



## ABOUT “SCATTERED”

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

*Scattered* is a series of Bible Studies you can do alone at home, or with others in a group. They don’t depend on a leader or someone affirming the right answer. The title of the series comes from Peter’s addressing his letter to “*strangers in the world, scattered throughout*” the world. Christians will always be scattered in this world in all sorts of ways. Writing the series started during the Covid-19 lockdowns when we were as isolated as if we had been scattered. But Peter highlights the fact that it is our separation *to Christ* that separates *us from the world*. So he sees Christians as scattered strangers struggling in an alien world, and sets out to encourage us to live faithful and holy lives in Christ.

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## INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER 2:9-17

Peter continues with his metaphors! He begins this section by contrasting what the strangers were, with what they now are. It might seem that verse 10 implies that those he is writing to are gentile believers because they were never the people of God they have now become. But the reality is that not every Jew, as a physical descendent of Abraham was counted by God as among the people of God. Read Romans 9:6-16. It is the descendants of Abraham who are included in the promises of God (Romans 9:18), who are chosen by God to receive God’s mercy (Romans 9:14,15) who are the true children of God. So even these Jewish Peter is writing to were once “not the people of God” that they have now become.

In this section Peter builds on the Old Testament images of God’s people – but one image could never have applied in the Old Testament. Priests had to be Levites; kings had to be Judeans (in the line of David) – so a priesthood of royals (1 Peter 2:9) could never happen. But as we so often see, the imagery of the Old Testament gives place to a greater reality: Jesus is both King and our High Priest, and in him we offer sacrifices of praise as priests, while being a royal people through our inheritance in King Jesus. In fact, if you look at Exodus 19:6, this was exactly what God promised would eventually be true of his chosen people.

Yet all this does not show up in our lives through “religious” activities, special clothing, or holy ceremonies, but in submission to civil authorities, good deeds and moral living. Verse 17 is a summary of what Peter teaches here: “respect everyone.” How is that respect to be shown to each of the three groups Peter mentions here (Christians, God and authorities)?

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# SCATTERED #6 1 Peter 2:9-17

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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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## CHOSEN TO SACRIFICE

1. **In verses 9 & 10 Peter contrasts what believers were before they came to Christ through faith, with what we are now. What five things are different?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. **According to verse 9, what "sacrifice" are we to offer, and what reason does Peter give for making that "sacrifice"?**

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## CHOSEN TO BE AT WAR

3. **In Ephesians 6:12 Paul warns us that our warfare is not against "flesh and blood" – that is, it is not against either other people or our own bodies – but against spiritual forces. We can wrongly imagine this to be some sort of "other world" struggle. But in verse 11 Peter shows us that this spiritual warfare involves fighting against something much closer to daily life. What does Peter urge us to fight against?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. **In verse 11 Peter urges us to take up this fight as "strangers and aliens in this world." Go back to chapter 1:14-17, then explain how fighting against sinful desires contrasts with the way those who belong to this world live?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. **According to verse 12**
  - a. **What will those who accuse Christians see if Christians fight this warfare rightly?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. **What will silence those who accuse Christians of doing wrong?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. **What other amazing thing will result from this?**

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### CHOSEN TO SUBMIT

6. According to verses 13 & 14, which authorities should Christians submit to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What two reasons does Peter give in verses 13-17 for submitting to authorities?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What reason does Peter give in verse 14 for the authority rulers have? (Comparing that with Romans 13:1 will help.)

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### SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

It's not always easy to submit to authorities. Sometimes we don't like particular rules, sometimes we think the rules are inconvenient or not the best way to do things, and sometimes the laws are blatantly evil. The Roman rulers at the time of New Testament were unbelieving sinners who made rules that justified abortion and infanticide; they made laws that legalised the abuse of women, children and slaves; they taxed citizens unjustly, and often used those taxes to do evil things; and they staged fights to the death for popular entertainment. Compare Romans 13:1-7 with 1 Peter 2:9-17. Also look at Luke 20:22-25, Acts 5:27-29, and James 1:27.

1. What choice do these Bible passages give us about which rules we submit to and which ones we defy?
2. Skip over to 1 Peter 4:19 to see how we should respond to unjust laws as they impact on us.
3. Does the Bible teach that there is a place for disobeying the authorities to defend the lives of others?
4. What is the *only* basis ever given in the New Testament for disobeying authorities?

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9. In verse 16 Peter indicates that we can live as "free men," but he doesn't explain what that freedom is, so we don't need to work that out just now to understand what he is saying to us. Instead he contrasts two different ways of living as "free." What are they?

10. What examples are there in verses 9-17 of living "as the servants of God"?

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### CHOSEN TO BE SERVANTS OF GOD

11. In the light of these verses: What can you thank God for? What can you pray for others? What can you trust God for?

12. In the light of these verses, what changes do you need to make: In your faith? In your worship? In your attitude? In your life?