

## Questions

1. How much have you considered the Christian's identity of "as sojourners and exiles"?
2. In what sense are Christians exiles? Do you see yourself as such? In what ways do you? In what ways do you not?
3. What have the three Persons of the Trinity done for each Christian? (Put each into your own words.)
4. How should knowing that we are *elect* exiles encourage us, while we are here, away from our home? Further, how should knowing that we are not alone in our exile encourage us?
5. How should the truth that your elect exile identity is a result of God the Father's foreknowledge encourage you while you're an exile here? How does it encourage you?
6. Your elect exile identity means you have been set apart as holy, by the Holy Spirit, for God. How should that change your perspective about your character and conduct?
7. Your elect exile identity comes with a purpose: obedience and forgiveness through Jesus' blood. How is what good news for elect exiles in a foreign land?
8. Why is Peter's closing prayer so encouraging to exiles?

## Book Recommendation

*Rebels and Exiles: A Biblical Theology of Sin and Restoration*, by Matthew Harmon



## Encouragement for Elect Exiles

**1 Peter 1:1-2**

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1 Peter 1:1-2 provides us with 3 truths about our God-given elect identity that should encourage us while we are exiles here, away from our home.

### Biblical Exile Theme/Storyline in Scripture

Christians are described "as sojourners and exiles" and "citizens of heaven" (e.g., 2 Cor. 5:20; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:13; 1 Peter 1:1, 17; 2:11).

To be an exile is to live *not* in one's homeland, but in a foreign land.

## **1 Peter 1:1-2**

Verse 1

Gentiles are being described in historically Jewish terms: exiles, of the Dispersion, and elect—the chosen of God.

Verse 2

### **1. ELECT EXILES ACCORDING TO THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD THE FATHER**

God the Father's foreknowledge is His sovereign determination to set His love on individuals, not based on anything they will or won't do, but based solely on His choice to love them. And because He foreloves them, He elects them.

### **2. ELECT EXILES IN THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT**

Peter is talking about *positional* sanctification.

Jerry Bridges describes positional sanctification like this, "it's the decisive break with, or separation from, sin as a ruling power in the believer's life. It is a point-in-time ... change [produced] in us by the ... Holy Spirit as He removes us from the kingdom of darkness and brings us into the kingdom of Christ."

### **3. ELECT EXILES FOR OBEDIENCE TO JESUS AND FOR SPRINKLING WITH HIS BLOOD**

The background for this statement is Exodus 24:3-8.

Unlike the old covenant, where the blood of bulls and goats could never truly atone for sin, nor did the people have the power to truly obey, the new covenant in Jesus' blood speaks a better word.

In the new covenant, the law is written on our hearts, the Holy Spirit who sanctified us is now within us empower towards obedience, and Jesus' blood does truly forgive and atone of our sins.