

Aliens and Strangers: The Life and Letters of Peter

Class 2: Call Yourself an Alien (1 Peter 1)

Date	Class	Text	Title	Memory Verse
March 5	Class 1:	Introduction	The Grand Rescue	1 Peter 2:11
March 12	Class 2:	1 Peter 1	Call Yourself an Alien	1 Peter 1:22
March 26	Class 3:	1 Peter 2-3	Walk the Steps of a Stranger	1 Peter 2:21
April 2	Class 4:	1 Peter 4-5	Embrace the Attitude of an Exile	1 Peter 5:8
April 23	Class 5:	2 Peter 1	<i>Grow into Your Destiny</i>	2 Peter 3:9
April 30	Class 6:	2 Peter 2-3	Prepare for Your Departure	Take Home Test

Introduction

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's elect (1 Peter 1:1a)

- **Apostle** means “sent” or “commissioned” as an alien – what is your commission?
- **From Failing Fisherman to Loving Leader**
 - *During Jesus' earthly ministry, He could have given up on Peter. Yet Jesus saw something special about him*
 - *The three questions that changed Peter's life*

To God's Chosen Aliens

To those who reside as aliens, scattered... (1 Peter 1:1b)

God's Aliens: temporarily residing on earth but whose home is in heaven

“Exiles” (1:1), “Foreigners” (1:17), “Aliens” and “Strangers” (2:11)

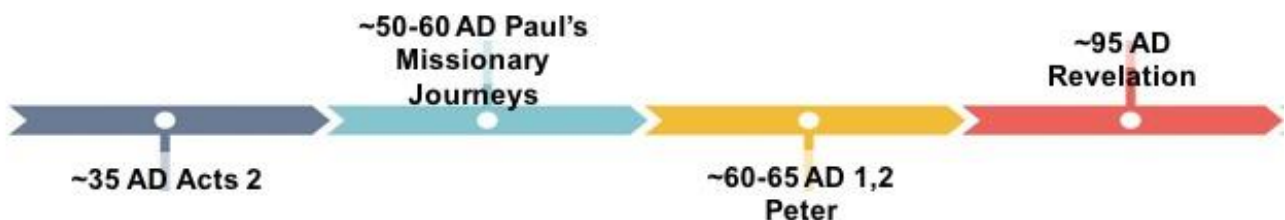
Called and Chosen (1 Pe 1:2,15; 2:9,21; 3:9; 5:10; 2 Pe 1:10)

Our kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36); our citizenship is in heaven (3:20)

- We don't blend in with this world's politics, practices, or thinking

Alien Geography and Timeline

- ~35 AD Peter preaches in Acts 2 to “residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia...”
- ~50 AD Paul's 3 missionary journeys included Asia Minor
 - 1) Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe (Acts 13-14)
 - 2) Lystra, Derbe, Phrygia, Galatia (Acts 16); Nicea into Europe & Greece (Acts 17-18)
 - 3) Back through Galatia and Phrygia (Acts 18:23) to Ephesus (Acts 19)
- ~60/65 AD Peter wrote 1/2 Peter to the Christians in Asia Minor
- ~95 AD John wrote Revelation to seven churches in Asia from Patmos



How to Call Yourself an Alien

What does it mean to live as “Aliens” → Citizens of the Kingdom of God?

I. **Live for the Invisible and Inexpressible (v3-12)**

- *Can never perish spoil or fade... Shielded by God’s power*
- *Of greater worth than gold... Kept a mystery through the ages*
- *Revealed to us through the Holy Spirit*
- *Salvation brings inexpressible and glorious joy*
→ **Aliens live for an eternal home not this temporary tent**

II. **Choose Sanctification over Assimilation (v13-17)**

- *Beware of cultural assimilation that makes us “indistinguishable”*
- *Be alert and fully sober; set your hope*
- *As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires*
- *Be holy, because I am holy... Live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear*
→ **Aliens maintain distinction through radical reverence for God**

III. **Praise the Precious and Imperishable (v18-21)**

- *You were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors*
- *Christ the perfect lamb of God*
- *Chosen before the creation of the world*
- *Because of Jesus you believe in God*
→ **What would our worldview be like without Jesus?**

IV. **Love Relationships over Ritual (v22-25)**

- *You prepared yourself by obeying the truth*
- *You have sincere love for each other...*
- **Why?** *So you can learn to love one another deeply from the heart*
- **How do we know this?** *You have been born again through the most powerful, enduring force in the universe... The WORD of God*
→ **God’s Word is what transforms us so God calls us Aliens!**

Contest: Alien Geography

- 1) What city was Paul from? _____ What city was Peter from? _____
- 2) What New Testament book titles were cities in what we call Turkey or Asia Minor?

- 3) Name 3 apostles who helped build churches in Asia Minor: _____, _____, _____
- 4) Which of the following cities was in Asia Minor? _____
 - a. Philippi, Corinth, Patmos, Philadelphia, Cyprus, Crete
- 5) What book describes how the churches were planted in Asia Minor? _____
- 6) What book includes multiple letters to churches in Asia Minor? _____
- 7) What famous evangelist was from Derbe? _____