

Dr. David Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 28, 1 Peter Book Study Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 28, 1 Peter Book Study, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture excerpt details a book survey of 1 Peter, focusing on its structure and themes. **Dr. Bauer** analyzes the epistle's organization, highlighting key passages and relationships between indicative declarations and imperative exhortations. He identifies recurring themes like suffering, hope, and glory, and explores the relationship between the Christian's destiny and that of Christ. The lecture also examines the identity of the recipients and the historical context of the letter, drawing inferences from the text itself. Finally, **Dr. Bauer** proposes key verses for further study and interpretation to gain a deeper understanding of the book's message.

**2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 28 – Double click icon
to play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Introduction & Languages → Introductory Series →
Inductive Bible Study).**



**Bauer_IBS_Session2
8.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 28, 1 Peter Book Study

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture on 1 Peter by Dr. David Bauer:

Briefing Document: 1 Peter - Inductive Bible Study

Overall Goal: To understand the structure and major themes of 1 Peter through careful observation and analysis of the text.

I. Introduction and Methodology

- **Approach:** Dr. Bauer uses an inductive method, starting with basic observations and moving towards deeper analysis and interpretation.
- **Scope:** This lecture is a survey of 1 Peter; a verse-by-verse analysis is not the focus. The lecture focuses on identifying the macro-structure of the book and key themes.
- **Starting Point:** The lecture begins by noting obvious elements: salutation (1:1-2) and conclusion (5:12-14).
- **Central Focus:** The lecture emphasizes the structure of the body of the letter and the flow of its arguments, particularly the movement from indicative statements about God's actions to imperatives for Christian living.
- **Emphasis on Structure:** Bauer stresses identifying structural relationships within the text, such as the movement from general statements to specific examples.

II. Macro-Structure of 1 Peter

- **Salutation (1:1-2):** Peter identifies himself as an apostle and addresses "exiles of the dispersion" in various regions of Asia Minor (Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia). He describes them as "chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit." Bauer notes this introduces the core identity that will be developed throughout the book.
- **Quote:** *"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood. May grace and peace be multiplied to you."* (1:1-2)

- **Doxology/Indicative (1:3-12):** This section is characterized by its focus on God's mercies towards Christians and is entirely in the indicative mood (statements of fact about God). Bauer calls it "God's Mercies to the Christian." No exhortations are present.
- **Exhortations (1:13-5:11):** This section is the bulk of the letter and contains imperatives ("you ought to do"). It is further divided:
 - **General Call to Holy Living (1:13-2:10):** This section provides non-situational exhortations focusing on holiness and love, particularly a call to holy living. The emphasis is on general moral behavior, not specific situations.
 - **Quote:** *"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"* (1:14-16)
 - **Quote:** *"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brethren, love one another earnestly from the heart."* (1:22)
 - **Specific Applications (2:11-5:11):** These are applications of the call to holy living to specific areas of life. Includes:
 - **General Declaration of Purpose (2:11-12):** Calls them to live as exiles among Gentiles to glorify God through their good behavior.
 - **Quote:** *"Beloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against your soul. Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."* (2:11-12)
 - **Submission to Societal Structures (2:13-3:7):** Contains a household code, including instructions for submitting to human institutions, servants, wives, and husbands.
 - **Proper Response to Persecution (3:8-4:19):** Guidance for how to respond to suffering.
 - **Humble Submission to Fellow Christians and God (5:1-11):** Focuses on relationships within the church community.
 - **Epistolary Conclusion (5:12-14):** Concluding remarks, greetings and a benediction.

- **Quote:** *"By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God; stand fast in it."* (5:12)

III. Major Structural Relationships

- **Preparation-Realization/Particularization:** The introduction (1:1-2) presents a general description of the recipients as exiles, chosen by God, and sanctified. The body of the letter develops and particularizes the meaning of this identity, showing what it means in their specific circumstances. The body of the letter provides the "realization" of the general themes introduced in the first verses.
- **Causation-Substantiation/Exhortatory Pattern:** A recurring pattern throughout the letter where declarations of God's goodness (indicative statements) lead to exhortations (imperatives) regarding how Christians should live. This is seen especially in the transition from 1:3-12 to 1:13 onward.
- **Quote:** *"Because this is the case, therefore, this is how you ought to respond. This is how you ought to live into it."* (Regarding the movement from indicative to imperative)
- **General-to-Specific:** Within the exhortations, there is a movement from general calls to holiness (1:13-2:10) to specific applications in various situations (2:11-5:11).
- **Particularization with Instrumentation:** The general instructions in 2:11-12 are "particularized" throughout the rest of the book (2:13-5:11) with instructions that show how to live out good conduct in a hostile world.
- **Generalization:** The concluding statement in 5:12 possibly provides a summary or encapsulation of the main themes, presenting the letter as both an exhortation and declaration of the grace of God.

IV. Key Themes and Concepts

- **Christian Identity:** The primary concern of 1 Peter is defining what it means to be a Christian in a hostile world. This identity is rooted in being chosen, destined, and sanctified by God.
- **Suffering:** A pervasive theme throughout the book, particularly suffering for righteousness' sake. The book emphasizes that suffering is not strange but a part of the Christian journey.

- **Hope:** Though not as frequently mentioned as suffering, Bauer believes hope is a significant theme, with a particular connection to grace.
- **Glory:** The concept of glorifying God and the ultimate glory that awaits believers.
- **Comparison of Destiny with Christ:** The destiny of Christians is frequently compared to the destiny of Christ, particularly in the move from suffering to glory. This theme is particularly present in the movement from righteous suffering to eternal glory.
- **Holiness:** The major exhortation of the book is to live holy lives. This includes love as part of that holy living.
- **Grace:** While the word might not appear often throughout the book, Bauer suggests that this is a significant theme, particularly highlighted at the conclusion.

V. Strategic Areas/Key Verses

Bauer identifies several key verses that represent major structural relationships:

- **1:1-2:** Preparatory statement and general description of the recipients.
- **1:13:** Represents the transition from indicative statements to exhortations. A focus on setting one's hope.
- **1:14-16:** The nub of the general call to holiness.
- **2:11-12:** Particularization with instrumentation, where general exhortations of good conduct and the purpose of glorifying God among Gentiles is set forth.
- **4:19:** Represents the recurrence of suffering.
- **5:12:** May be a general statement that encapsulates the major themes of the book.

VI. Analysis of the Audience and Context

- **Writer:** Peter, an apostle of Jesus, who identifies himself as a fellow elder and witness of Christ's sufferings. He is thoroughly acquainted with the Old Testament.
- **Recipients: Exiles of the Dispersion:** Likely dispersed throughout Asia Minor. Whether these are primarily Jewish or Gentile converts is debated.
- **Possibly Gentiles:** References to "passions of former ignorance," "feudal ways inherited from their fathers," and descriptions of former lives involving idolatry

might suggest Gentiles. However, they may also be seen as "spiritual Jews" who are heirs to Israel's promises.

- **Suffering Persecution:** Undergoing persecution from Gentile neighbors for their Christian faith and values.
- **Socioeconomic Diversity:** Includes both slaves and wealthy individuals.
- **Second-generation Christians:** Had not directly seen Christ and received the gospel secondhand.
- **Place of Writing:** Possibly from Rome, with "Babylon" used as a code name.
- **Occasion for Writing:** Persecution, possibly in danger of falling back into sin, and potentially lacking humility and healthy church leadership.
- **Tone:** Hopefulness and encouragement, with a tone of warning and preparation.

VII. Key Questions for Further Study

Dr. Bauer raises several key questions designed to help the student engage with the text in a more meaningful way:

- What is the meaning of each element in the background statement of 1:1 and how does each prepare for the body of the book and illumine the rest of the book?
- What is the meaning of the declarations of God's goodness to the Christian in 1:3-12 and how do they cause and lead to the exhortations in 1:13-5:11?
- What is the meaning of the general call or description to holiness in 1:13-2:10? In what precise ways is it developed?
- How do the recurrences of suffering, hope, glory and being called/chosen illuminate the meaning of the book?
- What are the major points of continuity between the destiny of Christians and Christ and how does that illuminate Peter's theology?
- How do the general exhortations in 2:11-12 lead to specific instructions in the rest of the book?
- How does 5:12 encapsulate the major issues of the book?

VIII. Conclusion

Dr. Bauer provides a thorough introduction to 1 Peter that emphasizes careful observation, structural analysis, and understanding of the text. His focus on the movement from indicative to imperative, from general to specific, and on the overarching themes of Christian identity, suffering, hope, and glory provides a solid foundation for deeper study of this important New Testament book.

4. Study Guide: Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 28, 1 Peter Book Study

1 Peter: Book Survey Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. What are the three main sections of 1 Peter, as identified by Dr. Bauer?
2. What is the significance of the causal conjunction "therefore" at the beginning of 1:13?
3. What are the two primary, general exhortations found in 1:13-2:10, and which one does Dr. Bauer argue is dominant?
4. What is meant by the term "household code" in the context of 1 Peter? Where is it found?
5. According to Dr. Bauer, what is the primary concern of 1 Peter?
6. What is the pattern of declaration to exhortation, and why is it important in understanding the structure of the book?
7. How does 1 Peter particularize the general call to holiness in 2:11-5:11?
8. What themes recur throughout the book of 1 Peter, as identified in the lecture?
9. How does Peter compare the destiny of Christians to the destiny of Christ in 1 Peter?
10. How might 5:12 be interpreted as a general statement encapsulating the major themes of 1 Peter?

Answer Key

1. The three main sections of 1 Peter are the salutation (1:1-2), the body of the letter with its declaration of God's goodness and subsequent exhortations (1:3-5:11), and the epistolary conclusion (5:12-14). The body is further divided between general exhortations (1:13-2:10) and specific applications (2:11-5:11).
2. The causal conjunction "therefore" indicates a movement from the indicative (what is the case) to the imperative (what one ought to do). It signals that the

exhortations in the following verses flow from the declarations of God's goodness in the previous section.

3. The two primary exhortations are to holiness and love. Dr. Bauer argues that the exhortation to holiness is dominant, with love being subordinate to it within this general call to holy living.
4. A household code refers to a set of instructions for how different members of a household should relate to each other within the social structure. It is found in 2:13-3:6 and addresses servants, wives, and husbands.
5. According to Dr. Bauer, the primary concern of 1 Peter is Christian identity. The book seeks to define what it means to be a Christian, particularly in light of the recipients' current situation.
6. The pattern of declaration to exhortation refers to the back-and-forth between statements of theological truth (indicative) and the resulting calls to action (imperative). This pattern reveals the very structure of Christian life as described in 1 Peter.
7. 1 Peter particularizes the call to holiness by applying it to specific situations, such as submission to societal structures, proper responses to persecutors, and humble submission to fellow Christians. These specific applications give content to the general ideal of holiness.
8. The themes that recur throughout the book include suffering, being called/chosen/destined, hope, and glory/glorify. Each plays a significant role in shaping the overall message.
9. Peter compares the destiny of Christians to the destiny of Christ by noting that both experience suffering for righteousness before ultimately being glorified. This comparison is particularly evident in the movement from suffering to glory.
10. 5:12 may be interpreted as encapsulating the book by highlighting the twin concepts of grace (indicative) and standing firm in it (imperative). It reinforces the overarching theme of Christian identity rooted in God's grace and faithful perseverance.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer the following questions in an essay format.

1. Discuss the structure of 1 Peter, highlighting the relationship between the indicative statements of God's goodness (1:3-12) and the subsequent exhortations (1:13-5:11). How does this structure shape the message of the book?
2. Analyze the significance of the opening salutation in 1:1-2, paying particular attention to the description of the recipients. How does this foundational description connect to the themes developed throughout the rest of the epistle?
3. Examine the recurrence of the theme of suffering in 1 Peter. How does Peter address the issue of suffering and how does it relate to the Christian identity and calling?
4. Explore the contrast between the general call to holiness (1:13-2:10) and its specific applications (2:11-5:11). How do these two sections interact to shape Peter's understanding of the Christian life?
5. Analyze the recurring comparisons between the destiny of Christians and the destiny of Christ in 1 Peter. What is the significance of this comparison for the overall message of the book, especially regarding suffering and glory?

Glossary of Key Terms

Doxology: A liturgical formula of praise to God. In 1 Peter, the section from 1:3-12 is described as a kind of doxology due to its focus on God's attributes and acts.

Epistolary Conclusion: The closing remarks of a letter, typically including greetings, final instructions, and a benediction. In 1 Peter, this section is found in 5:12-14.

Exhortation: An address or communication emphatically urging someone to do something. In 1 Peter, the exhortations are based on the indicative declarations, urging the audience toward holy living.

Household Code: A set of instructions found in some New Testament epistles that address the relationships between different members of a household, such as husbands, wives, children, and servants. In 1 Peter, the household code is found in 2:13-3:7.

Indicative: A statement of fact or reality; what *is* the case. In 1 Peter, the indicative statements often precede the imperatives, laying the theological foundation for the exhortations.

Imperative: A command or exhortation; what one *ought* to do. In 1 Peter, the imperatives are often the practical outworking of the indicative truths declared earlier in the book.

Instrumentation: How specific actions or practices function as the means to achieve particular purposes or goals. In 1 Peter, instrumentation is seen in how the specific instructions in 2:13-5:11 carry out the general purpose of maintaining good conduct and glorifying God.

Particularization: The act of making general statements or concepts more specific and detailed. In 1 Peter, the general call to holiness is particularized in the practical instructions in 2:11-5:11.

Recurrence of Comparison: The repeated act of comparing two concepts or ideas throughout a text. In 1 Peter, the author repeatedly compares the destiny of Christians to the destiny of Christ.

Siglum: A symbol or sign used to represent something. In the case of 1 Peter, "Babylon" is thought to be a siglum for Rome.

5. FAQs on Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 28, 1 Peter Book Study, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on 1 Peter Based on Dr. Bauer's Lecture

- **What is the primary theme of 1 Peter, according to Dr. Bauer, and how does the book develop this theme?**
- Dr. Bauer identifies the overarching theme of 1 Peter as Christian identity. He argues that the book begins with a general description of the recipients' Christian identity in 1:1-2, characterizing them as exiles of the dispersion, chosen by God the Father, and sanctified by the Spirit. The rest of the epistle then fleshes out this general description by providing specific content to their exilic status, their status as chosen and destined by God, and their status as sanctified by the Spirit, explaining in detail what it means to live out this identity.
- **How is the structure of 1 Peter organized, and what are the main sections?**
- The book of 1 Peter is structured around a move from the indicative to the imperative. It starts with a salutation (1:1-2) and a doxology (1:3-12) focusing on God's mercies to the Christian, which is entirely in the indicative mood. Then, from 1:13 through 5:11, the letter is characterized by exhortations. These exhortations can be further divided into general exhortations for holy living (1:13-2:10) and specific applications of holiness to various areas of life (2:11-5:11). It concludes with an epistolary conclusion (5:12-14).
- **What is the significance of the "indicative to imperative" pattern in 1 Peter?** The "indicative to imperative" pattern in 1 Peter reflects the core of Christian living. The indicative refers to what God has done for believers through Christ (e.g., the declarations of God's goodness in 1:3-12). The imperative then refers to how believers should respond to God's grace and the reality of their new identity in Christ, (e.g., the exhortations in 1:13-5:11). This structure highlights how the *actions* and *conduct* of the Christian should logically flow from their new *status* and the blessings they have received in Christ. This flow demonstrates the relationship between God's action and the believer's response.

- **How does 1 Peter address the concept of holiness, and what's the difference between general and specific applications?** 1 Peter addresses holiness as a central aspect of the Christian life. In 1:13-2:10, the epistle gives a general call to holy living, emphasizing obedience and love, but without reference to specific circumstances. From 2:11 to 5:11, the letter moves into specific applications of holiness, providing concrete instruction for how believers should live out their faith in different settings and situations like submission to societal structures, proper response to persecution, and relations with fellow Christians. This shows that holiness isn't an abstract concept but is embodied in everyday actions.
- **What can be inferred about the recipients of 1 Peter, and why does this matter?** The recipients of 1 Peter are described as "exiles of the dispersion" and were likely primarily Gentile Christians scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (modern-day Turkey). Though the letter references Old Testament concepts and passages, this is not exclusive to a Jewish audience. The letter indicates that they lived among Gentiles and had a past that was characterized by ignorance and idolatry. Furthermore, they were experiencing persecution. Understanding the context helps readers see the relevance of the exhortations in the letter, particularly those concerning suffering, maintaining good conduct, and living in a way that glorifies God. They were clearly suffering for their beliefs and thus the topic of suffering, hope, and glory was relevant to them.
- **What role does suffering play in 1 Peter, and how does it relate to the destiny of Christians?** Suffering is a recurring and significant theme in 1 Peter. The letter consistently addresses the reality of persecution, encouraging readers to respond to it in a manner that is both righteous and hope-filled. It presents suffering as a trial of faith that can lead to glory, both in the present and future. It's crucial to the message that there is a strong connection between the suffering of Christians and the suffering of Christ. The letter emphasizes a continuity between the destiny of believers and that of Christ, where righteous suffering is followed by glory. This helps the recipients to endure, knowing that their suffering has purpose in God's plan.

- **What are some of the structural relationships or patterns identified in 1 Peter, and why are they important?** Dr. Bauer highlights several structural relationships within 1 Peter, including preparation-realization, causation-substantiation, generalization-particularization, and purpose. The preparatory statement in 1:1-2 introduces the key themes, which are then realized throughout the letter. Causation-substantiation refers to how theological truths (indicatives) lead to moral imperatives. The letter also moves from general calls for holy living to specific applications. Purpose statements often set the stage for how the Christians' conduct would give glory to God. Recognizing these structural patterns helps readers trace the argument and the flow of thought of the letter.
- **How does the ending of 1 Peter, especially 5:12, encapsulate the major themes of the book?**
- The end of 1 Peter at 5:12, "By Silvanus, a faithful brother, as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it," is considered a general statement that encapsulates the main themes of the book. The passage picks up on both the indicative (God's grace) and the imperative (the Christian's response). This verse highlights the central theme of God's grace, the foundation of Christian living, and underscores the need for believers to remain steadfast in that grace, a consistent theme throughout the letter. The emphasis on grace in this conclusion is a reminder that both the present hope and future glory of the Christians are rooted in God's unmerited favor.