

God's Eternal Plan in Time

Peter writes to dispersed Jewish Christians who he describes as “chosen sojourners” living in these different areas mentioned in Vs 1.

The primary theme of the book is God's plan (foreknowledge) for our refining and growth (sanctification) through suffering (1Pet.1:3, 1PE 1:6-9; 1Pet.2:2; 4:1-2; 5:6-11).

Plan & Provision	Eternal plan provides all the grace assets to grow & overcome
Progression & Proof	Superiority of God' grace over suffering caused by sin/evil
Praise	Results in blessings in time; glory & honor at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Exegetical Discussion:

(1 Pet.1:1) Peter an Apostle to the chosen, sojourners (temporary residents), of the dispersion (scattered by persecution) into 5 different Roman provinces (districts).

- 3 of the 5 provinces are mentioned in Acts 2 and this letter will be read by some who were saved that day in 30AD through Peter's first sermon.
- God connects P-T & some believers for long term (35 yrs), even for life.

(1 Pet.1:2) according to foreknowledge of God The Father (GF) (Et. Plan, divine decrees), by sanctification of God The Holy Spirit (GHS) (positional & progressive) unto obedience & sprinkling of the blood of Christ

- Vs 2 gives us an outline of the book – God's plan for growth through suffering
- Foreknowledge (Eternal Life conference - plan), Sanctification (plan in action – growth), obedience & intimate fellowship (sprinkling/blood – 1Jn 1:7).

Plan & Provision – Foreknowledge

Plan – the passages indicate that the word FK is directed toward specific people(s) & implies not only knowledge of but also the choosing of these same people(s).

Act 2:23 – Jesus sent to the cross by the predetermined plan & foreknowledge of God

- Jesus was not only known but also chosen to go to the cross

Rom 8:29 – believers foreknown & predestined to become conformed to image of Christ

- Bel's not only known but also predestined to be conformed to Christ's image

Rom 11:2 – Israel whom God foreknew, He has not rejected them

1Pet 1:1-2 chosen pilgrims by the foreknowledge of God – knowledge & choice

1Pet 1:20 Jesus foreknown before the foundation/world & manifested in these last days

Definition & description:

Omniscience:

God's knowledge of all that is knowable both actual/possible. He eternally, effortlessly holds knowledge of all that is, will be or what could have been in His mind, all at the same time. Out of the unlimited possible sequences of events based on His own actions and choices of creatures, God chose the history now unfolding.

Divine Decree:

God chose the angelic & human history He wanted and decreed that it would actually come to be. The Divine Decree of God refers to his eternal, holy, wise and sovereign purpose - R. McLaughlin.

Foreknowledge

God's knowledge of what was decreed and therefore what is certain to occur in angelic and human history. FK is limited to only what He has decreed will actually happen & includes every detail of every event & every choice of every creature.

Provision – What God has provided that enables the believer to execute the plan.

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|---|---|
| a. Savior | Virgin birth, Hypostatic Union, Impeccable Life. |
| b. Salvation | Death, burial & Resurrection |
| c. Gospel Message | Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ – power of God unto salvation. |
| d. God The Holy Spirit | Positional & practical ministries. |
| e. Word of God | Completed canon free of errors. |
| f. Church | Universal & Local. |
| g. Eternal Security. | God having done all the work! |
| h. Spiritual Gifts | Evangelist & Pastor-Teacher – communication, service gifts. |
| i. Church Age Christian Way of Life (CWL) | |
| j. Controlled circumstances | |

- Eternal plan – **boile** has provided everything we need to execute the plan
- Every believer regardless of human ability, background, financial status, and station in life or any other possible handicap is equally able to fulfill God's plan in his life.

Progression & Proof – Sanctification (Positional & Experiential) of the Spirit

Progression – Spiritual Growth unto maturity enabling the believer to live the spiritual life.

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| 1Pet 1:13 | Girding up the loins of your mind – preparation through growth |
| 1Pet 2:2 | Hunger for the pure milk of the word to grow into your salvation |
| 1Pet 5:6-11 | Be humbled under mighty hand of God – promote you at the right time |

- At salvation we are permanently given all the positional blessings in Christ
- Position in Christ provides the potential to grow unto a mature man in Christ
- Growth à momentum à strength to endure à maturity à wisdom & strength to discern good/evil and make choices to surrender self & glorify God.

Proof – enduring in the application of God's word in suffering to prove its power and validity thereby glorifying God by demonstrating His truthfulness & grace.

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| 1Pet 1:6-9 | Rejoice because of various types of adversity because of the opportunity to prove out the power & validity of trusting God's word; more value than material wealth. |
| Jam 1:2-4 | Rejoice when adversity is allowed because it produces growth & maturity. |
| Rom 5:3-5 | Rejoice in sufferings because of what it produces when we endure in faith |

- Part of God's provision is perfectly designed/timed adversity allowed in our life
- Adversity is our opportunity for growth by applying what we have learned
- Enduring in faith under pressure gives God opportunity to fulfill His promises
- When God fulfills His promises, it proves His point in the Angelic Conflict.

Praise – blessings in time & rewards in eternity