The Chapters of 1 Peter

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SECTION OUTLINE ONE (1 PETER 1)
Peter opens his first letter with an overview of some glorious facts concerning salvation.

I. THE SOURCE OF OUR SALVATION (1:1-2)
   A. We have been chosen by the Father (1:1-2a).
   B. We have been made holy by the Spirit (1:2b).
   C. We are cleansed by the blood of the Son (1:2c).

II. THE GUARANTEE OF OUR SALVATION (1:3-5)
   A. The proof (1:3): It is guaranteed by the resurrection of Christ.
   B. The permanence (1:4): It is kept in heaven for us.
   C. The power (1:5): God's mighty power assures us that we will safely arrive in heaven.

III. THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION (1:6-9)
   A. The promise (1:6): This joy can be ours even in the midst of trials.
   B. The products (1:7-9): Our trials produce a twofold fruit.
      1. They increase our faith in God (1:7).
      2. They increase our love for God (1:8-9).

IV. THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS AND OUR SALVATION (1:10-12a)
   A. What they did not understand (1:10-11): They could not fully comprehend all their prophecies concerning the future work of the Messiah.
      1. In regard to his grief (1:10-11a)
      2. In regard to his glory (1:11b)
   B. What they did understand (1:12a): They knew that their prophecies would not be fulfilled until after their deaths.

V. THE ANGELS AND OUR SALVATION (1:12b): They long to know more about this wonderful subject.

VI. THE RESPONSE TO OUR SALVATION (1:13-17)
   A. In regard to ourselves (1:13): We are to be self-controlled.
   B. In regard to our Savior (1:14-17)
      1. We are to be holy before God (1:14-16).
      2. We are to be respectful toward God (1:17).

VII. THE COST OF OUR SALVATION (1:18-21)
   A. The price (1:18-19)
      1. Negative (1:18): It was not purchased with silver or gold.
      2. Positive (1:19): It was bought by the precious blood of Jesus.
   B. The planning (1:20-21): Christ was chosen before the foundation of the world to do this.

VIII. THE VEHICLE OF OUR SALVATION (1:22-25)
   A. The new birth (1:22-23a): One must experience regeneration to be saved.
   B. The old book (1:23b-25): It is God's Word that brings this about.

SECTION OUTLINE TWO (1 PETER 2)
Peter speaks of renouncing, relationships, respect, and a role model.
I. THE RENOUNCING (2:1-3, 11)
   A. What we are to renounce (2:1, 11b): We are to rid ourselves of deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander, and worldliness.
   B. What we are to receive (2:2-3): We are to crave pure spiritual milk.

II. THE RELATIONSHIPS (2:4-12)
   A. What Christians are (2:5, 9a, 10-11a)
      1. We are living stones (2:5a).
      2. We are royal priests (2:5b).
      3. We are a chosen people (2:9a, 10).
      4. We are strangers on earth (2:11a).
   B. What Christ is (2:4, 6-8, 9b, 12)
      1. He is the living foundation (2:4a).
         a. He is a precious foundation for believers (2:4b, 7a).
         b. He is a stumbling block for unbelievers (2:8).
      2. He is the cornerstone (2:6, 7b).
      3. He is the chosen one (2:4c).
      4. He is the judge (2:12).
      5. He is the light (2:9b).

III. THE RESPECT (2:13-20): For the Lord's sake, we are to show respect (and submission) to the following parties:
   A. Civil authorities (2:13-16)
   B. Employers (2:18-20)
   C. Everyone (2:17)

IV. THE ROLE MODEL (2:21-25)
   A. Who he is (2:21-22): He is our sinless Savior, Jesus Christ.
   B. What he did (2:23-24a): He died on Calvary's cross.
   C. Why he did it (2:24b-25)
      1. That his wounds might heal ours (2:24b)
      2. That we might turn to the Shepherd (2:25)

SECTION OUTLINE THREE (1 PETER 3)
Peter talks about appropriate conduct for believers in light of what Christ has done for us.

I. THE CONDUCT OF BELIEVERS (3:1-17)
   A. Responsibilities of wives (3:1-6)
      1. Peter's exhortation (3:1-5)
         a. Concerning their behavior (3:1-2): Wives should depend upon their lives more than their lips in witnessing to unsaved husbands.
         b. Concerning their beauty (3:3-5): Inner beauty is far more important than outer beauty.
      2. Peter's example (3:6): He uses Sarah of the Old Testament as a role model.
   B. Responsibilities of husbands (3:7)
      1. What they are to do (3:7a): Husbands must be considerate of their wives and respect them.
      2. Why they are to do it (3:7b): If they fail here, their prayers will not be answered.
   C. Responsibilities of all (3:8-17)
      1. Live in loving harmony (3:8).
      2. Reward both good and evil with good (3:9-14).
      3. Worship Christ as Lord, and always be ready to explain your faith (3:15).
      4. Be ready to defend your faith (3:16-17).

II. THE CHRIST OF BELIEVERS (3:18-22): Peter describes a fourfold ministry accomplished by the Savior.
   A. His death (3:18)
      1. The permanence (3:18a): He died for our sins once and for all.
2. The purpose (3:18b): He died to reconcile sinners to God.

B. His journey to the spirit world (3:19-20)
1. The transgression (3:19): Jesus preached against the sins of these evil spirits.
2. The time (3:20): They committed their wickedness in the days of Noah.

C. His resurrection (3:21)
1. The salvation (3:21a): Jesus’ resurrection guarantees our redemption.

D. His ascension and exaltation (3:22)

SECTION OUTLINE FOUR (1 PETER 4)
Peter writes, about suffering.

I. THE PURPOSE OF SUFFERING (4:1-11, 15, 17-18)
A. To cleanse and purify the spiritual believer (4:1-11)
1. The triumph (4:1-3): Suffering causes sin to lose its power.
2. The testimony (4:4-6): The unsaved friends of a new Christian marvel that he does not desire to share their wicked lifestyle as he once did.
3. The tenderness (4:7-9): Suffering should develop our love for other believers.
4. The talents (4:10-11): We should faithfully employ all of our God-given spiritual gifts.

B. To chasten and punish the carnal believer (4:15, 17-18): God will judge his people.

II. THE PRIVILEGE OF SUFFERING (4:12-14, 16)
A. It is to be expected (4:12): All believers will be allowed to suffer.

B. It is to be esteemed (4:13-14, 16)
1. To suffer for Christ means to share his past grief (4:13a, 14a, 16a).
2. To suffer for Christ means to share his future glory (4:13b, 14b, 16b).

III. THE PATIENCE IN SUFFERING (4:19): We are to do two things in the hour of pain.
A. We are to commit ourselves to God (4:19b).
B. We are to continue to do good (4:19a).

SECTION OUTLINE FIVE (1 PETER 5)
Peter gives advice for elders and other church members and sends his final greetings.

I. THE APPEAL BY PETER (5:1-11)
A. He writes to the elders in the church (5:1-4).
1. The role model (5:1): Peter himself is an elder in his church.
2. The responsibilities (5:2-3)
   a. Feed the flock of God (5:2).
   b. Lead the flock of God (5:3).
3. The reward (5:4): To receive a crown of glory from the head Shepherd himself.

B. He writes to the other members of the church (5:5-11).
1. Live as a servant (5:5-7).
   a. Be in subjection to your superiors (5:5).
   b. Be in subjection to your Savior (5:6-7).
2. Live as a soldier (5:8-9).
   a. Recognize the enemy (5:8).
   b. Resist the enemy (5:9).
3. Live as a sufferer (5:10-11).
   a. The duration (5:10): It only lasts for a short time.
   b. The dynamics (5:11): It makes one strong, firm, and steadfast.

II. THE ASSISTANCE TO PETER (5:12-14): Silas, whom Peter considers a faithful brother, has helped Peter write this letter.