

Intro: In 64AD there was a terrible fire in Rome. It lasted for 6 days, and it is estimated about 70% of Rome destroyed! Nero, who was not that popular and Emperor, was blamed for the fire, and historians believe he started a rumor Here is the primary source...an eyewitness to the fire...and it's aftermath...

So, when Peter writes...To those who are "scattered" many scholars believe THAT is why they were scattered...banned from

Here is what I want you to see though. While the Christians to whom Peter was writing had EVERY reason to despair And while they had every reason to be angry, and upset, and no one would blame them if they ran and hid Peter tells them...Have Hope! Don't Despair! Don't Give Up! Know that God has something amazing for you!

So, if you are feeling a little like the early Christians...if you want to find a closet and hide when you watch the news: HOPE! Peter tells them...and You and I...Don't Run...Don't Hide...Don't Despair...Don't Give Up! Have Hope!

4 Reasons We Are To Have Hope

1 Peter 1:3-12 Pg 857

1. We Have Hope Because of What God Has Done For Us In The Past: He Has Given You Salvation! Vs 3

Peter begins to tie off some of blessings of God in our lives

- Mercy: Lit = *tender compassion, active gentle care and concern* Eph 2:4-7 *rich in mercy...when dead...made us alive*
- New Birth: Lit = 2 Cor 5:17 *"If any man is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come!"*
Last week we read Rom 1: Litany of all the awful things we did w/o Christ: All Forgiven!
God has given us New Life!
Eph 5:8 *"You were once darkness, now you are children of light"*
- Living Hope: Peter is telling us; Something happened in the past when you came to know Jesus that changes it all
Our hope is not in something dead and buried...Our hope is in the Resurrected Christ!
Our hope Comes to us THROUGH the resurrection!

Illus: Here is what Peter is trying to communicate: *Resurrection changes everything!* We thought He was dead! We watched Him arrested, beaten, crucified, thorns, spear, breath last breath, body carried away...DEAD But on that third morning everything changed...We serve a RISEN Savior! So the HOPE we have is LIVING!

Truths To Live By

1. God offers MERCY to all who come to Him seeking it (rich in mercy)
2. God offers NEW LIFE to all who come to Him. Regardless of where you are...however far from God you may be:
3. God offers us a LIVING hope! I don't care WHAT "they say"
Finances are not dead. Failure is not forever. Dr's don't know what the outcome will be, Hope lives in Him!
Even death is not final for those that know Jesus. They may tell you it is final...but it isn't. Death gave way that day

2. We Have Hope Because of What God Has Promised Us For The Future. Vs 4a

The faith that we have in Jesus, and the Hope that He gives us is not just something from the Past...Living Hope: Future!

- Inheritance: Salvation ready to be revealed at last time

3 Pieces of our Inheritance

~Saved from PRESENCE OF SIN	Rev 21:1-5; 22:1-5	Better place is waiting!
~Old body is redeemed/New Body	2 Cor 15:35ff	Better body is waiting!
~See Him! Know Him!	1 Cor 13:8-12	Better knowledge is waiting

Illus: Sometimes an inheritance disappears before you get to it, right? Stolen, Spent, Ruined, Lost
You have an inheritance WAITING for you. And while it is not yet yours, and while it may seem a long way away
And while it not yet in your hand...You hold on...

- Not going to Perish (die)
- Not going to spoil
- Not to die...

When you get there...it will be waiting...it is KEPT for you in the hand of God...no one will take it away!

Truths to Live By

1. What you have...isn't the finished product! *The best is yet to come*
2. What you see...isn't all there is *More that is waiting (Eye not seen, ear not heard, mind conceived)*
3. What is waiting for you...isn't going anywhere!

3. We Have Hope Because OF What God Is Doing In Our Lives Today! Vs 4b-9

Knowing Jesus and His grace in our life makes all the difference

Salvation is not just a Past Tense and Present Tense Thing: Not just back then...and Up there! Right Here!

- We WERE saved (Past) from the Penalty of Sin: God in His mercy forgave and gave us new life!
- We WILL be saved (future) from the Presence of Sin and TO the Presence of God!
- We ARE BEING saved from the Power of Sin! (Right Now!)

How does that Happen? 3 Different Ways

- **Shielded by God's power:** Lit = to mount guard as a sentinel; to protect! God is **GUARDING YOU!**
- **Encouraged by God's purpose:** Every trouble, Every Trial, Every struggle comes "So that" your faith is
~ Refined Impurities removed
~ Proved genuine Demonstrated as real and effective (angels long to look into it)
~Bring Glory and Honor to Jesus! Jesus is pointed to as Lord, Savior, Provider, Sustainer!

Truths to Live By

1. *God is present in WHATEVER place you find yourself...He will not let you fall* (Look for it)
2. *God has a reason for what comes your way...if you embrace it...you will grow* (Embrace it)

4. We Have Hope Because Knowing God Adds Eternal Meaning And Purpose To Our Struggles.

Vs 10-12

Prophets knew...it wasn't about them

Angels in heaven bend down to look...absolute amazement...God is doing

Hope flows into our hearts and lives when we realize...God is USING us...for His glory!

- We are not always Serving Us! Like the Prophets, it isn't always about us! (Job's trials...bigger than he)
- God uses our struggles, temptations, trials and pains for GOOD! (

1. *God wants to use you in the life of others...He never wastes a hurt.* 2 Cor 1:3-7
2. *God is using your victorious struggle as a testimony to the spiritual world! (Angels...demons!)*

CONCL:

What is your reaction when you see the news...

What is your reaction when trials and troubles and tribulations come

What do you do when everything around you seems arranged against you?

Peter says:

HAVE HOPE!

- PAST IS FORGIVEN
- FUTURE IS GUARENTEED
- PRESENT IS EMPOWERED
- GOD'S PURPOSE...ALWAYS THERE

Come Pray...IF YOUR PAST ISN'T FORGIVEN...doest come automatically

Come Pray...If you are confident of your future

Come Pray...If you need strength to for a trial

Come Pray...If you need to see what God is doing...if you Need Hope!

The following account was written by the Roman historian Tacitus in his book Annals published a few years after the event. Tacitus was a young boy living in Rome during the time of the persecutions.

"Therefore, to stop the rumor [that he had set Rome on fire], he [Emperor Nero] falsely charged with guilt, and punished with the most fearful tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were [generally] hated for their enormities. Christus, the founder of that name, was put to death as a criminal by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea, in the reign of Tiberius...Accordingly first those were arrested who confessed they were Christians; next on their information, a vast multitude were convicted, not so much on the charge of burning the city, as of "hating the human race."

In their very deaths they were made the subjects of sport: for they were covered with the hides of wild beasts, and worried to death by dogs, or nailed to crosses, or set fire to, and when the day waned, burned to serve for the evening lights.