
Foundations of Salvation

1 Peter 1:2



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All of the first believers were Jews

- **John 2:23 – “many Jews believed in Him” after observing His miracles**
- **John 7:31 – “many of the crowd believed in Him”**
- **John 10:42 – Jesus withdrew to a place beyond the Jordan River where “many believed in Him there”**
- **John 12:42 – “many even of the rulers believed in Him”**
- **Acts 2:41 – “that day there were added about three thousand souls”**
- **Acts 4:4 – “the number of the men came to be about five thousand”**
- **Acts 5:14 – “multitudes of men and women were constantly added to their number”**

All of the first believers were Jews

- **Acts 8 – the Samaritans believed in Jesus Christ through the apostle Philip, who then led a Jewish proselyte from Ethiopia to Christ**
- **Acts 9 – Even Saul believed, and the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria continued to increase. From Peter's ministry in Joppa, "many believed in the Lord."**
- **Acts 10 – Peter was used by God to open the door of salvation to non-Jews**
- **Acts 11 – Jewish believers were scattered throughout Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch in Syria sharing the gospel, where "a large number who believed turned to the Lord"**
- **Acts 13 – "as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed"**

1 Peter 1:1b-2 - who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood

- The concept of a chosen people pervades the Old Testament
(see Deut 4:37, 7:6, 10:15, 14:2; Ps 33:12, 105:6, 108:5, 135:4; Isa 41:8, 44:1; Ezek 20:5)
- Chosen / Elect (*eklektos*) – “to be picked out, chosen, or specially selected”
- Often applied to individuals who are chosen for salvation
(see Matt 24:22, 24, 31; Mark 13:20, 22, 27; Luke 18:7; Rom 8:33; Col 3:12; 1 Tim 5:21; 2 Tim 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Pet 1:2; 5:13; 2 John 1:1, 13)
- God’s choice was based solely on His sovereign grace and love

God the Father

according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

- God the Father's choice – His divine election of believers – was not an act that He accomplished in time
- God held this knowledge of His eternal plan before the creation of time at the beginning of human history
- Foreknowledge (*prognōsis*) – “forethought or prearrangement.” Used only twice in the New Testament by Peter. God's foreknowledge is not simply foresight.
- Election involved the knowledge of God from eternity past

God the Holy Spirit

by the sanctifying work of the Spirit

- Sanctifying work (*hagiasmos*) – “consecrated or set apart for a holy purpose”
- Three phases or stages in the sanctification of a believer:
 1. “positional sanctification” – the believer is set apart as belonging to God with a new position or status before God
 2. “progressive sanctification” – on-going spiritual growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ
 3. “ultimate sanctification” – the believer is resurrected in a glorified body (sometimes called glorification)

God the Son

to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood

- Obey (*hupakoē*) – “to listen attentively and to comply or submit to what was heard.” Responsiveness to the truth of the Word of God.
1 Peter 1:22 – “obedience to the truth.”
- Paul used *obedience* in a similar way – “obedience of faith” (Rom 1:5; 16:26)
- *Sprinkling* – reminded Jewish believers of the Old Testament sacrificial system, the temporary atonement for sin through offering the blood of a sacrifice in the temple
- Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice is the ultimate and final sacrifice for sin. Anyone who hears and submits to that truth will be saved.
- Paul said, “God has *chosen* you from the beginning for salvation through *sanctification* by the Spirit and *faith* in the truth” (2 Thess 2:13)

Salutation

May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure

- Hebrew: **shâlôm** (“peace”)
- Greek: **charis** (“grace”) – the unmerited favor of God which demonstrates His goodness toward those who cannot earn and do not deserve His favor
- Be multiplied (**plēthunō**) – “to increase, abound, or be multiplied”
- Jewish believers who were familiar with the Greek translation of the Old Testament would have recognized this salutation from Dan 4:1 (Septuagint 3:31) and 6:25