Peter*

1Peter 1:1-9 (1) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
(2) Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.
(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
(4) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
(5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
(6) Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:
(7) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
(8) Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:
(9) Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.
Peter's personal history.-He was a native of Bethesda on the Sea of Galilee, son of Jonas or John. With his father and his brother Andrew he endeavored in the trade as a fisherman at Capernaum, his subsequent place of abode. He was a married man, and tradition represents his wife's name as Concordia or Perpetua. Clement of Alexandria says that she suffered martyrdom, her husband encouraging her to be faithful unto

death, "Remember, dear, our Lord." After the ascension he took the lead in the Church; and on the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, he exercised the designed power of "the keys" of Christ's kingdom, by opening the door of the Church, in preaching, for the admission of thousands of Israelites; and still more so in opening in obedience to a special revelation, an entrance to the Gentiles, Cornelius: the forerunner of the harvest gathered from idolatrous Gentiles at Antioch. Simon Peter was one of the first of those whom our Lord called to be His disciples and followers, that he was a person of excellent endowments, both natural and gracious, quick to apprehend and bold to execute whatever he knew to be his duty. When our Saviour called His apostles, and gave them their commission, He nominated Peter first in the list; and by His behavior towards him, He seems to have distinguished him as a favorite among the twelve. Many instances of our Lord's affection to him, both during His life and after His resurrection, are on record. But there are many things confidently affirmed of this holy man that are directly false:
(1) That he was the sole and universal pastor over all the Christian world, the only vicar of Christ upon earth.
(2) That he was more than twenty years bishop of Rome.
(3) That the popes of Rome succeed after St. Peter and derive from him a universal supremacy and jurisdiction over all churches and Christians upon earth-and that all this was by our Lord's ordering and appointment; whereas Christ ***never*** *gave him any preeminence of this kind, but positively forbade it, and gave precepts to the contrary. Peter himself never assumed any thing like it, but modestly styles himself an apostle of Jesus Christ; and, when he writes to the elders, he humbly places himself in the same rank with them, turn to;*
1Peter 5:1-5 (1) The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:
(2) Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the

oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
(3) Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
(4) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
(5) Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.
Most authorities, especially those of the early church, accepted Peter's authorship without question. Some modern critics have alleged that the language is too eloquent for an unlearned Galilean fisherman. They are wrong in this, for Peter was not ignorant, even though he was a fisherman. His sermons as recorded in Acts reveal not only an eloquent command of language but also a profound knowledge of scripture. His epistle's are incomparably rich in spiritual vitality and filled with love for the Lord whom he once had denied. There are also practical exhortations to holy living, to obedience to civil governments, to strong marital relationships, to Christian humility, and to the defense of the faith, of which he encourages us to add, what we call the seven Christian graces. Each grace being assumed, becomes the stepping stone to the succeeding grace: and the latter in turn qualifies and completes the former. Faith leads the band; charity pushing from behind. The fruits of faith specified are seven, the perfect number. The four corners of earth plus the divine COMPLETENESS OF GOD (the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost) are seven, earth crowned with heaven. In the Book of Revelation the number SEVEN is used throughout. There are SEVEN churches, SEVEN Spirits, SEVEN stars, SEVEN seals, SEVEN trumpets, SEVEN vials, SEVEN candlesticks. The word FINISHED is also connected with the number SEVEN. In the days of the voice of the SEVENTH angel,

when he shall begin to sound the mystery of God should be FINISHED (Rev 10:7).
"It is DONE" is another expression found in connection with the number Seven. And the SEVENTH angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne saying, It is DONE (Revelation 16:17).
The SEVENTH time Noah's name occurs it is said, Noah was a just man, and PERFECT in his generations (Genesis 6:9).
What are the seven Christian graces in 2Peter 1:5-7?
Add to your faith **virtue***; it's the practice of moral excellence, goodness and righteousness, the conformity of one's life and conduct to moral and ethical principles. Prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.*
To virtue **knowledge**; *acquaintance with facts, truths, or principles, as from study or investigation, the fact or state of knowing, little knowledge is a dangerous thing.*
To knowledge **temperance**; *moderation or self-restraint in action or statement, self-control as in behavior or expression.*
To temperance **patience**; *the quality of being patient as in the bearing of provocation, annoyance, misfortune, or pain, without complaint, loss of temper, irritation, or the like. Quiet, steady perseverance; even-tempered; diligence.*
To patience **Godliness**; *conforming to the laws and wishes of God; devout; pious. Having a religious character, saintly, holy, righteous, good. A godly person.*
To Godliness **brotherly kindness**; *a kindly and lenient attitude toward people, brotherly love. Inclination or tendency to help or do good to others; charity, compassion, friendship, goodwill, benevolence.*
To brotherly kindness **charity**; *the giving of help, money, food, etc, to those in need. A kindly and lenient attitude towards people. Love of one's fellow men. Alms giving, assistance, gifting, a helping hand and support willingly and not out of necessity.*
Now the end result of adding these things to your life is this;

2Peter 1:10-13 (10) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:
(11) For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
(12) Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.
(13) Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;
Seeing the danger of apostasy, thus the grace of God received in vain; and the fearful end of them who obey not the Gospel, give all diligence, hasten, be deeply careful, labor with the most intense purpose of soul to stir up pure minds. Turn to;
2Peter 3:1-7 (1) This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:
(2) That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:
(3) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
(4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
(5) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
(6) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:
(7) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.
Scoffers - In Jude 1:18 the same Greek word is rendered

"mockers." The word means those who deride, reproach or ridicule, walking after their own lusts. There is usually in the word the idea of contempt toward an objective. It would appear probable that there is a particular class of men; a class who would hold aloft opinions well-spoken having an appearance of truth or reason, but are nothing more than deceptive objections against the world that was and of the fulfillment of predictions respecting the end of the world, and the second coming of the Saviour. They are willingly ignorant, dumb on purpose, but their objections are well organized. Remember, the devil is seeking those he may devour. However, by the word of God the heavens were of old, they were created having apparent age! How old was Adam when he had lived one minute from his creation? He was one minute old but had the appearance of a young man, he could walk, talk, reason and reproduce. The point is this, how could anything be created without apparent age? At their creation the sun was shining, the moon was in orbit around the earth and the stars were radiating light visible to man on his first night on earth. There are those that say if a God did create the universe having apparent age, then He was deceptive. That is false to the core. God told us what He did, yet there shall be scoffers walking after their own lust. In the process, Christian's will suffer tribulation: satan working with mankind through GMO's (God Move Over).

{Scoffers are nothing new. As a matter of fact, they have always been around and received much attention and condemnation from both Old and New Testament writers. While technically “the last days” occupy the period of time between the first and second comings of Christ, it does seem that scoffers have been growing in number and influence in the most recent century. Speaking of the end times, Christ said that “many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24: l l). Paul warned of them often, describing them as “men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith” (II

Timothy 3:8). Peter explains their creed: First, they deny the coming return of the Lord, and indeed His promise to return, attacking the character of God and His word. Next, they hold that for all things and for all time, even from before the beginning of the universe, natural processes have operated without supernatural input. These latter-day scoffers are none other than evolutionary humanists, who deny God's grand work of creation and deny His ultimate return to bring His intent in creation to fruition. The strategy of "mocking" is often especially effective against Christians in education, science, or other professional fields. Such people place a high premium on peer recognition, and thus are sensitive to snide remarks about the Bible. Thus when, in the words of II Peter 3:4, latter-day scoffers come saying: "Where is the promise of His coming? . . . all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (which is essentially a denial of God and creation), there is great pressure to tacitly agree with the scoffers, and many Christians will seek some compromise. But Nehemiah did not compromise, and neither should we. The Bible says that those who ridicule God's Word are "willingly ignorant" (II Peter 3:5), and there is no need to, pander to willful ignorance, of God's invulnerable truth. Uniformitarianism is the modern name for the doctrine, prophesied long ago by Peter for those living in the last days, that "the present is the key to the past." That is, the study of present-day natural processes operating in the past as they do at present, are sufficient to determine the origin and development of all things. To them, no supernatural cause (such as God!) is needed. Even "creation" is still going on by these natural processes, since "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." This ancient prophecy, of course, is being specifically fulfilled in our modern "scientific" age. Synonyms for uniformitarianism might include such philosophies as naturalism, materialism, and evolutionism. Peter, however, not only predicts this philosophy but also condemns it! "For this they willingly are ignorant of!" (v.5).

That is, people who believe in the unbroken continuity of all things are willful in their refusal to consider the overwhelming evidences of dis-continuity, particularly at the times of the special creation of all things in the beginning and the cataclysmic destruction of all things at the great flood, when "the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished" (v.6). "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God" (Revelation 3:14). The phrase is also used in Peter's very important prophecy concerning the scoffers of the end-times, who will argue (in willful ignorance) that "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation", thereby denying that there ever was a real creation or real Creator and thus rejecting Christ Himself. But He is also the "true witness" and the "Amen," and such denials will only be "unto their own destruction" (II Peter 3:16). [*Ref*. Institute of Creation Research].}

{Some scientists have suggested that the Universe started via the "Big Bang," and will collapse via a "Big Crunch." Then the whole process will start all over again. Some astronomers say the Universe will never come out of this collapsed state. Others speculate that the Universe will rebound from the collapse in a new explosion, and experience a new moment of Creation. According to this view, our Universe will be melted down and remade in the caldron of the second Creation. It will become an entirely new world, in which no trace of the existing Universe remains. This theory envisages a Cosmos that oscillates forever, passing through an infinite number of moments of creation in a never-ending cycle of birth, death and rebirth. Evolutionary cosmologist John Wheeler has drawn the following conclusion based on the scientific evidence: "With gravitational collapse we come to the end of time. Never out of the equations of general relativity has one been able to find the slightest argument for a 're-expansion' of a 'cyclic

universe' or anything other than an end." [*Ref.* AP].}
The conclusion: that any attempt to use unreliable theories deceiving and being deceived, all fail. No one yet has improved on Genesis chapter 1— "In the beginning, God created." The question mankind should be asking is, what manner of persons should we be?
Righteous or unrighteous? **1Peter 4:16-18** (16) Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.
(17) For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?
(18) And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?
Good or evil? **1Peter 3:10-12** (10) For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:
(11) Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.
(12) For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.
Obedient or rebel? **1Peter 1:13-16** (13) Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
(14) As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:
(15) But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
(16) Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
Saved or lost? **1Peter 3:20-21** (20) Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

(21) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

The reference to their being saved seems to encourage those whom Peter addressed to perseverance and fidelity, in the midst of all the opposition which they might experience. Noah was sustained by the Spirit of Christ, he continued to preach. He did not abandon his purpose, and the result was that he and his family were saved. True, they were few in number who were saved; the great mass continued to be wicked; but this very fact should be an encouragement to us - tho the great mass of any one generation may be wicked, God can protect and save the few who are faithful. This infers an individual choice, faithful or wicked? One can accept or reject that while on earth Jesus established the ordinance of baptism for remission of sins. That He accordingly has therein declared all men without distinction, who through faith, as obedient children, will heed, follow, and practice what faith contains, to be His children and lawful heirs. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief, followed by baptism which is the effect of faith; only those who have first believed the testimony of God, and by faith repent of their sins, and with the mouth declare their confession of faith, and by faith are baptized into His death, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon, the forgiveness of sin and addition to the kingdom of Christ. This is the gospel. It's invitation is always open, also prayer requests, in either case come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
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Ref. Barnes' Notes on the Bible
Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary
Matthew Henry's Bible Commentary
Institute of Creation Research
Uniformitarianism by Henry Morris, Ph.D.
Mockers—ancient And Modern by Henry Morris, Ph.D.
Scoffers In The Last Days by John D. Morris, Ph.D.
The Witness Of The Creation by Henry Morris, Ph.D.
Apologetics Press
Big Bang or "Big Crunch"? by Bert Thompson, Ph.D.

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