

1 Peter 1:1-9

Believers Can Rejoice In Their
Heavenly Inheritance

Introduction To 1 Peter

Date: 62-63 A.D.

Recipients: Christians in Asia Minor

Situation: Christians were facing persecution
for their faith.

Purpose: Peter writes to encourage believers
to persevere knowing that they have reward
when the Lord returns.

Peter Greet's The Elect Exiles

1 Peter 1:1-2 ESV Peter, an apostle of Jesus
Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the
dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,
Asia, and Bithynia, according to the
foreknowledge of God the Father in the
sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to
Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with His blood:
May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Flow of 1 Peter 1:3-12

Verses 3-12 are formed from one long sentence

3-5 = Focus on our eschatological inheritance

6-9 = Future hope enables us to persevere

10-12 = We should praise God because we live in the age of fulfilled Old Testament promises

God Alone Caused Our Salvation

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God Alone Protects Our Inheritance

1 Peter 1:4-5 ...to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

reserved = In eternity past and forever more
are protected = Continuous, ongoing protection
through faith = Instrumental means

Trials Prove Our Faith To Be Genuine

1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, **so that** the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, **may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**

Believe Now – See Later

1 Peter 1:8-9 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

Two Errors To Avoid

- 1 Empiricism = Only what can be observed exists
- 2 Fideism = We have no evidence – we just believe!

Application

We must believe that God's foreknowledge is not based on any decision we made, but purely based on His sovereign choice and covenant love.

What Is Foreknowledge?

Arminian Position: God looks down the long corridors of time and “knows” who will trust in Him and therefore chooses them for salvation. (conditional)

Calvinist Position: God’s election is prior to any human decisions. God’s foreknowledge is synonymous with His unique “covenantal love” that He bestows upon the elect. The elect are chosen purely based on God’s good pleasure. (unconditional)

Foreknowledge As “Intimate” Knowledge

Genesis 4:1NKJV Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain...

Genesis 18:17-19a The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him...”

Foreknowledge As “Intimate” Knowledge

2 Samuel 7:18, 20 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: “Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?...Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant.”

Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Foreknowledge As "Intimate" Knowledge
1 Corinthians 8:2-3 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.
Galatians 4:8-9 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things...

Foreknowledge Synonymous With Chosen
Romans 11:1-2 I say then, God has not rejected His people has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew.
1 Peter 1:20-21 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Foreknowledge Synonymous With Chosen
Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to the cross by the hands of godless men...
Romans 8:29, 33 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...Who will bring a charge against God's elect?

What God Has Done For Us: 1 Peter 1:1-9

- elect exiles (vs. 2)
- according to the foreknowledge of God (vs. 2)
- according to His great mercy (vs. 3)
- has caused us to be born again (vs. 3)
- reserved in heaven for you (vs. 4)
- protected by the power of God (vs. 5)
- receiving the end (goal) of your faith – the salvation of your souls (vs. 9)
