



## **Our Read-Ahead for: 07 May 2023**

### **“A Living Hope”**

**Monday:** I have No Help in Me (**Job 6:8-13**)

**Tuesday:** Days Without Hope (**Job 7:1-6**)

**Wednesday:** Will Mortals Live Again (**Job 14:7-17**)

**Thursday:** My Times Are in Your Hands (**Psalms 31:9-16**)

**Friday:** The Lord Preserves the Faithful (**Psalms 31:19-24**)

**Saturday:** Hope in God’s Faithfulness (**Lamentations 3:19-24**)

**Sunday:** New Birth into a Living Hope (**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3-12**)

## A Living Hope

Lesson Text: **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3-12**

Bible Background: **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:1-12**

Devotional Reading: **Lamentations 3:19-24**

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**Keep in Mind:** *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1st Peter 1:3 KJV)*

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### Aim for Change

“By the end of the lesson, we will: **KNOW** how we can find meaning in life’s challenges; **FEEL** the hope of Christ and be able to share that hope with others; and **ACTIVELY** turn to Christ for hope and guidance.”

### In Focus

“The daily struggles of life can cause us to experience hopelessness. How can we become confident and find hope for a better tomorrow? Peter writes that a new birth into a living hope can be found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

### Focal Verses

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3-12 ~NKJV**

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that faded not away, reserved in heaven for you,

**5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**6** Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perished, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honors and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:**

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

**10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:**

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

**12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.**

## I. The Lesson

### **The People, Places and Times**

**Author, Audience, Attitude:** There is little doubt the apostle Peter is the author of this epistle. He introduces himself in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:1. We also note he is writing to strangers (perhaps Greek converts) in various regions of Asia. It is encouragement for all Christians who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, even those of us today who have accepted the truth of the death of our Lord Jesus and resurrection of Jesus our Savior.

### **Background**

Peter wrote to encourage Christians who were under persecution. Peter himself was beaten, jailed, and threatened often as he delivered God's message to the people. He had also witnessed firsthand not only fellow Christians dying for the faith but many being scattered as they sought refuge. During his awareness of ongoing persecution and suffering, the apostle Peter sought to bring comfort and hope to Christians under duress.

## II. **In Depth**

### 1. **“Hope through Salvation (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3–6)**

*Abundant mercy (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:3-4).* Mankind fell from a great estate, when Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden. God has established reconciliation with humankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is through God's abundant mercy that we are not consumed.”

The shed blood of Jesus not only brings hope of eternal life but a lively hope to all humankind. Peter writes in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:5 of saints being “lively stones.” This dynamic combination of a lively hope and lively stones allows us to have victory over the cares of this world. This is accomplished by the resurrection power that is in us through the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. We have a spiritual heritage built upon an everlasting foundation. When the entire world is falling apart, our prayer can be: “Let Your kingdom come on Earth as it is in heaven.” Through Jesus Christ, we have inherited the promise of His kingdom here on Earth.

*Faith works (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:5–6).* Remember the song that many congregations used to sing by Gene Martin and Richard Littlejohn? “*Faith, faith, faith, just a little bit of faith. It don’t take a whole lot, just use what you got, faith, faith, faith, just a little bit of faith*” There is so much truth to that tune, which appeared on the 1970 album, *We Shall Be Like Him*.

Peter is encouraging the reader that although there are manifold temptations, we are kept by the power of God through faith. Rejoice as the fiery tests and trials engulf you. Take time to learn what the purposes of these experiences are— they exist to make us, not to break us.

2. **Triumphant Victory (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:7–12)** In our devotional reading from the book of Lamentations, Jeremiah lets us know where to place our hope. “The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore, will I hope in him” (Lamentations 3:24). It seems nearly unimaginable to grasp what the world does when life’s challenges happen.

*Precious trials (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:7).* Can you imagine that 24 karats of gold are not worth as much as the trials of your faith? These fiery trials that we’re enduring and overcoming are going to be currency with Jesus Christ in His appearing. Surely, we want Him to be pleased not only then but now as well. A wise person has said it’s all about attitude and perspective. How we look at a situation makes all the difference. Learn to see things as God sees them.

*Better days are coming (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:10–11).* Throughout the Old Testament, prophets and common people alike rested in the promise of hope. The list is long and covers thousands of years, but these men, women, and children of faith looked to the future in hope. Present-day saints have a different vantage point. We have all these things recorded in the Word of God. We also have a witness in our inner being that Jesus did just as He said. Our hope is in the glorious, resurrected Christ. Yes, we have hope eternal.

*Angelic curiosity (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:12).* “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visit him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor” (Psalm 8:4–5). Man has a place of honor in God’s creation. God breathed life into man and he became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). No other creature, angelic or otherwise, can boast of this status. However much the angels may be puzzled at God’s decision in creation, we do know that in redemption the angels rejoice when a soul is saved (Luke 15:10).”

### **III. Take Aways**

### **IV. Closing Prayer**