

For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? 1 Cor. 14:8



Chapel Clarion

Nokesville Gospel Chapel



Peter's Preface

The Bible Treasury: Volume 1

The Epistles of Peter occupy an important place in the Scriptures. In them believers are regarded, not as sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (as in Ephesians), but as strangers and pilgrims in the world going onward to the inheritance reserved in heaven, and subject to the government of God by the way. This line of things is highly necessary for our souls. It is not sufficient to be taken up with the Ephesian line, elevating though it is; Peter's aspect of truth has an equal claim upon our hearts.

My present object is to draw attention to Peter's preface to his first epistle, in which we shall find an assemblage of important truths for our souls. He wrote "to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia." These were scattered Jews, as we read in John 11:35, "The dispersed among the Gentiles.

They are described as "elect according to the fore-knowledge of God the Father." This is a far higher thing than Israel's national election by Jehovah. As a people they were chosen of God, in time, to inherit the promises concerning the

land. They were to be His people, walking in separation from the nations around, maintaining His truth in the midst of universal idolatry. How deeply they have failed, we know; but God will yet make His intentions good, for His gifts and calling are without repentance (Romans 11:29). But during their rejection, God is speaking of another election. Believers in Jesus were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). This, in contrast with Israel's election, is individual. It would not be correct to speak of the church, as such, as "elect," though it be true of all the members who compose it. Election is a truth of God, but it concerns individual believers, and not the church as such. These Jewish brethren, if one may so say, were an election out of an election. They had stood in the old Jewish circle of outward privilege; they had now been called out of it to enjoy God's eternal counsel — relationship with the Father as His children through grace.

Bible Quiz

Apostles

1. Who was the first apostle to be martyred?
2. Who succeeded Judas as an apostle?
3. What apostle was a tax collector from Capernaum?
4. Who was the only apostle we know for sure that was married?
5. Which apostle wrote the letter to the Romans?
6. Which apostle was known to be originally a disciple of John the Baptist?
7. Which apostle wrote the book of Revelation?
8. What was Peter's original name?
9. Who said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God"?
10. Who asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father?

Answers: 1. Acts 12:1-2; 2. Acts 1:23-26; 3. Matthew 9:9; 4. Matt. 8:14; 5. Rom.1:1;
6. John 1:35, 40; 6; 7. Rev. 1:4; 8. Matt. 4:18; 9. John 20:28; **John 14:8**

MISSIONARY PAGE

PRAY FOR JOEL STEWART IN CAMBODIA

Cambodia in Crisis

Dear Praying Friends,

Preparations for the first province-wide Christmas program in Preah Vihear had been underway for months. Nearly 1,000 people were expected to attend, including the provincial governor and several government officials. Large tents had been raised, a stage constructed, food ordered, and invitations sent. Everything was in place for a major celebration on December 9th.

But on December 7th, a dark turn of events swept across Cambodia's northern border. Thailand began shelling and using F-16 fighter jets to strike border towns and centuries-old temple sites. As chaos ensued and families along the border began fleeing their homes, the church leaders in Preah Vihear made a bold and difficult decision: the long-planned Christmas celebration would be cancelled. All resources—food, materials, manpower—would be redirected to refugee camps that were rapidly filling with people displaced by the fighting.

And so, on December 9th, instead of gathering under tents in the city, we traveled to Bakkam Pagoda, about ten miles outside of town. There, the Christian community of Preah Vihear, partnering with World Vision, Impulse Cambodia, YWAM, and other organizations, hosted a Christmas program for hundreds of families who had been displaced. What had begun as a festive provincial event transformed into an act of compassion for those seeking safety and relief in the midst of crisis. To those seeking shelter they brought soup, bread, and gifts of love to distribute to 1000 refugees including: 150 cases of pure water, 1000 bottles of soy milk, 2 generators, 10 tents, and much more.



During Advent I have been reading the prologue to John's gospel. John writes in verse 9, "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world." We see now in Cambodia a great awakening towards the light. Perhaps that is why the evil one is so enraged. Yet God has turned what was meant for evil into an opportunity for good. Hundreds of people, displaced from their homes, heard the gospel message. The first Christmas was witnessed by the poor and lowly, not celebrated in a program. Cambodia seems on the cusp of a spiritual ingathering, unlike Thailand which is extremely resistant and nationalistic. But with God, all things are possible. Please pray!

We are praying that the Lord will use this time to give us many opportunities to display the love and light of Christ by being His hands and feet. Even the authorities are supportive of the efforts of the Christian community here. Our Plas Prai volunteer staff, along with the Church Planting team (YWAM) are going to the camps daily to minister to the children and youth. Our prayer is that as Cambodians hear the good news of salvation that they will be "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...", a dynamic hope that has the power to transform their own culture as well as bring spiritual renewal.

Thank you for praying and partnering, Joel