavior? What harm might be being caused...? And to whom?
3. Why do you think Peter used the iteration of God "my God is Salvation and has been anointed to be the suffering Messiah" to be the judge?
4. How does this compare with the picture you find in Zechariah 3: 1-7?
5. How would you explain vs. 6... that makes judgement a very different thing?
6. Why do you think Peter wrote "love covers a multitude of sins"?

7. In 1<sup>st</sup> Century CE in the diaspora, why would practicing hospitality be important?
8. Vs. 11 We will be strengthened by what God (notice nomenclature) supplies and because to that God Lohim will be glorified (self sacrificing love the Jesus Christ... the names... and glory... are all important... How does this fit together for you?
9. Vs. 14 ...this reminds me of Jim saying...well if you get hate mail, you are doing something right. What do you make of it?
10. What do you think it means to bear the name of God?
11. What do you think it means to trust your soul to a faithful Creator?

## Chapter 5

### Addressing leadership issues –

1. Why would Peter give his readers an experiential CV in verse 1

Take a look at John 21:15-19 for Peter's commission and John 17:5 when Jesus speaks of God glorifying Him – the sacrifice on the cross.

2. How do these experiences fit into Peter's description of being a church leader?

Verse 5 talks about youngers being subject to the elders and everyone being humble with each other.

3. What do you make of this? Why would Peter set up both the structure... as in spouses... and the admonition?
4. Vs. 6 what do you make of the concept of humbling by trusting enough to cast your cares upon God?
5. How does this contrast with some of the pagan worship practices mentioned earlier in the letter?

### Warnings and promises:

6. What would the description of the devil's "going about as a roaring lion" evoke to 1<sup>st</sup> Century minds?

7. What do you think knowing there are others suffering mean to the readers/hearers of this letter?
8. What do you think vs. 10 might have meant to 1<sup>st</sup> century believers of The Way?

### Biblical mis-appropriation

Are there texts that people who know or know of have misappropriated. How would you answer them?

### And Finally

What have you found, learned, talked about, and puzzled over in this study of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter that was new or interesting to you?

I wish for you unexpected blessings.

Catherine