


ALIENS!

A look at the letter of 1 Peter


1. Be Holy – 1 Peter 1: 1–2:3

 **1 Peter 1:16** ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."


2. Be people of God– 1 Peter 2:3–10

 **1 Peter 2:10** ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.


3. Submit Yourselves–1Peter2:11–3:7

 **1 Peter 2:12** ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

4. Arm yourselves– 1 Peter 3:8–4:6






 **1 Peter 4:1** Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.

5. Trust God– 1 Peter 4:7– 5:12

 **1 Peter 4:19** ¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

About these studies:

These studies are interactive and designed so that you'll understand the text and grow in godliness. To understand the text, a few basic tools are important:

-  We read the text to understand what the writer is saying.
-  We look for key words that break the text down to bite sizes.
 - **Separators** – break the passage down into bite sizes. Look for words like 'Therefore', 'Since', 'Now that'.
 - **Connectors** – These words explain the ideas even further and continue the train of thought. Look for words like 'So that', 'because', 'now that', 'For', 'And', 'But', 'Although' etc.
-  We ask questions to gather information.
-  We discuss how to apply this new knowledge to our lives.
-  **Praise God for all he has done.**

Who was Peter?

Although there is uncertainty about the identity of the author, it is generally accepted that the writer of 1 Peter was Jesus' right hand man and apostle, Simon Peter. You can read about the beginning of Peter's ministry in the book of Acts.

Why was 1 Peter written?

Peter outlines to the Christians at the time who were facing trials as Christians, what it means to be the people of God. He uses words like elect, strangers and aliens to describe their identity as Jesus' followers. Because of this they need to live accordingly. The letter is best summed up in two verses: **1 Peter 2:11-12**.

How does it apply to us today?

How do we, as the people of God today, continue to remain unstained by this world, so that the name of God will be glorified? That is what we hope to teach you in this study, so that you will continue to grow up in your salvation (1 Peter 2:2).

Study 2

Be People of God

Be people of God- 1 Peter 2:4-10



Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:10



1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--

⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"

⁸ and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message-- which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1. Read 1 Peter 2: 4-10

Note down any repeated words or ideas while you read the text.



2. Locate the Separators.

Firstly, find the key words that will break this passage into bite size pieces. Draw a box around them and separate the 'parts' with a line. Secondly, write down the sentence that follows each break. This will help us work out what the writer is saying. In this passage there is only one 'part' to look at and the first sentence helps us understand the topic, which is 'being built into a spiritual house' ie; God's people. There are also connectors so we can break this part into at least three:

1. verse 4-6

2. verses 7-8

3. verses 9-10

3. section 1 (verses)

Looking at the connectors we can see how this is all linked: V4,5 speaks of a comparison between us and Jesus. Just as Jesus is the precious living stone, verse 5 'you also' (circle), explains that we too are being built up like living stones into a spiritual house. The next connector in verse 6 is 'for' (circle) which explains how the reader backs this up by scripture.



Q. How are we are built up into this spiritual house?
(v6)

Q Write into your own words what you think this part of the passage is saying:

A. Key idea in one line is...

3. Section 2 (verses)

Looking further at these connectors we can see how the writer draws out the implications for those who trust and those who do not trust: Verse 7 begins with the word 'Now' (circle) and continues the same line of thought. This living stone, Jesus, who is precious to God (v4) is also precious to us because _____. The next connector is a contrasting word 'but' (circle) and highlights the dual nature of this stone. Once again he backs it up with scripture from Ps 118 and Isaiah 8, that this stone is also the stumbling stone which will seal the fate for those who reject Jesus. The next connector 'and' in verse 8 (circle) adds further scriptural evidence for this truth. The last connector in this section 'because' in verse 8b tells us why people stumble over this precious stone.



Q. What is the reason why these people stumble (v8).

Q. What specifically do you think this message is about?

Q Write into your own words what you think this part of the passage is saying:

(B) Key idea in one line is...

3. section 3 (verses) _____

This section continues on with the connector 'but' (circle) which is a contrasting word. Those who reject Jesus will fall but we have been chosen by God to serve him. Old Testament images of a royal priesthood and a holy nation take us back to the time that God called for himself a people from all the nations of the world, as his prize possession. Out of this nation only a chosen few were allowed to serve God in the temple and be close to him. The writer is saying therefore, that we are now like those who were able to serve God in the temple. The reason that we believe and trust in Jesus is because God first chose us. This is the term called 'predestined'. This is in direct contrast to those who are destined to fall, who have not been called by God. It is not that they have been predestined to fall, the focus is in the great joy that God's people share because He has shown a small few mercy and brought them out of darkness. We have been C_____ as a P_____ by God's M_____

The last connector we'll look at in verse 9 'that' (circle) tells us the reason why we have been made into a people.



Q Why Have we been called?

Q Write into your own words what you think this part of the passage is saying:

(C) Key idea in one line is...



Q How does a person show that they are living out their nature as one of God's people?



Q. What inhibits us from living out our true nature as one of God's people?

Q. A good Christian friend of yours tells you that she/ he doubts that they are a Christian. For all they know they haven't been called at all and they want to give up the faith. What would you say to reassure them of their future in Jesus?



A+B+C = big idea.

Copy down what you've written in your one-liners.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

A + B + C = Big Idea:

Write into your own words what you think this section is about. _____
