



# Wednesday in the Word

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## 1 Peter

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## **Lesson 1 - 1 Peter 1:1-13**

Optional: Read the Preface, Chapter 1 and Chapter 3 in *How to Read the Bible For All It's Worth*, by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart.

Optional: Read Chapters 3-5 of *Basics of Bible Interpretation* by Bob Smith (Free online: <http://www.raystedman.org/leadership/smith/>).

1. Read through the book of 1 Peter looking for information about:

Type of literature:

The author & recipients:

Why the author wrote this:

Historical Background:

Key Words:

2. Make an analytical outline of chapter 1. For help on outlining see:  
<http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/resources/analyticaloutline.pdf>
  
3. Note everything that describes the identify of believers.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Define in your own words: the “foreknowledge of God” and the “sanctifying work of the Spirit”.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What does it mean to be “sprinkled with His blood?” Compare with Exodus 24:4-8.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What does it mean to be “born again to a living hope?” (vs. 3).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What is the content of the inheritance in vs. 4? Contrast the inheritance described in these verses with the inheritance of Israel and/or other types of inheritance (e.g. treasures, wealth, desires, goals).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. In verses 6-9, note everything Peter tells us about suffering.

9. In verses 10-12, what did the coming of Christ reveal that the Old Testament prophets longed to see clearly?

10. State the main point of this paragraph in your own words

## Lesson 2 - 1 Peter 1:14-25

1. Read the passage several times looking for repeated words, key phrases, themes.
2. Review & revise your analytical outline of chapter 1.
3. Summarize the Old Testament passages Peter quotes verse 16, particularly noting the context.      Leviticus 11:44-45, 19:2 & 20:7

Paraphrase each of the three commands in this section, and summarize the reasons for each:

4. Fix your hope vs. 13—
5. Be holy vs. 14-16—
6. Conduct yourself in fear vs. 17—
7. In verse 17 Peter describes God as both our Father and our impartial judge. Are those contradictory terms to you? Why do you think Peter focused on those attributes of God in this section?

8. The command to fervently love in vs. 22 depends on the clause preceding it (since you have...) and following it (for you have...). How does each clause clarify the command?
  
9. Summarize the Old Testament passage Peter quotes vs. 24-25, particularly noting the context: — Isaiah 40:6-8
  
10. Compare with Psalm 66, Psalm 99 and Psalm 103.
  
11. Summarize the main point of this paragraph in your own words.

## **Lesson 3 - 1 Peter 2:1-10**

1. Read the passage several times looking for repeated words, key phrases, themes.
2. Finalize your analytical outline of chapter 1. Begin outlining chapter 2.
3. Explain the purpose of the THEREFORE (so) in 2:1. How does 2:1-3 relate to chapter 1?
4. Define: malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander (vs. 2).
5. Why put them aside? Why do you think he chose these traits and not others?
6. What does “longing for the pure milk of the word” look like in your life?

Summarize the Old Testament passages Peter quotes, particularly noting the context.

7. vs. 6—Isaiah 28:16

8. vs. 7—Psalm 118:22

9. vs. 8—Isaiah 8:14

10. Observe everything Peter says about Jesus in vs. 4-8, even the seemingly trivial.

11. Compare and contrast what Peter says about those who believe and those who do not believe in this section.

12. Peter talked about the living hope (1:3-12), the living word (1:23) and now the living stones (2:4-10). Trace his train of thought and use of “living”.

13. What does it mean to be “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God” for you as an individual? A member of a family? A member of a church?

14. Summarize the main point of this paragraph in your own words.



## **Lesson 4 - 1 Peter 2:11-25**

1. Read the passage several times looking for repeated words, key phrases, themes.
2. Review and refine your analytical outline of chapter 2.
3. In vs. 11-12 Peter refers to Gentiles (i.e. unbelievers). Persecution comes from them in what form? How are believers suppose to respond to this persecution? With what goal?
4. In 2:13-17, what reason(s) are given for obedience to civil laws? What is the goal of obedience?
5. Compare the phrases “as free men” and “as bondslaves of God” in verse 16. What’s the difference? What’s the danger of freedom?
6. What does verse 17 teach about honor, love & fear?
7. Explain the phrase “for the sake of conscience toward God” (2:20) in your own words

8. The phrase "this finds favor" in vs. 19 & vs. 20 is literally "this is grace". What do these verses teach you about grace?
  
9. Vs 21 says Christ left us an example to follow. List everything vs. 21-25 tell us about what the example is.
  
10. What does vs. 24 teach us about Christ's example that we can NOT do?
  
11. Compare with Psalm 72 and Psalm 22.
  
12. Summarize the main point of this paragraph in your own words.

## **Lesson 5 - 1 Peter 3:1-17**

1. Read the passage several times looking for repeated words, key phrases, themes.
2. Finalize your analytical outline of chapter 2. Begin outlining chapter 3.
3. Note the repetition of “in the same way” (vs. 1, 7). In the same way as what?
4. In vs. 1-3 what’s the underlying teaching about behavior and adornment?
5. In Peter’s eyes, what is the most effective witness of a believing wife to her unbelieving husband?
6. In vs. 5-6 of what is Sarah being held as an example?
7. In vs. 7 analyze the following phrases: “live with your wives in an understanding way”

8. “as a fellow heir of the grace of life” —
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. “so that your prayers will not be hindered” —
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Note all the references to “good” in 3:13-18. Explain the relationship between doing good and persecution and suffering in this paragraph.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. In vs. 17, explain the significance of the phrase “if God should will it so”.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. Note the “to sum up” in vs. 8. Reread 2:11-3:17 and summarize the main point in your own words.

## Lesson 6 - 1 Peter 3:18-4:6

1. Read the passage several times looking for repeated words, key phrases, themes.
2. Review & revise your analytical outline of chapter 3. Begin outlining chapter 4.
3. Read 3:13-4:6 and note every verse that relates to suffering and its main point.
4. The middle section (vs. 19-21) is confusing!. Focus on the primary teaching of this section. What is the main point it teaches about Christ's death, resurrection and ascension?
5. How does Noah's story foreshadow baptism?
6. Explain the significance of the THEREFORE in 4:1 and the command that follows: "arm yourselves also with the same purpose".
7. How do vs. 4:3-6 explain the command given in 4:1-2 (note the FOR in vs. 3).

Based on what we've learned so far, summarize what Peter would say today to the following relationships:

8. Believers relating to hostile unbelievers —

9. Believers relating to others believers —

10. Believers' hope and relationship to God —

11. Summarize the main point of this paragraph in your own words.

## **Lesson 7 - 1 Peter 4:7-19**

1. Read the passage several times looking for repeated words, key phrases, themes.
2. Review & revise your analytical outline of chapter 4.
3. Note all the references to the glory of God in 4:7-5:11. How do you think God's glory is related to people?
4. Note these verses seem to emphasize how believers treat each other. Summarize the way of life he describes and the motives he gives.
5. Why is the mention of God's glory relevant to the discussion of Christian service?
6. Why is love (vs. 8) be a top priority for Christians?
7. Note that each of the next three sections ends with a reference to God (4:19; 5:4; 5:10). What aspect of God's character do you think Peter is emphasizing in the context? "Faithful Creator" (vs. 4:19) —

8. The idea of a “fiery ordeal” also appears in 1 Peter 1:7, Proverbs 27:21, Psalm 66:10. Compare these to our current passage. What do these verses teach us about the purpose of intense trials?
  
9. Contrast the different types of suffering described in vs. 14-19.
  
10. Summarize the THEREFORE clause in vs. 19 (Peter’s concluding point) in your own words.
  
11. Compare with Psalm 88 and Psalm 133
  
12. Summarize the main point of this paragraph in your own words.



## **Lesson 8 - 1 Peter 5:1-14**

1. Read the passage several times looking for repeated words, key phrases, themes.
2. Finalize your analytical outline of chapter 4. Outline chapter 5.
3. Peter lists his qualifications for his exhortation in vs. 1. What are they and why do they give him credibility?
4. Describe the attitudes of shepherding Peter commends in vs. 2-3.

Note that each of these sections ends with a reference to God. What aspect of God's character do you think Peter is emphasizing in the context?

5. "Chief Shepherd" (vs. 5:4) —
6. "God of All Grace" (vs. 5:10) —
7. Compare what these verses teach on submission and humility to what we learned in chapters 2-3. What new ideas has Peter added or what old ideas has he amplified?

8. Verse 6 begins with THEREFORE and concludes the letter. How does this paragraph summarize or conclude the letter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What does the benediction teach us about suffering?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Compare with Psalm 82 & 84
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Summarize the main point of this paragraph in your own words.

## Summary Questions

1. Finalize your analytical outline.
2. What did you learn from 1 Peter that encouraged you most?
3. What did you learn from 1 Peter that surprised you most?
4. Based on what you learned, how would you answer a non-Christian who asked you why God allowed suffering in the world?
5. Based on what you learned, how would you counsel a Christian friend who is working for a difficult unbelieving boss? Or a wife with a difficult unbelieving husband?
6. Based on what you learned, how would you counsel a Christian teenager rebelling against believing parents? Or a believer struggling with a challenging relationship with another believer?
7. Based on what you learned, how would you counsel a friend who is struggling with doubts about whether God loves her?

# Summary Chart

The Apostle Peter is writing to:

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<b>CHAPTER</b>	<b>THEME</b>	<b>KEY VERSE</b>
<b>1</b>		
<b>2</b>		
<b>3</b>		
<b>4</b>		
<b>5</b>		

## Peter's Use of Old Testament

<b>Peter's Verse</b>	<b>Old Testament Verse</b>	<b>Type of use</b>
<b>1:16</b>	Leviticus 11:44; 19:2	quote
<b>1:24-25</b>	Isaiah 40:6	quote
<b>2:3</b>	Psalms 34:8-9	possible allusion
<b>2:4</b>	Psalms 118:22	allusion
<b>2:6</b>	Isaiah 28:16	quote
<b>2:7</b>	Psalms 118:22-23	quote
<b>2:8</b>	Isaiah 8:14	allusion
<b>2:9</b>	Exodus 19:6; Hosea 1:10	allusion
<b>2:10</b>	Hosea 2:23	allusion
<b>2:22</b>	Isaiah 53:9	quote
<b>2:23</b>	Isaiah 43:7	quote
<b>2:24</b>	Isaiah 53:5,12	quote
<b>2:25</b>	Isaiah 43:6	quote
<b>3:6</b>	Genesis 18:12	allusion
<b>3:7</b>	Proverbs 17:13	possible allusion
<b>3:10-12</b>	Psalms 34:12-16	quote
<b>3:14-15</b>	Isaiah 8:12-13	possible allusion
<b>3:20</b>	Genesis 6:3,12	allusion
<b>4:8</b>	Proverbs 10:12	quote
<b>4:18</b>	Proverbs 11:31	allusion
<b>5:5</b>	Proverbs 3:34	allusion
<b>5:7</b>	Psalms 55:23	allusion