



## ABOUT “SCATTERED”

*“Peter ... to God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered ...” 1 Peter 1*

*During the Covid-19 Lockdown I was asked by people isolated in their homes with limited opportunity to join virtual groups for help with a Bible Study suited to the times. This is my response: Bible studies that don’t require a group, a leader or a marker. Please feel free to pass them to others. They can be downloaded, emailed, printed or posted. I’d encourage you to share your thoughts, answers, and questions, with at least one other person: phone them up if you can’t meet. I’d also love to see your answers and questions: email or post them to me (details below) if you want to. If I can, I’ll answer you – and if not, be assured every response contributes to the ongoing development of these studies. In Christ, Michael L Drake*

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## INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER 1:10-16

Since Peter is writing to Jewish Christians, it’s not surprising he takes his readers back to the Old Testament. But he doesn’t take them back to Old Testament rituals and law. Instead he shows how the Old Testament foretold the coming of Jesus, albeit in a hidden way that the prophets (and even angels) wanted to understand more clearly but couldn’t! The gospel of Jesus and his suffering is a fulfilment of the promises God had made throughout the Old Testament.

But Peter is not just making a theological point. He immediately turns to God’s call to live holy lives as a result of this gospel. In verse 2 of this chapter, Peter says Christians have been sanctified (that is, made holy) by the work of the Holy Spirit through the death of Jesus, for obedience to Jesus. Now he tells us to live as those who have been made holy. This not the Roman Catholic heresy that adds obedience to faith as something that *makes* us right with God. It is the obedience that is a result of *being* right with God. (James 2:18) The gospel means changed lives, and that is true for both Jewish Christians and Gentile ones.

Because their thinking was entrenched in the Old Testament, these scattered Jewish Christians would have understood what was meant by the term “holy.” We can think of it in terms of “religious” or “pure.” Those ideas belong, but the central idea of biblical holiness is that what is holy is so dedicated to God that it is wholly his. In one sense all things are holy, “For from him and through him and to him are all things.” (Romans 11:36) But Peter quotes from Leviticus where God calls on his people to set themselves aside for, or consecrate themselves to, God and God alone. In Christ, Christians are separated *from* the world *to* God; we need to live the holy obedience to which we are sanctified.

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# SCATTERED #3 1 Peter 1:10-16

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## GETTING STARTED

Please remember that this is God's Word. God used Peter to write God's words in God's way for us. So

1. Pray, asking God to give you his Spirit so that you will honour him, understand his word, and learn how to live better for Jesus.
  2. Read the passage listed above for this study. What is it mainly about?
  3. Now discuss/think about/answer the questions that follow.
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## THE PROPHETS SERVED US

1. **In verse 10, what expression does Peter use to describe the salvation the Old Testament prophets spoke about? What evidence of this can you see in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53?**  
(Compare Matthew 27:43-46 with the first 8 verses of Psalm 22)
2. **According to verse 11, the Old Testament prophets searched for meaning in their own prophecies "intently and with the greatest care." What three things did they try to find out?**
3. **They didn't get answers to those things. Instead, it was revealed to them that their prophecies were not for them but for Peter's readers. According to verse 12, in what two ways were those things made known to Peter's readers (and to us)?**
4. **Skim through verses 1-12: what do we now know that was hidden from the old prophets? According to verse 11, what two things were predicted of Christ that are central to what Peter is writing about?**
5. **Peter mentions the Holy Spirit twice in verses 10-12. What does he say the Holy Spirit did?**

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It's easy to miss the point of the Old Testament. Angels didn't understand it, and even its writers didn't always understand what they were writing! It's set in alien cultures, in foreign lands, and in distant times. So a lot of Christians tend to ignore it, or use it only for moral examples. In doing that, we can ignore what Peter makes clear here: the Old Testament was written to speak to *us* about *Jesus*. Read Romans 15:4. This would be a good moment to think about how and when you read the Old Testament, and what place it has in building up your faith, in shaping your life, in encouraging other believers in your church, and in your witness to this lost world.

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### BE AS HOLY AS GOD

6. **In verse 13 Peter lists at least five ways by which his readers need to respond to having the salvation promised by the prophets long ago. What are they?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. **How did you go? My list doesn't actually have anything I had to *do* in the way I usually think of doing things. My list has to do with my mind, self-control, hope, desires and ignorance. It reminds me of Psalm 51:17; Romans 12:2; Philippians 2:5; Galatians 5:19-26; 1 Corinthians 2:16; and Matthew 15:17. Read these passages then answer this question: What is the link between the Holy Spirit, our minds and acts of holiness?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. **In verse 16 Peter quotes from Leviticus, where the command to be holy because God is holy is repeated at least three times. In Leviticus 11:44,45, Israel's holiness was to be *demonstrated* through ritual law. In Leviticus 19:2 Israel's holiness was to be *demonstrated* through obedience to the Ten Laws. But Leviticus 20:7 holds the key. Law and obedience didn't make Israel holy, for God says In Leviticus 20:7, "I am the Lord, who makes you holy." Now read Leviticus 20:26 and Hebrews 9:13-15. Compare the Christian's holiness with Old Testament Israel's: How are we made holy? How is our holiness better?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. **Verse 16 tells us we are to be holy just as God is holy. According to Ephesians 4:24 and 2 Corinthians 3:18, how can we grow in holiness like God?**

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### PRAY & LIVE!

10. **In the light of these verses: What can you thank God for? What can you pray for others? What can you trust God for?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. **In the light of these verse, what changes do you need to make: In your faith? In your worship? In your attitude? In your life?**