FIRST PETER

CHAPTER 1

1. **Peter, one sent with a mission pertaining to Jesus Christ** (or: an emissary and representative of [the] Anointed Jesus), **to selected and picked out** (elect and chosen) **exiles** (or: alien residents; sojourners; expatriates; strangers residing in a country not your own) **of [the] dispersion** (or: of a scattering; of [the] Diaspora), **temporarily living beside residents of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, the province of Asia, and Bithynia,**
2. **in accord with and down from Father God's foreknowledge** (or: corresponding to a previous experiential and intimate knowledge possessed by God, who is a Father), **within a setting-apart of spirit** (or: in union with the process of being set apart from common condition and use by [the] Spirit; or: in the midst of a consecration which is a Breath-effect) **into an obedient hearing** (a listening and paying attention with compliance) **and a sprinkling with Jesus Christ's blood** (or: a sprinkling of blood, which is Jesus Christ)**:**
May grace (or: favor) **and peace** [= shalom] **be multiplied into fullness** (or: be brought to fullness) **in you folks** (or: to you folks; for you folks)**!**

3. **Well-spoken of** (or: Eulogized; Blessed; or: Well-gathered, laid-out with ease, and worthy of praise) **[is] the God and Father of our Lord** (or: Owner), **Jesus Christ, the One [Who], corresponding to and down from His abundant** (or: much-existing) **mercy, [is] – through Jesus Christ's resurrection forth from out of the midst of dead folks – bringing us to birth again** (regenerating us; begetting us back up again)**:**
into a progressively living expectation (or: hope);
4. **into an incorruptible** (unspoilable; imperishable; unruinable; undecayable), **unstained** (undefiled), **and unfading** (or: unwithering) **inheritance** (or: enjoyment of and participation in an allotted portion as a possession), **one having been kept in view, watched-over, guarded, and which continues being maintained and kept intact within the midst of [the] atmospheres** (or: heavens);
– [which things are being birthed] into you folks,
5. **the ones being continuously garrisoned within God's power and ability through faith and trust – [and],**
into a deliverance (a rescue which brings health, wholeness and a return to your original state and condition) **[which is now] ready to be unveiled** (revealed; disclosed) **within the midst of and in union with [this] last season** (fitting situation; occasion)
6. **within which you folks are presently feeling constant joy and happiness and are continuing to rejoice exceedingly – though for a little while, at present, since** (or: if) **it continues being binding and necessary, being pained** (distressed; grieved; sorrowed) **within various tests** (or: different trials and ordeals) **to put you to the proof.**

7. **It [is] to the end that the examined and tested approval of your faith** (of the trust and faithfulness of you folks) **– [being] of much greater value and worth, and more precious, than of gold that constantly loses itself away** (perishes of itself) **despite being progressively tested and examined through fire – might be found [progressing] into praise** (approval; commendation) **and glory** (or: a good reputation) **and honor** (value; worth) **within an unveiling of Jesus Christ** (or: in union with a revelation whose source is, which has the character of, and which is, Jesus, [the] Anointed One),
8. **Whom not seeing** (or: perceiving), **you folks are continuously loving; into Whom at the present moment you folks are not constantly looking, yet are habitually believing** (or: continuously placing [your] trust). **You folks are repeatedly rejoicing and being very happy in indescribable** (or: incapable of being spoken out) **joy which also exists having been made glorious** (or: by unspeakable and glorified joy; in joy [that is] inexpressible and has made a notable reputation; with joy that is glorious beyond words),
9. **being ones constantly bringing to yourselves for provision, care and kindly keeping, the promised goal** (the finished product; the aim and result) **of the** (or: your) **faith and trust: deliverance** ([the] restoration to wholeness and health) **of souls** (or: your inner beings and selves)**!**

10. **Concerning** (or: Round about) **which deliverance** (health and wholeness; rescue; salvation) **[the] prophets, carefully scrutinizing, sought out and then diligently searched out the [Scriptures] prophesying concerning** (or: about) **the grace and favor [directed and coming] into you folks,**
11. **constantly searching into which season or what kind of situation the Spirit of Christ** (or: Christ's spirit; or: the Breath-effect which is the Anointed One), **resident within them, was continuing to point to, making [it] evident and clearly visible, repeatedly testifying** (witnessing; giving evidence) **beforehand about the effects of the experiences and results of the sufferings [projected] into Christ, and the glories** (the manifestations which call forth praise; the good opinions and reputations; the appearances of things) **after these things,**
12. **to which folks** (or: in which ones) **it was unveiled** (revealed; disclosed) **that not to or for themselves, but to and for you people, they had been progressively dispensing and serving them – which things are now announced** (or: which tidings were brought back) **to you through those announcing** (proclaiming; bringing and communicating) **the message of well-being and goodness** (or: good news) **to you within** [or, with other MSS: by] **a set-apart Breath-effect** (or: [the] Holy Spirit; or: sacred spirit) **being sent forth from [the] atmosphere** (or: heaven) **– into which things agents** (or: messengers) **are habitually and earnestly desiring** (are constantly in full passion and craving) **to stoop down beside and look in.**

13. **On which account** (or: Wherefore), **in preparation for work or action, girding up in yourselves the clothes about the loins** (or: waist) **of your divided thoughts and the things passing through your mind** (or: mental

perceptions; intellect and comprehension), **continuously being perfectly** (or: maturely) **clear-headed and sober** (unintoxicated), **direct and set** (or: being constantly sober-minded, completely direct and set) **your hope and expectation upon the grace and favor being continuously brought** (or: periodically and progressively carried) **to you within an unveiling** (a disclosure) **of Jesus Christ** (or: a revelation which is Jesus [the] Anointed One; or: an uncovering which comes from and pertains to Jesus Christ).
14. **As children of** (= having the qualities and characteristics of) **submissive, attentive hearing** (or: As listening and obedient born-ones), **not being folks repeatedly molding, forming or configuring yourselves to the former cravings** (the prior over-desires or full passions), **within your ignorance,**
15. **but rather, corresponding to** (down from; in accord with) **the One calling** (or: inviting) **you [being] set-apart** (or: holy), **you folks also let yourselves be made to be** (or: be birthed) **ones set-apart in the same way, in all behavior** (within every conduct; in all turning about or twisting up of [your] way of life),
16. **because it has been written that,**

> **"You people will be** (will exist being) **set-apart** (or: holy), **because I [am] set-apart** (or: holy)**."** [Lev. 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7]

17. **And since** (or: if) **you folks are habitually calling upon a** (or: [the]) **Father – the One consistently separating and deciding** (or: judging) **impartially** (without reception of faces, persons, appearances or external circumstances) **according to** (down from; corresponding to) **each one's work or action – let the time of your sojourn** (your temporary stay, dwelling alongside as an alien resident or an exile) **be turned upward, in the fear of reverent living,**
18. **having seen, and thus knowing, that you folks were not unbound and released by a ransom of corruptible things** (things that are perishable and subject to spoiling) **– by little coins of silver or gold – from out of your fruitless behavior** (vain conduct; idle and foolish way of life) **handed down by tradition from the fathers** (= your ancestors),
19. **but rather by Christ's precious** (valuable; honorable; costly) **blood – as of a flawless** (unblemished) **and spotless Lamb:**
20. **being One having been foreknown** (previously known by intimate experience), **indeed, before [the] casting down** (as of material for a foundation: founding; as of seed in a field: sowing; as of seed of a man: conception [cf Heb. 11:11]; as in throwing something down: overthrowing; as in battle = slaying; in politics: abandoning [a measure]; of debts: paying down by installments;) **of [the; or: an] ordered System** (world; universe; a particular order of things), **yet One being set in clear light and manifested upon [the] last** (or: final) **part of the times** (or: of the successive chronological time periods) **because of you folks –**
21. **the ones [who] through Him [are] folks trustingly adhering unto God** (or: [are] believing ones, ones full of faith, and confiding ones [proceeding] [*p* 72 & other MSS read the present participle: ones habitually putting trust] into God)**: the One awakening and raising Him up, forth from out of the midst of dead folks, and giving glory** (a good reputation; a manifestation which calls forth

praise) **to Him, so that your faith** (trust; confidence) **and expectation** (or: hope) **is to be continuously [put] into God!**

22. **Having purified your souls** (= inner selves) **within the hearing obedience** (the humble, attentive listening and submissive hearing) **of the Truth and Reality [which directs and leads] into unhypocritical** (non-hypercritical; not determined from below; non-nit-picky; or: unpretended; unfeigned; thus: genuine) **brotherly affection** (= fondness for the fellow believers), **love one another in a stretched-out and extended way, from out of a clean** [other MSS: true; genuine] **heart,**
23. **being folks having been born again** (been regenerated; been given birth back up again), **not from out of a corruptible** (or: perishable) **seed that was sown, but rather of an incorruptible** (imperishable; undecayable) **one: through God's continually living and permanently remaining Word** (or: through a message or expressed thought of [the] continuously living and constantly abiding God),
24. **because,**

> **"All flesh [is] like grass** (or: vegetation), **and all its glory [is] like a flower of grass** (of vegetation)**: the grass is caused to dry out and wither, and the flower falls off...**

25. **"yet the saying** (declaration; thing spoken) **of the Lord** [= Yahweh] **is constantly abiding** (continuously remaining), **on into The Age** (or: the eon)**."** [Isa. 40:6-8]

Now this continues being "the saying" (the declaration) **being announced as well-being and goodness to you folks** (or: And this is the thing being spoken into you in the good news).

CHAPTER 2

1. **Therefore, being folks putting off** (setting away; ridding) **from yourselves all poor quality** (worthlessness; bad character; malice; what is not as it ought to be; wickedness) **and all deceitful bait** (fraud; guile) **and "answers" from perverse scholarship** (or: underlying decisions affecting interpretations and judgments made from opinions; or: overly critical behaviors; deficiencies in ability to sift and decide; judgments from inferior positions; legalistic pulling-apart of things for critical analysis; under-assessments) **and envies and all down-talks** (speeches or talks which put people, issues or situations down; backbiting),
2. **as recently born infants, intensely yearn** (crave; long) **for the non-baiting** (undeceitful; guileless; honest; unadulterated) **milk belonging to the Word which is pertaining to thought, reason and communication, and which contains the qualities and characteristics contained in the message – to the end that, within it, you folks can** (or: would; may) **grow and increase into health and wholeness** (deliverance; rescued safety; salvation; restoration),
3. **since** (or: if) **you folks,**

> **"by sipping, tasted** (= experienced) **that the Lord** [= Yahweh or Christ] **[is] good, kind and useful** (or: obliging and profitable)**!"** [Ps. 34:9]

4. **Continuously approaching toward Whom – a living Stone, on the one hand being One having been and still being thrown away** (rejected; disapproved) **by mankind** (humans; people), **as the result of a test; yet, on the other hand a Chosen One, a Precious** (Valuable) **One, beside** (= in the presence of) **God –**
5. **you yourselves are, as living stones, continuously being erected** (or: progressively constructed and built up), **[being] a spiritual house** (a building with its source being the Spirit, with the characteristics of a Breath-effect), **into a set-apart** (or: holy; sacred) **priesthood to bear up spiritual sacrifices** (or: offerings) **well** (or: most) **acceptable in God** (or: by God; to God), **through Jesus Christ,**
6. **so that it continues being contained** (encompassed; included) **in Scripture:**

> **"Consider** (Behold; Look)**! I am progressively setting** (placing; laying) **within Zion a chosen** (picked-out), **precious** (held in honor and value) **corner capstone lying at the extreme angle, and the one habitually trusting** (relying; believing) **upon It may by no means be disgraced or brought to shame or be disappointed."** [Isa. 28:16]

7. **Therefore, in** (or: to; for; with) **you folks – those habitually trusting** (constantly believing) **– [is] the Precious One** (or: the Valuable and Honorable Person). **Yet for** (or: to; in; with) **those continuing being without faith** (or: being habitually distrustful; being constantly unbelieving), **[He is]**

> **"A Stone which those in process of building the house reject** (or: threw away after inspecting and trying) **– this One is brought to be** (or: was birthed) **into [position of] Head of [the] corner,"** [Ps. 118:22]

8. **also [He is]**

> **"A Stone that people strike against and which causes them to stumble, even a Rock-mass which functions as a trap-spring** (designed to be a snare),**"** [Isa. 8:14]

who, continuing being unpersuaded (unconvinced and thus, uncompliant or stubborn), **are repeatedly stumbling by** (or: in) **the Word** (or: who are constantly stumbling, habitually being disobedient to the message), **into which [situation] they were placed** (= as it was planned).

9. **Yet you folks [are] "a picked-out** (selected; chosen) **offspring** (family; kin; lineage; race; species; breed) [Isa. 43:20; Deut. 7:6], **a royal** (kingly; palace) **priesthood** [Ex. 19:6; Isa. 61:6], **a set-apart** (holy; consecrated) **multitude** (company; nation; body of people living together; swarm; association; ethnic group; caste) [Ex. 19:6], **a people constructed into an encirclement** (made into a surrounding structure; set as a perimeter; made into a performance about [Him]; formed around as an acquisition; gathered into a surrounding [flock])**"** [Isa. 43:21; Ex. 19:5] **– so that you may tell forth the message of** (or: out-message; publish; declare abroad) **the excellencies and qualities of nobleness** (virtues of braveness, courage, good character, quality, self-restraint, magnificence,

benevolence, reliability) **of the One calling you out of darkness into His wonderful** (marvelous; amazing) **light** [*p*72 reads: into the wonderful Light],
10. **[you] who [were] once** (or: formerly) **"not a people," but now [are] "God's people;" [formerly] being the ones having "not been given mercy," yet now [are] "folks being mercied** (being given mercy)**."** [Hos. 2:25]

11. **Folks that are loved** (Beloved ones)**: I am presently calling you alongside to encourage, aid, comfort and admonish you, as resident aliens** (exiles; sojourners; one dwelling beside citizens in a foreign country) **and temporary residents** (expatriates; strangers) **to continually hold yourselves away from the fleshly over-desires** (passions; full-rushing upon things), **which things are constantly warring** (doing military service; battling) **down against the soul** (the inner self and being),
12. **continuously holding your beautiful behavior** (your fine and ideal turning yourselves back around) **among the multitudes** (the companies; the associations; the ethnic groups; the nations; the castes; the non-Jews, or, Gentiles), **to the end that, within what thing they are continually speaking down pertaining to you folks** (repeatedly speaking against you) **as of ones constantly doing the worthless and things of bad quality** (or: as of evildoers or criminals; as of those repeatedly creating bad situations or forming what not ought to be), **repeatedly looking upon and observing as eyewitnesses the outcome from the beautiful actions** (the fine deeds; the ideal and honorable works), **they may glorify** (or: give a good opinion of) **God, within a day of inspection and overseeing care.**

13. **Because of, and by, the Lord** [= Yahweh or Christ], **you folks are to be humbly aligned in and to every human creation and with every societal invention** (or: be subordinated to every human framing; let yourselves be arranged under for support of every founding or institution pertaining to mankind which brings order to a state of wildness)**: whether to** (or: by; for) **a king, as to** (or: by; for) **one being superior** (or: constantly holding over [others]; = as a prominent cultural institution),
14. **or to** (or; by; for) **governors** (government officials; rulers; leaders; guides), **as to** (or: by; for; with) **those being regularly sent** (or: dispatched) **by Him unto a maintaining of right, in regard to doers of worthlessness** (or: into a correction from out of the way pointed out pertaining to those creating bad situations; unto an administering of justice, fairness and equity of situations affected by evildoers) **– yet on the other hand, [sent] unto a commendation** (a praise; applause) **of those habitually doing good things** (performing with virtue; constructing excellence).
15. **Because thus is God's will** (or: For God's intent and purpose exists in this manner)**: folks habitually doing good things** (constructing excellence; performing with virtues; creating goodness) **to repeatedly muzzle** (continuously gag; thus: progressively silence) **the ignorance of senseless and thoughtless people** (humans without intellect and prudence; unreasonable folks);

16. **as free folks** (those not bound) **– and not continually holding** (or: having) **the freedom as a covering** (or: a veil) **of worthlessness** (bad quality; evil; poorness of situation) **– but still, as God's slaves.**

17. **Value everyone** (Honor all)**! Habitually love** (Practice loving) **the brotherhood** (= the organism of fellow-believers)**! Practice reverence to God** (or: Habitually fear God; Be constantly respecting and revering God)**! Be continuously valuing and showing honor to the king** (or: the One Who reigns).

18. **The domestics** (house servants or slaves; members of a household), **those habitually being subordinated** (being humbly aligned and subjected for support) **by** (or: to; for) **the owners** (masters)**: [conduct yourselves] in all fear and respect – not only to the good and reasonable** (suitable; equitable; gentle; lenient) **ones, but also to the crooked folks –**
19. **for this [is] grace: if through [the] conscience, which is God**, (or: through awareness pertaining to God; or: by means of a joint-knowing with God; or: because of consciousness of God), **someone is continuing to bear and hold up under distress or pains** (griefs; sorrows; anxieties; sufferings), **continuously experiencing it wrongfully** (unjustly; contrarily, in regard to fairness and right relationship; undeservedly)**!**
20. **For what sort of credible report** (honorable rumor; credit; fame; praiseworthy reputation) **[is it] if, being ones habitually doing what is wrong** (failing to hit the target; sinning) **and being repeatedly beaten and struck with a fist** [*p*72 & other MSS: repeatedly lopped-off and pruned], **you folks will be** [*p*72 & other MSS read: you are constantly] **remaining under and enduring [it]? But to the contrary, if while habitually practicing virtue** (doing good; constructing excellence) **and [at the same time] repeatedly experiencing such bad treatment** (or: continually suffering) **you will be** [*p*72 reads: you are constantly] **humbly remaining under, enduring and supporting [it], this [is] grace at the side of** (or: from beside; = in the presence of) **God,**
21. **for into this you are called** (or: were invited), **because Christ also experienced [this]** (or: suffered) **over you folks** (or: for your sakes), **leaving continuously below** (or: behind) **in you** (or: with and for you) **an underwriting** (a writing under which you are to write or copy; hence: a pattern; a model) **to the end that you could** (or: would) **follow-on in the footprints of Him**
22. **"Who does not make a mistake** (Who did not perform failure; Who does no sin; Who does not construct failure to hit the target), **nor is** (or: was) **deceitful bait** (fraud; guile) **found in His mouth;"** [Isa. 53:9]
23. **Who, being repeatedly reviled** (harshly and bitingly rebuked and insulted), **was not reviling back** (answering insult with insult; taking the position of harsh, biting rebuke); **continuously** (or: repeatedly) **suffering** (experiencing ill treatment), **he was not threatening, but kept on giving [the situation] over to the One at His side: the One constantly sifting, separating and deciding** (or: judging) **fairly** (equitably; following the Path of the Way pointed out, bringing situations to a rightwised condition),

24. **Who, Himself, bore back up again our failures** (our mistakes; our times of falling short or to the side of the target; our sins and errors) [Isa. 53:4, 12] **within His body upon the tree** (the wood; the stake), **to the end that, being folks suddenly coming to be parted away from the failures** (mistakes; errors; sins; misses of the target), **we can** (or: may) **live in** (or: by; for; with) **the fairness and equity, in rightwised relationships, in the Path of the Way pointed out, where "you folks are** (or: were) **healed** (or: cured) **in the wound** (or: by the welt; in the bruise of the blow)**."** [Isa. 53:5]

25. **For you folks were continuing to be "like sheep, being habitually caused to wander** (being led astray; or, as a middle: people constantly wandering away),**"** [Isa. 53:6] **but now in contrast, "you are** (or: were) **turned around and made to return, upon" [the will of; the herding of] the Shepherd and Overseer of** (Supervisor of; the One who watches over) **your souls** (your inner beings).

CHAPTER 3

1. **Likewise** (In like manner), **you wives: [Be] habitually with humility aligning yourselves to your own husbands** (or: women: [Be] continually arranging yourselves for support, under your own adult males), **to the end that if any** (or: certain ones) **are habitually unpersuaded by the Word** (or: uncompliant or disobedient to the message; unconvinced with the thought, reason or idea), **they will be profited** (will receive advantage; or: will be acquired as gain) **without a word** (or: message; reason), **through the behavior** (or: conduct; way of life) **of the wives** (or: women),
2. **being eyewitnesses of** (or: looking upon and observing) **the pure behavior** (or: way of life; conduct) **of you folks – which is turned upward in reverence, respect and [sacred] fear –**
3. **whose world must not consist of the external adornment – of braiding or interweaving or struggling with [the] hair and [the] placing-around of gold ornaments, or of dressing up** (putting on garments) **–**
4. **but to the contrary, [it should consist of] the hidden person** (concealed humanity; cloaked personality) **of the heart, within the incorruptible and imperishable quality of the gentle** (tender; mild; calm; kind; meek) **and still** (at ease; restful; tranquil; quiet) **spirit** (or: attitude; disposition; or: Breath-effect), **which is** (or: continually exists being) **of great value and very costly in God's sight** (= view, or, perspective).
5. **For thus, at one time, the set-apart wives** (or: the holy women) **– those being in the habit of placing their expectations and hopes into God – used to normally arrange their world and adorn themselves, constantly being put in humble alignment to their own husbands** (or: continuously being arranged under their own adult males, to give support),
6. **as Sarah used to humbly hear and submissively obey Abraham, habitually calling him "lord"** ("master;" "my owner"), **of which woman you were birthed children** (or: you are become her born ones [= daughters]),

women normally doing good (performing virtue; creating excellence), **and not being repeatedly caused to fear even one dismay** (alarm; intimidation).

7. **Husbands** (or: Adult males), **likewise** (or: in like manner)**: Continuously dwelling together** (cohabiting; making a joint home) **with [them] corresponding to intimate, experiential knowledge [of them]** (= with a learned and intelligent recognition of the nature and aspects of a married situation), **[be] habitually assigning** (portioning-off; awarding; allotting) **honor** (value; worth) **to the female attributes** (things pertaining to a woman; or: to a feminine one) **as to a person having a disadvantaged position in her living** (or: a weaker livelihood; or: a weaker vessel, utensil, instrument, container, gear, furniture, equipment), **yet as to co-heirs of Life's grace and favor** (or: of [the] grace which is life; or, with other MSS: as joint-participants in an inheritance of manifold {diverse; varied; multicolored} grace – of life [*p*72 adds: pertaining to and having the qualities of the Age {of eonian life}]), **into the [situation where] your thoughts, words and actions projected toward goodness** (or: prayers) **continue not to be hindered or blocked, as if by a trench being cut in their path to impede their progress.**

8. **Now [this is] the goal** (the final situation; the end of the process)**: all [are to be] like-minded** (of the same frame of mind and disposition), **folks sharing and expressing the same feelings** (being sympathetic), **ones being fond of and expressing affection for the brothers** (= fellow believers), **people tenderhearted and compassionate, folks of a humble disposition and way of thinking;**
9. **not being ones habitually giving back** (repaying; rendering; giving away) **bad in the place of bad** (or: poor quality in exchange for poor quality; evil for evil) **or abusive language in the place of abusive language** (reviling in exchange for reviling; insulting back against insults), **but just the opposite: constantly speaking things that embody wellness or give a blessing, because into this you are called** (or: were invited), **to the end that you folks may inherit a word embodying wellness** (a blessing; a message of goodness).
10. **For you see,**
    "the person who continues purposing (willing; intending; wanting) **to be habitually loving life, and to see and experience good days, let his tongue at once cease from [the] worthless and poor of quality** (from [the] bad and evil) **and his lips speak no deceitful bait** (fraud; guile).
11. **"Now let him bend to incline forth and turn out, away from [the] worthless and poor of quality** (from [what is] bad or evil), **and let him do** (practice; construct; produce) **[the] good** (or: virtue; excellence); **let him seek and try to find peace and harmony; let him also run after it and pursue it,**
12. **"because [the] Lord's** [= Yahweh's] **eyes [are] upon** (= He looks with favor on) **[the] fair and equitable folks** (the rightwised ones; the just ones who walk in the Way pointed out), **and His ears [directed] into their request pertaining to need; yet [the] face of [the] Lord** [=

Yahweh] (i.e., His countenance and posturing) **[is] upon** (= set against) **wrongdoers** (those constantly practicing worthless things; repeatedly constructing bad things; habitually doing evil)**."** [Ps. 34:13-17]

13. **And who [is] the person who will be treating you badly** (be causing evil to come to you) **if you folks should come to be zealots in regard to the good** (ones boiling hot from the influence of the Good; enthusiasts of virtue and excellence)**?**
14. **But even if you folks might continue experiencing suffering [as well as other things] because of fairness and equity** (justice; walking in the Way pointed out), **[you are] happy and blessed ones. "Yet do not fear their fear** (i.e., what they fear; or, as a subjunctive: Now you should not be afraid of the fear that has them as a source), **nor yet should you folks be shaken** (agitated; disturbed; stirred up) **[by them]."** [Isa. 8:12]

15. **Now "you folks set [the] Lord** [= Yahweh] **– the Anointed One – apart** (or: Yet, let the Lord Christ be set-apart)**"** [Isa. 8:13], **within your hearts!** (or: treat the Anointed Owner as holy, in the core of your beings), **always ready** (ever prepared) **toward a defense to everyone – for the one repeatedly asking you for a word** (i.e., a rational explanation and a logical response) **about the expectation within you folks – but still with gentleness** (tenderness; meekness; kindness) **and deep respect** (or: serious caution; reverence; [the] fear [of the Lord]),
16. **habitually holding a good conscience** (or: having a virtuous joint-knowing, from possessing a clear joined-perception), **so that those, having a habit of spitefully abusing and harassing your good behavior** (or: conduct; way of life) **within, and in union with, Christ, may be brought to shame and disgrace relating to that within which you folks are constantly being defamed** (spoken down against).
17. **You see, [it is] a stronger [case, position or reputation] to be repeatedly experiencing harassment, abuse or suffering [while, or, because of] habitually doing good** (practicing virtue; creating goodness) **– if God's purpose** (intent; will) **may be repeatedly willing it – than [because of] constantly doing what is wrong, bad or worthless,**
18. **because even Christ** (or: considering that Christ also) **died** [other MSS: suffered], **once for all, concerning and in relation to failures to hit the target** (about errors and mistakes; around and encompassing sins [some MSS: our failures; other MSS: your failures]) **– a Just One** (a rightwised One; One in accord with the Way pointed out; a fair and equitable individual) **over [the situation of]** (or: for the sake of) **unjust ones** (capsized folks; those out of accord with the Way pointed out; unfair and inequitable people) **– to the end that He at once may bring** (or: can lead; would conduct) **you folks** [other MSS: us] **to** (or: toward) **God. [He], on the one hand, being put to death in flesh** (= a physical body), **yet on the other hand, being made alive in spirit** (or: indeed, being put to death by flesh {or: = the estranged human condition}, yet, being engendered a living one by Breath-effect {or: [the] Spirit}),

19. **at one point journeying** (going from one place to another; passing on) **within which** (or: in union with Which), **He also proclaimed** (published; preached; heralded) **the message to and for** (or: among) **the spirits in prison** (within a guardhouse)**:**
20. **to and for those being at one time unconvinced** (unpersuaded; disobedient; uncompliant) **within [the] days of Noah, when** (or: while) **he was continuing to be receiving forth and taking away from out of God's state of emotional quietness** (taking a long time before rushing or being in a heat of passion; long-enduring patience) **while [the] ark was progressively being prepared and equipped** (constructed to readiness) **– into which a few folks, that is, eight souls** (= people), **were brought safely through [the] water** (or: were brought safely through, by means of water),
21. **[into] which, also, an echo of correspondent form** (or: a copy; an antitype; an impress which answers back; in place of the type or pattern) **is now progressively delivering** (rescuing) **you folks** (or: repeatedly bringing you to safety)**: immersion** (submersion and envelopment which brings absorption and permeation to the point of saturation) **– not [the] putting off of [the] filth** (removal of dirt) **away from [the] flesh** (= not baptism or bathing of the physical body, or the removal of the alienated false persona), **but rather – the result of a full inquiry into the midst of God** (or: the effect of an added request unto God; or: = a further quest into "the Divine Mystery" – Paul Tillich) **made by a good conscience** (from an excellent joint-knowing; in relation to virtuous co-knowledge). **[It saves you and it is made] through means of [the] resurrection of Jesus Christ,**
22. **Who continuously exists** (or: is; has being) **within God's right [side, or hand – i.e., the place of authority and ability to exercise power; the place of receiving], going from place to place, journeying into [the] atmosphere** (or: heaven) **of those being humbly aligned by Him** (or: pertaining to those subjected, placed and arranged under in Him; which are the folks set in order for support to Him)**: of agents** (or: messengers), **and of authorities** (or: those who have the right and privilege from out of Being), **and of powers** (or: folks with abilities).

CHAPTER 4

1. **Christ, then, having undergone experiences and suffering in flesh** (or: being physically and emotionally affected to the point of suffering) **over us** (or: over our [situation] and for our sakes), **you folks also arm and equip yourselves with the same mental inclination** (idea; thought; way of thinking; frame of mind; attitude), **because the person [thus] suffering or going through physical or emotional experiences which affect him in [the] flesh** (or: = by [his] estranged humanity or alienated self) **has in and for himself put a stop to failures, errors and mistakes** (or: sins) [or, with other MSS: has been caused to cease from sin],
2. **[and comes] into the [condition or situation] to no longer live out the additional remaining course [of his] time within [the] flesh** (= in the natural

realm) **in the midst of** (or: in union with) **[the] full passions** (or: for [the] over-desires; to [the] rushings of emotions upon things) **of humans** (or: pertaining to or originating in mankind), **but to the contrary, in God's will** (or: for God's intent; to God's purpose).

3. **For the time having gone by [is] sufficient** (= you have spent enough time, in the past,) **to have accomplished** (to have worked down and effected) **the thing desired by** (or: the intention of) **the multitudes** (the nations; the swarms of ethnic groups living together; the non-Jews; the Gentiles), **having gone from place to place in indecent and licentious debaucheries** (deeds of loose conduct), **in rushing passions and over-desires, in excesses bubbling over with wine, in carousing and festive processions, in drinking parties, and in forbidden** (i.e., illegal in respect to the natural laws of reason, conscience and common decency) **idolatries** (or: being a servant to or worshiping external forms or appearances, phantoms of the mind, unsubstantial or reflected images, or conveyed impressions),
4. **within which they, repeatedly speaking reproachfully and injuriously [about you, as well as about other folks], are constantly struck with surprise, thinking it strange and foreign that you folks are not always running together with [them], as a mob, into the same flooding** (pouring forth) **of unhealthiness and lack of safety** (or: dissoluteness of a course devoid of salvation).
5. **Such folks will render an account** (or: be giving back a reason) **to the One readily and continually judging** (separating and making a decision about) [*p*72: prepared to judge; other MSS: constantly holding {Himself} in readiness to judge] **living folks and dead ones,**
6. **for into this [purpose], also, the message of goodness and well-being** (or: good news) **was at one point brought and announced to dead folks, to the end that on the one hand they may at some point be judged** (or: can be separated and decided about) **– corresponding to humans – in flesh** (or: according to humans in flesh; or: = in the sphere of people with estranged selves; or: = on the level of mankind in an alienated condition that was enslaved by the System), **yet on the other hand, that they can continue living** (or: would be habitually living) **corresponding to** (down from; in line and accord with; in the sphere of) **God, in spirit** (or: by Breath-effect).

7. **Now the Goal** (or: the end; the final act; or: the finished Product; or: the completion of the plan) **of all people** (and: pertaining to and affecting all things) **has approached and is now near at hand and [He] is close enough to touch** (= has arrived)**! Therefore, you folks keep a healthy and sound frame of mind** (be sane and sensible) **and be sober** (be unintoxicated; i.e., be functional and with your wits about you) **into [a state, condition or realm] with a view toward goodness and well-being** (or: into the midst of prayers).
8. **Before all people** (or: More than anything), **continue being folks constantly holding the outstretching and extending love unto yourselves** (i.e., into each other) **– "because love is constantly covering** (throwing a veil over;

concealing) **a multitude of failures** (mistakes; errors; misses of the target; sins).**"** [Prov. 10:12]
9. **[Continue being] those [who are] stranger-loving unto one another** (= friendly, kind and hospitable to strangers or foreigners [inviting them] into the midst of each other's [homes]), **without expressing dissatisfaction** (complaining; grumbling; murmuring),
10. **each one, according as he receives an effect of grace** (or: received a gracious gift), **continuously giving supporting service and dispensing it unto yourselves** (i.e., into each other), **as beautiful** (fine; ideal) **house managers** (stewards; administrators) **of God's varied grace** (or: of [the] diverse favor which is God; [as] of a many-colored [tapestry] of grace whose source and character are from God).
11. **If anyone is normally speaking, [let it be] as God's little words** (= inspired sayings, messages thoughts and ideas); **if anyone is habitually providing attending service and dispensing, [let it be] as out of [the] strength which God is continually supplying** (furnishing; providing), **to the end that, in union with all people** (and: within all things), **God may be constantly glorified** (may habitually receive a good reputation) **through Jesus Christ, in Whom** (by Whom; for Whom; to Whom) **is** (or: exists) **the glory** (the manifestation of that which calls forth praise; the good reputation) **and the strength** (the might), **on into the ages of the ages** (or: into the indefinite time periods of the ages; into the superlative times of the eons).

12. **Beloved ones, do not repeatedly feel like strangers to the burning** (= the action of the Fire) **within and among you folks, which is habitually happening to you with a view toward your being put to the test** (or: which is repeatedly coming into being in the face of a proving trial for you; which is progressively birthing itself to an examination in you), **as though a strange or foreign thing [or: occurrence] is repeatedly walking with you folks.**
13. **But on the contrary, keep on rejoicing and being glad to the extent or degree that you folks are continually participating with a common share in the experiences and sufferings of the Christ, to the end that, continuously exulting and celebrating exceedingly, you folks may also rejoice within the unveiling of His glory** (or: in union with the disclosure of His reputation; or: in the midst of the praise-inducing manifestation which is Him)**!**
14. **Since** (or: If) **you folks are constantly being insulted and censured in** (or: [because of] union with) **the Name of Christ, [you are] happy ones** (blessed folks), **because God's spirit of glory and power** (or: the Breath-effect of the reputation and of the ability of God) **is continuously "resting back upon" you folks** [*cf*. Isa. 11:2].

15. **Of course let not any one of you folks be experiencing suffering as a murderer, or a thief, or a doer of worthless or evil things, or, as a meddler** (an interferer) **in other people's affairs.**
16. **Yet if as a Christian [he is suffering], let him not continue feeling shame or embarrassment, but let him constantly glorify** (give credit to;

enhance the reputation of; bring an opinion of high status for) **God within this Name** (or: in union with this name [i.e., "Christian"],
17. **because [it is] the fitting situation of the appointed season for the judgment** (the effect of the separating and the result of the deciding) **to begin** (to start) **from God's house. Now if first from us, what [will be] the closing act** (the final stage; the end; the consummation; the outcome; the finished product) **pertaining to those continuing unpersuaded and unconvinced by** (or: uncompliant to; disobedient to; stubborn in) **God's message of goodness and well-being** (or: good news)**?**
18. **"And if the rightwised one** (the fair and just person in right relationships in accord to the Way pointed out) **is repeatedly delivered** (rescued; brought to safety; made healthy and whole) **with difficult labor, then where will the irreverent** (the person without pious awe) **and the failure** (the one who makes mistakes and cannot hit the target; the sinner; the outcast) **make an appearance?"** [Prov. 11:31]

19. **So then, also, let those repeatedly feeling the effects of experiences and of suffering which correspond to, and [are] in the sphere of, God's will** (intent; purpose) **continuously commit their souls to a Faithful Former** (or: Loyal Founder; Trustworthy Creator), **within [the] producing of good** (making of virtue; construction of excellence; performing goodness).

CHAPTER 5

1. **Therefore, I – the one [being] an older man together with [you]** (or: a fellow elder person) **and a witness of the experiences and sufferings of the Christ, as well as the one [being] a fellow participant** (partner; one who shares in common) **of the glory** (or: manifestation which will call forth praise) **being presently about to be progressively unveiled** (revealed; or: disclosed) **– am repeatedly calling older folks among you to my side, urging, encouraging and being a paraclete:**
2. **you folks shepherd** (i.e., lead to pasture, feed, tend, protect, care for) **God's little flock [that is] among you folks, constantly watching over [them], not in a forced manner** (not by exercising compulsion or constraint; or: not unwillingly), **but to the contrary, without compulsion** (engendering volunteering; yieldingly; or: voluntarily; willingly), **in accord with** (or: in line with and corresponding to; in the sphere of) **God; neither with eagerness for dishonest gain** (greedily; for the low reason of what you can get out of it), **but rather, readily rushing toward it with passion.**
3. **Nor yet as ones constantly exercising down-oriented lordship** (acting as owners or masters, bearing down with demands) **of the members of the inheritance** (of those who are the allotments of the heritage; or: of those considered to be small objects to be used in assigning positions or portions), **but to the contrary, progressively becoming beaten models** (types made by the strike of a hammer; examples) **for the little flock,**

4. **and so, with the Chief Shepherd** (or: the Original and Ruling Shepherd) **[thus] being made visible** (being shown in clear light), **you folks will be bringing to yourselves – with care and kindly keeping – the unwithering and unfading wreath of the glory** (or: the enduring recognition of achievement which comes from this good reputation).

5. **Likewise** (or: In like manner), **you younger men be humbly placed, arranged and aligned by** (or: subjected for support to) **older men. Yet all of you folks** (or: everyone) **tie on yourselves, as an outer garment** (like a slave's apron), **the humble attitude** (the lowliness of thinking) **to one another** [other MSS add: continuously being ones that are humbly aligned], **because**

> **"God habitually sets Himself in opposition, being resistant to those who try to appear conspicuously above others** (to haughty and proud ones), **yet He constantly gives grace and favor to humble** (or: lowly) **folks."** [Prov. 3:34]

6. **Let yourselves be made humble** (or: lowly), **then, under God's strong hand – so that He can** (or: would) **at some point lift you up** (or: may elevate or exalt you folks) **within a fitting situation** (or: in [the] proper season) **–**
7. **while throwing** (or: tossing) **your entire concern** (whole worry; every anxiety) **upon Him, because He constantly cares about and takes an interest around you folks!**

8. **Be sober** (or: clear headed)**! Be awake, alert and watch! Your barricade in the Way pointed out** (your road hazard; your opponent at court; the one "in your face" opposing your fairness and equity), **one who casts or thrusts something through the midst of folks** (e.g., [like a soldier casting a javelin or thrusting a sword through someone]; or: a slanderer), **as a constantly roaring lion, is continuously walking about, incessantly seeking to drink [you] down** (or: searching to gulp and swallow [someone] down),

> [comment: this path-hazard and road barricade may have been local religions, cultural or political opposition, or a spirit of contrariness]

9. **to whom take a stand against** (withstand; set yourself in opposition), **[being] strong** (firm; compact) **ones in** (or: by) **the faith, trust and loyalty – [being] folks having seen and thus knowing about these same experiences and sufferings [that] are to repeatedly and progressively bring the goal upon** (bring perfection upon; accomplish maturity upon) **your brotherhood within the dominating arrangement of the System** (in the ordered world of religion, economy, culture and government).

10. **Now the God of all grace and favor** (or: the God whose character and quality is all grace and favor; the God Who is every grace and joyous favor), **the One calling** (or: inviting) **you folks – ones experiencing a little and briefly suffering – into His eonian glory** (His glory and reputation which has the quality and characteristics pertaining to the realm of the Age and which continues on into an unseen and indefinite time) **within Christ Jesus, the Same One** (or:

He) **will get [things, or, you] down and prepare [them, or, you]** (or: repair [them; you]; fit, knit or adjust [them; you] thoroughly), **will set [things; you] fast and establish [them; you], will impart strength** (will make [things; you] strong), **will set a base upon which to ground and found [things and you]:**
11. **the strength** (or: might) **[to do these things is] in Him** (and: by Him) **on into the ages. It is so!** [other MSS: the glory and the strength {is} in Him, on into the superlative times of the ages (or: the ages of the ages)]

12. **Through Silvanus** (or: Silas), **the faithful and loyal brother who is full of trust, as I continue logically thinking and considering, I write through means of a few [thoughts, lines, or, words**; *p*72 reads: through a short {letter}], **persistently calling [you] alongside to encourage and aid [you], as well as constantly bearing a full witness and adding evidence of this continuing to be God's true** (and: real) **grace and favor, into which you folks should set yourselves to take a stand** (or, as an imperative: into which, [enter] and stand firm!).

13. **The jointly-chosen** (selected-together) **called-out community** (assembly; congregation; ecclesia) **within Babylon constantly embraces and greets you folks; also Mark, my son.**
14. **Embrace as you greet one another within love's kiss. Peace** (and: harmony; = shalom) **[is] in** (or: [is] by) **all those within Christ! It is so** (Amen)**!**

[written circa A.D. 65 – Based on the critical analysis of John A.T. Robinson]