

1 King. 17. 1.
ecl. 48. 3.
luk. 4. 25.

17 *Helias was a man subiect to like passiōs as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not raine, and it rained not on the earth for thre yeres and six monerhs.
18 And he prayed againe, and the heauen gaue raine, and the earth broght forth her frute.

THE FIRST EPI-
stle general of Peter.

THE ARGUMENT.

HE exhortheth the faithful to denie them selues, and to contemne the worlde, that being deliuered from all carnal affections and impediments, they may more speedely attein to the heauenlie kingdome of Christ, whereunto we are called by the grace of God reueiled to vs in his Sonne, and haue already receiued it by faith, possided it by hope, and are therein confirmed by holines of life. And to the intent thys faith shulde not faint, seing Christ contemned and reiect:ed almost of the whole worlde, he declareth that this is nothing els but the accomplishing of the Scriptures which testifie that he shulde be the stumbling stone to the reprobate and the sure foundation of saluation to the faithful: therefore he exhortheth them courageously to go forwarde, considering what they were, and to what dignitie God hath called them. After, he entreateth particular points, teaching subiects how to obey their gouernours, and seruants their masters, and how married folkes ought to behaue them selues. And because it is appointed for all that are godlie, to suffre persecutions, he sheweth them what good yssue their afflictions shal haue, and contrarie wise what punishment God reserueth for the wicked. Last of all he teacheth how the ministers ought to behaue them selues, forbidding them to vsurpe autoritie over the Church: also that yong men ought to be modest, and apt to learne, and so endeth with an exhortation.

CHAP. I.

2 He sheweth that through the abundant mercie of God we are elect and regenerate to a liuelie hope. 7 And how faith must be tried. 10 That the saluation in Christ is no newes, but a thing prophesied of olde. 13 He exhortheth them to a godlie conuersation, forasmuche as they are now borne a newe by the worde of God.

6 Wherein ye reioyce, thogh now for a ceason (if nedes require) ye are in heauines, through manifolde tentations,
7 That the trial of your faith, being muche more precious then golde that perisheth (thogh it be tryed with fyre) might be foude vnto your praise, & honour and glorie at the appearing of Iesus Christ:

g And nede doeth so require, when it pleaseth God to lay his crofse vpon his, for to drawe the things & make them partakers of his heauenlie graces.
h At his second comming.

8 Whome ye haue not sene, and yet loue him, in whome now, thogh ye se him not, yet do you beleue, and reioyce with ioye vnspokeable and glorious,
9 Receiuing the end of your faith, euen the saluation of your soules.

10, forwarde.

10 Of the which saluation the Prophetes haue inquired and searched, which prophesied of the grace that shulde come vnto you,

11 Searching when or what time the Spirit which testified before of Christ which was in them, shulde declare the sufferings that shulde come vnto Christ, and the glorie that shulde followe.

12 Vnto whome it was reueiled, that vnto them selues, but vnto vs they shulde minister the things which are now shewed vnto you by them which haue preached vnto you the Gospel by the holie Gott sent downe from heauen, the which things the Angels desire to beholde.

i Their ministerie was more profitable to vs then e them: for we se the thing accomplished which they prophesied.

13 Wherefore

a Which were Iewes to whome he was appointed to be an Apostle.
b The free election of God is the efficient cause of our saluation, the material cause is Christs obedience, our effectual calling is the formal cause, and the final cause is our sanctification.
2. Cor. 1. 3.
ephe. 1. 3.
Or, vnto obedience.
c To wit, of Christ.
d For it is but dead & vaine hope which is without Christ.
e Therefore they ought to loke for no earthly kingdome of the Messias.
f At the day of iudgement



PETER an Apostle of IESVS CHRIST, to the strangers that dwell here and there throughout Pontus, Galacia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

2 Elec according to the foreknowledge of God the Father vnto sanctification of the spirit, through obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Iesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied vnto you.

3 * Blessed be God euen the Father of our Lord Iesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercie hath begoten vs againe vnto a liuelie hope by the resurrectiō of Iesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance immortal and vndefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserued in heauen for you,

5 Which are kept by the power of God through faith vnto saluation, which is prepared to be shewed in the last time:

Luk. 12. 35.
 ¶ Prepare your selues to the Lord.

1 Vntil his seconde coming.

m When you were in ignorance and knewe not Christ.

Luk. 1. 75.

Leui. 11. 44.
 & *19. 2. & 20. 7*

Deut. 10. 17.
rom. 2. 11.

galat. 2. 6.
 ¶ According to the sinceritie of the heart.

o Read Ezek. 20. 18.

1. Cor. 6. 20.
 & *7. 27. ebr.*

9. 14. 1. ioh. 1. 7. reuel. 1. 6.

Rom. 10. 25.
ephes. 3. 9.

colof. 1. 26.
2. tim. 1. 10.

tit. 1. 2.

p When Christ appeared vnto the worlde, & when the Gospell was preached.

Rom. 12. 10.

ephes. 4. 2.
chap. 2. 27.

q Therefore we must renouee our former nature.

isa. 40. 6.

eccles. 1. 4. 18.
iam. 1. 10.

rom. 6. 4.

ephes. 4. 23.
colof. 3. 8.

ebr. 12. 2.

a In this their infancie and new coming to Christ he willetch them to take hede lest for pure milke, which is the first beginnings of learning the sincere worde, they be not deuced by the which chop and change it, and geue poyson in stede thereof.

Or, the milke of vnderstanding which is without decess.

13 Wherefore, ^k girde vp the ^{*} loynes of your minde : be sober, and trust perfectly on the grace that is broght vnto you, by the ^l reuelacion of Iesus Christ,

14 As obedient children, not facioning your selues vnto the former ^m lustes of your ignorance:

15 But as he which hathe called you, is holie, so be ye holiē in ^{*} all maner of conuersacion,

16 Because it is writen, ^{*} Be ye holie, for I am holie.

17 And if ye call him Father, which without ^{*} respect of persone iudgeth accordig to euerie mans ⁿ worke, passe the time of your dwelling here in feare,

18 Knowing that ye were not redēmed with corruptible things, as siluer and golde, fro your vaine conuersacion, receiued by the tradicions of the ^o fathers,

19 ^{*} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lambe vndefiled, & without spot,

20 Which was ^{*} ordeined before the fundacion of the worlde, but was declared in the ^p last times for your sakes,

21 Which by his meanes do beleue in God that raised him from the dead, and gaue him glorie, that your faith & hope might be in God.

22 Seing your soules are purified in obeying the trueth through the spirit, to ^{*} loue brotherly without faining, loue one another with a pure heart feruently,

23 Being borne a new, not of mortal seide, but of ^q immortal, by the worde of God, who liueth and endureth for euer.

24 For all ^{*} flesh is as grasse, and all the glorie of man is as the flower of grasse. The grasse withereth, and the flower falleth away.

25 But the worde of the Lord endureth for euer: and this is the worde which is preached among you.

CHAP. II.

1 He exhorteth them to laye a side all vice. *4* Shewing that Christ is the fundacion whereupon they buylde. *9* The excellent estate of the Christians. *11* He praiseth them to absteine from fleshlie lustes. *13* To obey the rulers. *18* How seruants shoulde behaue them selues toward their masters. *20* He exhorteth to suffer after the ensample of Christ.

1 **W** Herefore, ^{*} laying aside all maliciousnes & all guile, & dissimulation, and enuie, and all euil speaking,

2 As new borne babes desire ^a the ^{*} sincere milke of the worde, that ye maye growe thereby,

3 If so be that ye haue tasted how bountiful the Lord is.

4 To whome ye come as vnto a liuing stone disalowed of men, but chosen of God & precious.

5 And ye as liuelie stones, be made a spiri-
 tual house, and holie ^{*} Priesthode to offer
 vp spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
 by Iesus Christ.

6 Wherefore it is contained in the Scrip-
 ture, ^{*} Beholde, I put in ^b Sion a chief cor-
 ner stone, elect and precious: and he that
 beleueth therein, shall not be ashamed.

7 Vnto you therefore which beleue, it is
 precious: but vnto them which be disobe-
 dient, the ^{*} stone which the ^c buylders dis-
 allowed, the same is made the head of the
 corner,

8 And a ^{*} stone to stombe at, and a rocke
 of offence, euen to them which stombe at
 the worde being disobedient, vnto the
 which thing they were euen ordeined.

9 But ye are a chosen generacion, a ^d royal
^{*} Priesthode, an holie nacion, a ^e peculiar
 people, that ye shulde shew forth the ver-
 tues of him that hathe called you out of
 darkenes into his marueilous light,

10 ^{*} Which in time past were not a people,
 yet are now the people of God: which in
 time past were not vnder mercie, but now
 haue obteneid mercie.

11 Derely beloued, I beseeche you, as stran-
 gers and pilgrims, ^{*} absteine from fleshlie
 lustes, which fight against the soule,

12 ^{*} And haue your conuersacion honest a-
 mong the Gentiles, that they which spea-
 ke euil of you as of euil doers, maye by
 your ^{*} good workes which they shall se, glo-
 rifie God in the day of ^e the visitacion.

13 ^{*} Submit your selues vnto all ⁿ maner or-
 dinance of man for the Lords sake, whe-
 ther it be vnto the King, as vnto the supe-
 rior,

14 Or vnto gouernours, as vnto them ^y are
 sent of him, for the punishment of euil
 doers, and for the praise of them that do
 wel.

15 For so is the wil of God, that by wel
 doing ye may put to silence the ignorance
 of the foolish men,

16 As fre, and not as hauing the libertie for
 a cloke of maliciousnes, but as the seruants
 of God.

17 Honour all men: ^{*} loue ^f brotherlie fe-
 lowship: feare God: honour the King.

18 ^{*} Seruants, be subiect to your masters with
 all feare, not onely to the good and cour-
 teous, but also to the ^g frowarde.

19 ^{*} For this is thanke worthis, if a man for
 his conscience towarde God endure grief
 suffering wrongfully.

20 For what praise is it, if when ye be buf-
 fered for your fautes, ye take it patiently:
 but and if when ye do wel, ye suffer wrong
 and take it patiently, this is acceptable
 to God.

21 For hereunto ye are called: for Christ
 also suffred for vs, leauig vs an ensample
 EEE. i.

Reuel. 1. 6.

isa. 28. 16.

1. tim. 9. 33.

b Meaning, ^y God bathe ap-
 pointed Christ
 to be chief &
 head of his
 Church.

Psal. 118. 22.
mat. 21. 42.

act. 4. 11.

isa. 8. 14.

1. tim. 9. 33.

c The Priests,
 Doctors & An-
 cients of the
 people.

2. cor. 1. 9. 6.

reuel. 5. 10.

d That is par-
 takers of Chri-
 stes Priesthode
 & kingdome.

*10. i. go. i. by
 purchase.*

Hos. 2. 23.
1. tim. 9. 25.

Galat. 5. 17.
1. tim. 13. 14.

Chap. 3. 16.

Mat. 5. 16.

Rom. 13. 1.

e Your good
 conueracion
 sh. be as a pre-
 paratiue against
 that day that
 God shall shew
 mercie vnto
 them and tur-
 ne them.

*10. i. publicke go-
 uernment.*

Chap. 3. 22.

1. tim. 12. 10.

ephes. 5. 5.
col. 3. 22.

2. Cor. 7. 10.

f With them
 who acknow-
 ledge one self
 rather to heauē.

g In all obedi-
 ence this must
 be before our
 eyes, that we
 obey in the
 Lord: for if a-
 nie commande
 things against
 God, then let
 vs answer, It is
 better to obey
 God then me.

h Knowing ^y
 God laeth
 this charge
 vpon him.

that ye shulde folowe his steppes.

- 22 *Who did no sinne, nether was there guile founde in his mouth.
- 23 Who when he was repiled, reuiled not againe: when he suffred, he threatened not, but committed it to him that iudgeth righteously.
- 24 *Who his owne self bare our sinnes in his bodie on the tre, that we being deliuered from sinne, shulde liue in righteoufnes: by whose stripes ye were healed.
- 25 For ye were as shepe going astraye: but are now returned vnto the shepherd and bishope of your soules.

CHAP. III.

1 How wiues ought to ordre them selues toward their housbands, 3 And in their apparel. 7 The duectie of men toward their wiues. 8 He exhorteth all men to vnitie and loue. 14 And patiently to suffre trouble by the example and benefite of Christ.

1 Likewise *let the wiues be subiect to their housbands that euen thei which obey not the worde, may without the worde be wcnne by the conuersacion of the wiues,

2 While they beholde your pure conuersacion, which is with feare.

3 *Whose apparelling let it not be outwarde, as with broyded heere, and golde put about, or in putting on of apparel.

4 But let the hid man of the heart be vn-corrump, with a meke & quiet spirit, which is before God a thing muche set by.

5 For euen after this maner in time past did the holic women, which trusted in God, tier them selues, and were subiect to their housbands.

6 As Sarra obeyed Abraham, and * called him "Syr: whose daughters ye are", whiles ye do wel, not being afraid of anie terrour.

7 * Likewise ye housbands, dwel with the as men of knowledge, giuing honour vnto the womā, as vnto the weaker vessel, euen as they which are heires together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not interrupted.

8 Finally, be ye all of one minde: one suffre with another: loue as brethren: be pitiful: be courteous,

9 *Not rendring euil for euil, nether rebuke for rebuke: but contrarie wise blesse, knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye shulde be heires of blessing.

10 * For if anie man long after life, and to se good daies, let him refraine his tongue from euil, and his lippes that they speake not guile.

11 * Let him eschewe euil and do good: let him seke peace, and folow after it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are ouer the righteous, and his eares are open vnto their praiers: and the face of the Lord is vpon

them that do euil.

13 And who is it that wil barme you, if ye folowe that which is good?

14 * Notwithstanding blessed are ye, if ye suffre for righteoufnes sake. Yea, feare not their feare, nether be troubled.

15 * But sanctifie the Lord God in your hearts: and be readie alwaies to giue an answer to euerie man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you,

16 * And that with mekenes and reuerence, hauing a good conscience, that when they speake euil of you as of euil doers, thei may be ashamed, which blame your good conuersacion in Christ.

17 For it is better (if the wil of God be so) that ye suffer for wel doing, then for euil doing.

18 * For Christ also hath once suffred for sinnes, for iust for the vniust, that he might bring vs to God, and was put to death concerning the flesh, but was quickened in the spirit.

19 By the which he also went, & preached vnto the spirits that were in prison.

20 Which were in time passed disobediēt, when once the long suffring of God abode in the daies of * Noe, while the arke was preparing, wherein fewe, that is, eight soules were saued in the water.

21 To the which also the figure that now saueth vs, euen Baptisme agreeth (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but in that a good conscience maketh request to God) by the resurrection of Iesus Christ,

22 Which is at the right hand of God, gone into heauen, to whome the Angels, and Powers, and might are subiect.

CHAP. IIIII.

1 He exhorteth men to cease from sinne, 2 To spende no more time in vice, 7 To be sober and apt to praye, 8 To loue eche other, 12 To be patient in trouble, 15 To beware that no man suffre as an euil doer, 16 But as a Christian man, and so not to be ashamed.

1 Forasmuche then as Christ hath suffred for vs in the flesh, arme your selues likewise with the same minde, which is that he which hath suffred in the flesh, hath ceased from sinne,

2 That he henceforwarde shulde liue (as muche time as remaineth in the flesh) not after the lustes of men, but after the wil of God.

3 * For it is sufficient for vs that we haue spent the time past of the life, after the lust of the Gentiles, walking in wantōnes, lustes, dronkennes, in glortonie, drinkings and in abominable idolatries.

4 Wherein it semeth to them strange ye runne not with the vnto the same excessse of ryote: therefore speake they euil of you.

5 Which shal giue accountes to him, that

Mat. 5. 20. h That is, whē thei thinke to make you afraid by their threatnings. Isa. 8. 13. i Giue him praise & depēde on him. Chap. 2. 12.

Rom. 8. 6. 107. 9. 15.

k By the power of God. l Christ being from the beginning head and gouernour of his Church, came in the daies of Noe, not in bodie, w then he had not, but in spirit, and preached by the mouth of Noe for the space of 120 yeres to the disobedient, w wolde not repēt, & therefore are now in prison refered to the last iudgement. Gen. 6. 14. mar. 24. 38. luk. 17. 26. Ebr. 1. 3.

Or, persones. Or, the saying to winnes of a good conscience.

Our sacrificion standeth in two points. in dyng to sinne, & liuing to God. Or, bodie

Ephes 4. 22.

Isa. 53. 9. 1. ioh. 3. 4.

Isa. 53. 5. mat. 8. 17.

Col. 3. 18. ephes. 5. 22.

2. Tim. 2. 9.

Or, matter. a But willigly do your duectie: for your con-dicion is not worse for your obedience. b By neither keping them to streite, nor in giuing them to much libertie. c Taking care, and prouiding for her.

Gen. 18. 12.

1 Cor. 7. 1.

d Man ought to loue his wife, because they lead their life together, also for she is the weaker vessel, but chiefly because God hath made them as it were fellowe heires together of life euertlasting.

Prou. 17. 11.

Et 20. 22. mat. 5. 39. rom. 12. 17. 1. thes. 5. 15. Psal. 33. 13.

e For they can not pray when they are at dissention.

Isa. 1. 16.

f God hath made vs when we were his enemies, heires of his kingdom, & shal not we forgine our brethren a smale fautes? g To take vengeance on him.

is ready to iudge quicke and dead.

b Although the wicked thinke this Gospel newe, & vexe you that imbrace it: yet, haue it bene preached to them of tunc past, which now are dead, to the intent: y^e theimight haue bene conuenced, or dead to sinne in the flesh, & also might haue liued to God in the spirit, which two are the effect of the Gospel. *Prou. 10, 12. Rom. 12, 13. ebr. 13, 2. Rom. 12, 6. post. 2, 14.*

c As haue mo ueth vs to re- proche our brother when he offendeth vs: so loue hidden and pardoneth the fautes, which he committeth against vs, though they be neuer so man- sic.

Ma. 5, 110.

d That is, by the iudicels.

Or, punissemēt. Iere. 25, 29. luk. 23, 31.

Prou. 3, 31. e As concern- ing this lute where he is punished.

- 6 For vnto this purpose was the Gospel preached also vnto the ^b dead, that they might be condemned, according to men, in the flesh, but might liue according to God in the spirit.
- 7 Now the end of all things is at hand. Be ye therefore sober, and watching in prayer.
- 8 But aboute all things haue feruent loue among you: ^c for ^e loue couereth the multitude of finnes.
- 9 Be ye ^hherberous one to another, without grudging.
- 10 *Let euerie man as he hath receiued the gifte, minister the same one to another, as good disposers of the manifolde grace of God.
- 11 If anie man speake, *let him talke* as ^y wordes of God. If anie man minister, *let him do it* as of the abilitie which God ministrereth, that God in all things may be glorified through Iesus Christ, to whome is praise and dominion for euer, and euer, Amen.
- 12 Dearly beloued, thinke it not strange concerning the fyrie trial, which is among you to proue you, as though some strange thing were come vnto you:
- 13 But reioyce, in asmuche as ye are partakers of Christs sufferings, that when his glorie shal appeare, ye may be glad and reioyce.
- 14 *If ye be railed vpon for the Name of Christ, blessed are ye: for the Spirit of glorie, and of God resteth vpon you: which on their ^d parte is euil spoken of: but on your parte is glorified.
- 15 But let none of you suffer as a murtherer, or as a thefe, or an euil doer, or as a busibodie in other mens matters.
- 16 But if *anie man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed: but let him glorifie God in this behalfe.
- 17 For the time *is come*, that ^h iudgement must beginne at ⁱ the house of God. If it first *begin* at vs, what shal the end be of the which obey not the Gospel of God?
- 18 *And if the righteous scarcely be ^e saved, where shal the vngodlie and the sinner appeare?
- 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the wil of God, commit their soules to him in wel doing, as vnto a faithful Creator.

and what rewards they shal haue if they be diligent. s He exhorteth yong persons to submit themselues to the elders, s To be sober, and to watche that they may resist the enemies.

- T**He ^a elders which are among you, I beseeche which am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glorie that shal be re- ueiled,
- 2 Fede the flocke of ^g God, which ^h dependeth vpon you, caring for it not by constraint, but willingly: not for filthy lucre, but of a readie minde:
- 3 Not as though ye were lords ouer Gods heritage, but that ye may be ensamples to the flocke.
- 4 And when the chief shepherd shal appeare, ye shal receiue an incorruptible crowne of glorie.
- 5 Likewise ye yonger, submit your selues vnto the elders, & submit your selues euerie mā, one to another: ⁱ decke your selues inwardly in lowlines of minde: for God ^j resisteth the proude and giueth grace to the humble.
- 6 Humble ^k your selues therefore vnder the mightie hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.
- 7 Cast ^l all your care on him: for he careth for you.
- 8 Be sober and watch: for ^m your aduersarie the deuil as a roaring lyon walketh about, seeking whome he may deuoure:
- 9 Whome resist stedfast in the faith, knowing ⁿ that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren which are in the worlde.
- 10 And the God of all grace, which hath called vs vnto his eternal glorie by Christ Iesus, after ^o ye haue suffered a litle, make you perfect, confirme, strengthen and stablish you.
- 11 To him be glorie and dominion for euer and euer. Amen.
- 12 By Siluanus a faithful brother vnto you, as I suppose, haue I written briefly, exhorting and testifying how that this is the true grace of God, wherein ye stand.
- 13 The Church ^p is at ^q Babilō elected together with you, saluteth you, and Marcus my sonne.
- 14 Grete ye one another with the ^r kyffe of loue. Peace be with you all which are in Christ Iesus. Amen.

a By elders he vnderstandeth all the which preache, teache, or minister in the Church.

g Or, Christ. **h** Or, which is committ vnto you or, asmuche as in you lyeth

Rom. 12, 19.

Iam. 4, 6.

Iam. 4, 10.

Psal. 54, 23. Wisd. 12, 13. mat. 6, 25. luk. 12, 22. Luk. 22, 31.

b Nothing cometh vnto vs, which we see not to apper- teine to the rest of Christs members: and therefore we ought not to refuse that condition which is commune to all the Santes.

e Which was a famous cite in Assyria where Peter theu was the Apostle of the circumcison. *Rom. 16, 16. I. cor. 16, 20. s. cor. 13, 13.*

CHAP. V.
s The ductie of Pastours is to fede the flocke of Christ,

EEe.ii.