

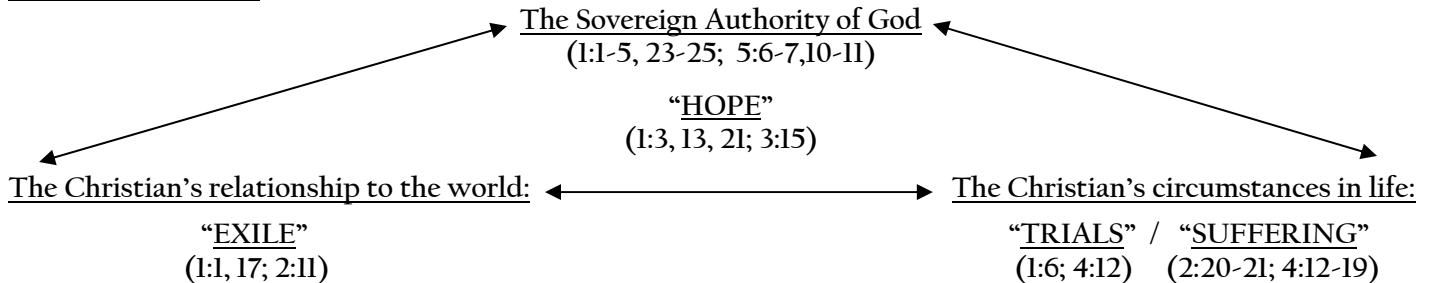
# FIRST PETER

## The Christian's Life in Exile —Part 3

1:1-2— “Election and Exile” (Part 2 of 2)—March 8, 2015

*“In eternity, this world will be Troy, and all that has passed here will be the epic of the universe, the ballad they sing in the streets.” —Marilynne Robinson, Gilead*

### Peter's Themes:



### “The Elect Exiles of the Dispersion”

[*parepidēmos*]— An exile, a stranger, a pilgrim, a foreigner. “One who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to \_\_\_\_\_ alongside of the natives.”

- Many of these Christians were exiles in a very \_\_\_\_\_ sense.
  - ⇒ Many of these Christians were Jews who were part of the Diaspora. (Acts 2:9)
  - ⇒ Others were probably God-fearing Gentiles (Acts 13:26) as well as those who had come to Christ from a pagan background (1 Pet. 1:14, 18)
- Peter's primary use of the term exile is intended to be taken in a \_\_\_\_\_ sense.

*“The experience of many as actual strangers and resident aliens provided a...basis for the depiction of all believers as strangers and resident aliens in a metaphorical sense. The discrimination and suspicion, which many encountered prior to their conversion as strangers and resident aliens, eventually became the experience of all who pledged an exclusive loyalty to...Christ.” — Leonhard Goppelt, A Commentary on 1 Peter*

### A Biblical Theology of “Exile”

Two of the most significant events in the biblical narrative involve the concept of exile.

The Exile of \_\_\_\_\_ : Genesis 3:22-24

Before the Fall, the presence of God was with them and they lived in relationship with Him (Gen. 1:28-29; 3:8), working together (2:15, 18) for His glory and their joy.

- ⇒ Their sin meant exile from the place where they had been at home with God and into a world that was now hostile (3:17-18) and would become progressively more so (4:8; 6:5).
- ⇒ Of utmost significance was being removed from God's special \_\_\_\_\_.

The Exile of \_\_\_\_\_ : Deut. 29:24-28 (Predicted)

God chose Israel for Himself and made covenant promises to them that would make them uniquely His people in the world (Ex. 19:5-8). God then placed His special presence among them, first in the Tabernacle (Ex. 40:34-38) and then in the Temple (2 Chron. 7:1-3).

- ⇒ Israel's centuries of sin and idolatry led God to judge them and send them into exile beginning with the Northern Kingdom of Israel (2 Kings 17:6-15) and followed by the Southern Kingdom of Judah (2 Chron. 36:17-21).

- ⇒ Again, it was not simply the removal from a specific location that was so devastating, it was God's removal of His special presence with the people as His \_\_\_\_\_ departed from the temple (Ezek. 9:9-10:22).

## The Christian's Status as "Exile"

- In contrast to what happened with our first parents and with Israel, the exile that we experience as Christians is the result of our \_\_\_\_\_ to God. (Rom. 16:25-26)

⇒ The electing grace of God the Father (1 Pet. 1:2) is the source of that obedience. (Eph. 2:1-9)

⇒ To be "elect" in relation to God is to be an "exile" in relation to the world around us.

- As Christians, we have had a change in \_\_\_\_\_!

### Ephesians 2:19-22

⇒ Before we were Christians, we were \_\_\_\_\_ to the promises of God but now we are strangers in the world around us (1 Pet. 1:1, 17, 2:11).

⇒ Before we came to Christ, we were in exile in the sense that God's presence was not with us. Now, we are the \_\_\_\_\_ place of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:22; 1 Cor. 6:19)

- Understanding ourselves as exiles in the world helps us to understand the opposition we will face so that we will find our ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ in God and the future that He has secured for us in Christ (1 Pet. 1:3-7).

## Exiled for the Purpose of Mission

- Having declared us "exiles" in the world, Peter is going to focus on how that status affects our living of life in relation to the world around us.

⇒ Our \_\_\_\_\_ around unbelievers is a witness to them. (1 Pet. 2:11-12; Acts 1:8)

⇒ We are to be ready to give a \_\_\_\_\_ to unbelievers for the hope that we have. (1 Pet. 3:15)

