

Bible Survey, part 16 – The New Testament
The Epistles – 1 & 2 Peter
“Our Living Hope in Christ”

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Peter was a **fisherman** who lived on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.
He was one of the first disciples Jesus called along with his brother **Andrew**.

“As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake for they were fishermen.” Matthew 4:18

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ And immediately, they left their nets and followed Him.” Matthew 4:19-20

Peter became one of the “three inner circle disciples” along with James and John.

Mount of Transfiguration

“Jesus was transfigured before them . . . And a voice came out of the bright cloud saying, ‘This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!’” Matthew 17:2, 5

“For we have not followed **cleverly-devised fables** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ – but we were **eyewitnesses** of His Majesty.” 2 Peter 1:16

“For He received honor and glory from God the Father who said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” 2 Peter 1:17

“And we ourselves heard this utterance from heaven, because **we were with Him** on that holy mountain.” 2 Peter 1:18

After Jesus’ resurrection, Peter became the leading apostle in the early years of the church.

But after Acts chapter 15, Peter’s name disappears from the Book of Acts and we know nothing of his ministry from then on.

Peter asked Emperor Nero to crucify him upside down (A.D. 66) because “he felt unworthy to die as Christ had.” Origen (church father)

#1 – To whom did Peter write his letters?

“God’s elect, who reside as **pilgrims** in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia . . .” 1 Peter 1:1



“pilgrims” = “believers”

#2 – When did Peter write his letters?

“For the Lord Jesus has shown me that I will soon be laying aside my earthly dwelling [body].”
2 Peter 1:14

2 Peter = A.D. 66

1 Peter = few years earlier

#3 – Why did Peter write his letters?

The Purpose of 2 Peter = to urge these believers to stand firm against false teaching even after Peter has died

“... false teachers will arise among you and bring in destructive heresies ...” 2 Peter 2:1

“Therefore, since you know this beforehand, be on your guard, lest you be carried away by their error and fall from your own steadfastness.” 2 Peter 3:17

The Purpose of 1 Peter = to give hope to these believers who were undergoing deep suffering for their faith

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

“In this **hope**, you rejoice, even though now, for a little while, you may have to suffer various trials.”
1 Peter 1:6

SO WHAT?

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

The Bible says that the “**HOPE**” we have in Jesus Christ is **NOT** a dead hope!

It is a “**LIVING HOPE.**”

Guaranteed by the “**RESURRECTED LIVING SAVIOR!**”

#1 – This **hope** comes from believing God’s promises

“... God has given us His exceedingly great and precious promises ...” 2 Peter 1:4

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life ...” Psalm 23:6

“... I will never leave you nor will I ever forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

“... God works all things together for **good** to those who love Him ...” Romans 8:28

With all the promises God has given us as His children in Christ – there’s no reason for us to ever be **negative or pessimistic or cynical!**

“For My angel will go before you and bring you into the land of the Canaanites ... And I will send My terror ahead of you and throw into confusion all the people you encounter; and I will make them turn their backs and run from you.” Exodus 23:23, 27

“... We went into the land where you sent us, and it certainly does flow with milk and honey ... BUT the people who live there are strong and their cities are fortified and very large ... And we’re not able to go up against them, because they are too strong for us.” Numbers 13:27-28, 31

“So all the people lifted up their voices and wept ... And said to one another, ‘Let us choose a new leader and return to Egypt.’” Numbers 14:1, 4

“**Then Joshua and Caleb said**, ‘Do not rebel against the LORD like this; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be bread for us! Their protection has been removed from them, because the LORD is with us!’” Numbers 14:9

Joshua and Caleb’s **hope and optimism came from their trust in the promise of God!**

#2 – This **hope** comes from God’s sovereignty

“Whatever the LORD pleases, He does – in the heavens and on the earth, and in the seas, and in all their depth.” Psalm 135:6

Saying “**God is sovereign**” means that not only is **He** running every detail of the universe – but that He’s running every detail of our **lives as well!**

“... All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before there was one of them [in time and space] ...” Psalm 139:16

“Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” Matthew 10:30

As followers of Christ – **we know** that these things are NOT accidents or coincidences or random fate – they’re merely part of the good and perfect plan of a **sovereign God** for our lives!

#3 – This **hope** comes from the certainty of heaven

“And this is the record: that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has eternal life; and he who does not have the Son of God does not have eternal life. These things I write to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.”
1 John 5:11-13

When we “have Christ,” we have the **certainty** of eternal life and heaven!

“And God shall wipe away every tear from our eyes. And there will be no more death, or grieving, or crying, or pain – for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:4

If you know Christ – the hope of heaven is not a “**hope so**” hope – it’s a “**know so**” hope!

“... the **HOPE** of the Gospel...” Colossians 1:23

- **Hope** from God’s promises
- **Hope** from God’s sovereignty
- **Hope** from our certainty of heaven

“... be always ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the **HOPE** that is within you...”
1 Peter 3:15

“... that you may **abound in hope**...” Romans 15:13

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...” 1 Peter 1:3a

My HOPE is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name

On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand