

The First Epistle of Peter

BYU New Testament Commentary Translation
(prepublication version)

Brent J. Schmidt
and
John W. Welch



BYU Studies
Provo, Utah

BYU New Testament Commentary Series Board of Editors

S. Kent Brown, chair
Lincoln H. Blumell
Richard D. Draper
John Gee
Eric D. Huntsman
Joshua M. Matson

Cecilia M. Peek
Brent J. Schmidt
Andrew C. Skinner
Julie M. Smith
John W. Welch

Copyright © 2026 Brent J. Schmidt and John W. Welch. All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reprinted, reproduced, utilized in any form or by any electronic, digital, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording or in an information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Opinions expressed in this publication are the opinions of the authors and their views should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Brigham Young University, or BYU Studies.

This Commentary Series is made possible by a generous gift from John S. and Unita W. Welch.

Published by BYU Studies. To contact any member of the board of editors or BYU Studies, write to 1063 JFSB, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, 84602, or visit <https://byustudies.byu.edu>

ISBN 978-1-958854-39-6

Version 1.0. Substantive corrections, additions, questions, or comments may be sent to byu_studies@byu.edu.

About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

Welcome to the BYU New Testament Commentary, a project by a group of Latter-day Saint specialists offering to readers a careful, new look at the biblical records that witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the first generation of his church. The commentary series seeks to make the New Testament more accessible to Latter-day Saint general readers and scholars by employing much of current biblical scholarship while reflecting important LDS insights. At the same time, this effort may also be helpful to interested readers of other faiths who want to learn how a group of Latter-day Saint scholars understands the Bible. A fundamental article of faith for Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affirms the Bible “to be the word of God” while adding, understandably, that it needs to be “translated correctly” in order for it to be accurately comprehensible to modern language speakers.

These objectives have helped shape the purposes and parameters of this commentary series. Serious LDS readers of the Bible search the scriptures, looking for depth and breadth in passages whose meanings and mandates may ultimately be plain but not shallow. Such readers and interpreters are served by treatments that unite faith and research, reason and revelation, in prayerfully confronting profound and difficult issues that arise in the texts and affect one’s path of progression. The New Testament has served as an influential guide to western civilization for centuries. As such, its records have long been studied by lay people and scholars alike, resulting in a rich reservoir of information that illuminates the New Testament era culturally, historically, and linguistically. Selectively, the BYUNTC builds upon this vast body of knowledge, resting on the Greek texts of the New Testament and connecting helpful elements of linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural research and traditional scholarship together with LDS scriptures and doctrinal perspectives. The combination of all these features

distinguishes the BYUNTC from other commentaries, which are readily available elsewhere and which readers may also want to consult for more encyclopedic or specialized discussions.

The tone of the BYUNTC aims to be informative rather than hortatory, and suggestive rather than definitive in its interpretation. The opinions expressed in this series are the views of its contributors and should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Brigham Young University, where many of those involved here are headquartered; or anyone else, though these works have benefited from input and guidance from a number of colleagues, advisers, editors, and peer reviewers.

Each volume in this series contains a new working translation of the New Testament. Calling it the “BYU New Testament Commentary Translation” ties it to the Commentary series and clarifies that it does not seek to replace the authorized KJV adopted by the LDS Church as its official English text. Rather, it aims to enhance readers’ understanding conceptually and spiritually by rendering the Greek texts into modern English with LDS sensitivities in mind. Comparing and explaining the new Translation in light of the KJV then serves as one important purpose for each volume’s notes, comments, analyses, and summaries. This effort responds in modest ways to the desire President J. Reuben Clark Jr. expressed in his diary in 1956 that someday “qualified scholars [would provide] . . . a translation of the New Testament that will give us an accurate translation that shall be pregnant with the great principles of the Restored Gospel.”

Contents

About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

The First Epistle of Peter

Greeting and Blessing (1:1–6a)

Trials Refine Faith (1:6b–9)

Prophets of Old Knew of Christ (1:10–12)

Be Ye Therefore Holy (1:13–21)

Love One Another, Being Born of God (1:22–25)

Grow as a Newborn Child (2:1–3)

Become the People of God (2:4–10)

Avoid Problems with the Government (2:11–17)

Advice to Servants: Follow the Example of Christ's Suffering (2:18–25)

Advice to Wives: Adorn Your Relationship with Righteousness (3:1–6)

Advice to Husbands: Inherit Eternal Life with Your Wife (3:7)

Love One Another (3:8–12)

Be Not Afraid to Testify of Christ (3:13–17)

Christ Preached to the Spirits in the Spirit Prison (3:18–22)

Sin No More, and Do the Will of God (4:1–6)

Have Fervent Charity, That God May Be Glorified (4:7–11)

In the Face of Adversity, Consecrate Yourself to Live as a Christian
(4:12–19)

Counsel to the Adults (5:1–4)

Counsel to Youth (5:5a)

Counsel to All (5:5b–11)

Closing Salutation (5:12–14)

The First Epistle of Peter

Greeting and Blessing (1:1–6a)

1 Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, to the chosen of the diaspora who are sojourners away from their place of origin, living in various locations throughout the Roman provinces of Pontus, Bithynia, Galatia, Cappadocia, and Asia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the holiness of the Spirit, in obedience, and unto purification through the blood of Jesus Christ. May graciousness and peace be found and magnified in fullness among you. 3 Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to the abundance of his mercy, has rebegotten us with a living hope because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from among the dead 4 and also with an imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance secured for you in the heavens— 5 you who are kept by the power of God through your trust unto salvation, which is prepared to be openly revealed in the final culminating crucial day. 6 In this, shout hallelujah!

Trials Refine Faith (1:6b–9)

Now, for a little while, if necessary, you suffer in various kinds of trials 7 so that the testing and approval of your faithfulness (which is much more precious than gold, which perishes even though it is refined with fire) might be found worthy of praise, honor, and glory at the revealing and unveiling of Jesus Christ, 8 whom you love, even though you have not seen him or known him in person, unto whom you may now shout hallelujah, trusting—even if not beholding—with inexpressible and glorified joy 9 and thereby obtaining the final object of trustworthiness—namely, the salvation of your souls.

Prophets of Old Knew of Christ (1:10–12)

10 Concerning this salvation, prophets have sought out and made a careful search for and have prophesied concerning this beneficence to you.

11 Specifically, they investigated into what time and manner of salvation the spirit of Christ, which was in them, would visibly appear; and that spirit testified unto them in advance the sufferings that would be inflicted on Christ and also the glories that would come after those incidents. 12 To them it was revealed that they were being shown these things not for their own benefit but so that they would prophesy these things for your benefit. And now these very things have been proclaimed to you through those who have brought you the gospel proclamations by means of the Holy Ghost being sent from heaven. Indeed, the angels in heaven yearn to get even a glance into these things.

Be Ye Therefore Holy (1:13–21)

13 Therefore, gird up the loins of your understanding; be in control of yourself in all situations; and hope perfectly for the grace that is to be brought to you in the coming reappearance of Jesus Christ, 14 as you are acting as obedient children and not behaving in ignorance according to your former desires 15 but according to the Holy One who has called you indeed to become holy in all your conduct; 16 for it is written, “Be ye holy, inasmuch as I am holy” [Lev. 11:44; 19:2; see also Ex. 22:31]. 17 And if you call upon the Father, who judges all people without prejudice according to their deeds, and if you reverently conduct your time as a stranger, 18 you then will know that you have been redeemed from your fruitless traditional conduct, not being redeemed by corruptible things such as silver and gold 19 but by the dearly honored blood of Christ, as a lamb without any blemish or spot, 20 who indeed was fore-ordained before the foundation of the cosmos, and who also appeared in these most recent times for your sakes, 21 for all you who, because of him, do trust in God, who raised him up from among the dead and gave glory to him so that your faith and hope might be unto God.

Love One Another, Being Born of God (1:22–25)

22 Having consecrated your souls in obedience to the truth and unto unfeigned brotherly love, love one another from a pure heart, tenaciously, 23 having become born again, not of a perishable seed but imperishable, on account of the word of the living God, which endures: 24 For “all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of the flesh is as a head of grass seed. The grass dries up and its head of seed falls off, 25 but the

audible declaration of the Lord endures into eternity” [Isa. 40:6–8]. The same is true for the audible declaration of the gospel delivered to you.

Grow as a Newborn Child (2:1–3)

1 Therefore setting aside every evil and any deceit, hypocrisies, envies, and all evil speaking, 2 hunger instinctively like newborn babes for the pure spiritual milk, so that you may grow in it unto salvation; and 3 if you have done so, then you will “have tasted that the Lord is useful” [Ps. 34:8].

Become the People of God (2:4–10)

4 In that manner, come unto the Lord and to him alone, who is a living stone. While he has been rejected by men, he was chosen and honored by God. 5 And you yourselves are also like living stones set in place to construct a spiritual temple household, for the purposes of the holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God on account of Jesus Christ. 6 Indeed, this is contained in scripture: “Behold I lay in Zion a stone, a chosen cornerstone, honored, and he who trusts in him shall not be put to shame” [Isa. 28:16]. 7 Honor, therefore, is to you who are faithful. But to the unfaithful, “the stone, which the builders rejected, but which has become the head of the corner” [Ps. 118:22], has become 8 “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence” [Isa. 8:14], particularly to those who stumble upon the divine word, being disobedient even to the position to which they were appointed. 9 But you are a “chosen generation” [Isa. 43:20], a “royal priesthood” [Ex. 19:6], an “holy nation” [Exod. 19:6], a people that is “purchased of God” [Isa. 43:21; Ex. 19:5], so that you might proclaim the great goodness of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.¹⁰ You—who before were not a people—are now the people of God. You—who had not been given mercy—have now obtained mercy.

Avoid Problems with the Government (2:11–17)

11 Dearly beloved, I call upon you as a minority religious group to keep away from the desires of the flesh, especially those that war against the soul,¹² and keep your public conduct beyond reproach so that even though people speak against you, calling you evildoers, when they

come to know your good works, they shall glorify God in a day when he will oversee them. 13 Because of the Lord, stay in line with every political authority established by man, whether it be the king as the supreme authority 14 or governors in the capacity of those who are sent by him to punish evildoers and give praise to those who do well, 15 for it is the will of God that with well-doing you may put to silence the ignorance of imprudent men. 16 Act as free men, not using liberty as a cloak or cover-up of evil but acting as servants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love your priesthood brethren. Revere your God. Honor your King.

Advice to Servants: Follow the Example of Christ's Suffering (2:18–25)

18 Workers in the household, be submissive and respectful to those who are in charge, not only those who are good and gentle but also those who are dishonest. 19 For in such a relationship, if you act with the conscious awareness of God, it is properly your duty to bear pain and suffering, even unjustly. 20 For what kind of good repute do you deserve if you endure beatings when you are at fault? But if you do good things and then endure sufferings, God will see your endurance as pleasing. 21 For unto this were you called, for indeed Christ suffered on your behalf, leaving us a master copy in order for us to follow closely in his footprints: 22 He “did nothing wrong, neither was guile found in his mouth” [Isa. 53:9]; 23 when reviled, he did not revile back; suffering, he did not threaten; but committed himself to God who judges righteously. 24 He “himself has borne our sins” [Isa. 53:4] in his body “upon the tree” [Deut. 21:22], so that we, having departed from the life of sins, should live in righteousness; and he “by whose stripes you were healed” [Isa. 53:5], 25 for you were “as sheep going astray” [Isa. 53:6], but now you are fully converted to the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Advice to Wives: Adorn Your Relationship with Righteousness (3:1–6)

1 Likewise wives, defer to your own husbands, so that if they might disobey the word they may be attracted back by the conduct of the wives, without a word, 2 as they have your holy, God-fearing conduct opened to their spiritual eyes. 3 Let not your beauty be the outward braiding of the hair or the wrapping around of gold chains or the robing of outer garments, 4 but let your intimate adornment be the man of

your heart in the eternal bond of kind and gentle spirituality, which is of great worth before the face of God. 5 Indeed, in this manner in times past have the women of covenant—those who hope in God—adorned themselves, supporting their husbands. 6 Sarah was obedient to Abraham, calling him “lord,” and you have become Sarah’s daughters, doing good works and not fearing, without worrying.

Advice to Husbands: Inherit Eternal Life with Your Wife (3:7)

7 Likewise husbands, live together with your family according to revealed knowledge, awarding honor to your wife, respecting her delicate feminine body and recognizing that you and she will be joint heirs of the blessing of life. Do this so that your prayers are not hindered by any discord.

Love One Another (3:8–12)

8 Finally, let all be of one mind, share one another’s pains, be loving friends, deeply compassionate and humble. 9 Do not render evil for evil, nor insult for insult, but instead return by giving a blessing, for you were called to do this so that you might inherit a blessing. 10 For he “who wants to love life and to see good days, let him hold his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile; 11 let him have no inclination toward evil but only toward doing good; and let him seek for peace and pursue it, 12 for the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears hear their prayers, but the face of the Lord turns away from those who do evil things” [Ps. 34:12–16].

Be Not Afraid to Testify of Christ (3:13–17)

13 And who can really harm you if you are zealous for the good? 14 And even if you suffer on account of righteousness, you will be blessed. “Neither fear their terror nor be troubled, 15 but sanctify the Lord” [Isa. 8:12–13], even the Christ, in your hearts and be ready always to give forth an answer to every person who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 16 Remember to answer with meekness and respect, having a clear conscience, so that in that which you are maligned, those who insolently oppose your good conduct in Christ are discredited. 17 Indeed, if it is the plan willed by God, it is better for you to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong.

Christ Preached to the Spirits in the Spirit Prison (3:18–22)

18 For Christ also once suffered for sins on your behalf, a just person on behalf of the unjust, so that he might bring you and us to God, having been put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. 19 And while still in the spirit, he went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 some of whom had disobeyed when the long-suffering of God waited during the days of Noah while he was building the ark, so that by going into that ark a few people (that is eight souls) were brought safely through the water-ordeal. 21 And we now see that as a type of how baptism saves you. Baptism is not a removal of filth from the body but a covenantal promise made to God in good conscience made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 22 He is now on the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, with angels, authorities, and powers deferring to him.

Sin No More, and Do the Will of God (4:1–6)

1 Since Christ suffered in the flesh, you too should arm yourself with the same point of view as his, for he who suffered in the flesh has provided the cure for sin. 2 To this end, he no longer lives during this remaining time in the flesh according to the desires of men but according to the will of God. 3 For it was alright for you, before you joined the Church, to go along with the ways of the world, walking in outrageously lewd conduct, lusts, wine-drunkenness, boisterous merrymaking, drinking parties, and lawless idolatries. 4 While your old friends are surprised that you do not run with them any longer in the same old excesses of debauchery, and for this they revile you, 5 but they will have to account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For to this end also is the gospel made known even to the dead, so that all who have been judged according to men in the flesh might someday live in the spirit according to the will of God.

Have Fervent Charity, That God May Be Glorified (4:7–11)

7 Indeed, the end of all draws near for you. Therefore, be wise and be sure to pray, 8 and above all else, have fervent charity toward each other, for charity prevents a multitude of sins [compare Prov. 10:12]. 9 Be friendly to strangers, one to another without grudging. 10 Just as each person has received a gift from God, even so let all impart

similarly to each other as good stewards of the abundant generosity of God. 11 When any of you speak, do so using the revelations of God. When any of you minister, do so out of the strength which God furnishes, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and authority for ever and ever. Amen.

In the Face of Adversity, Consecrate Yourself to Live as a Christian (4:12–19)

12 Beloved friends, when a refining fire comes upon you to test you, do not think that something odd is happening to you. 13 Instead, because you are members of the covenant community, rejoice in the sufferings of Christ, so that in the apocalypse of his glory you may also rejoice and be exceedingly glad. 14 If you are reviled because you are of Christ, you will be blessed, because the spirit of glory and “the spirit of God will rest upon” you [Isa. 11:2]. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or as one who works with evil spirits or as a meddler or as an ecclesiastical usurper. 16 If, on the other hand, anyone of you suffers as a Christian, let that person not be ashamed but glorify God in the very name of Christ. 17 For the commencement of the judgment will begin with the house of God, and if it starts first with us, what shall be the end for those who obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if “the righteous are scarcely saved, how will it turn out for the impious and the sinner?” [Prov. 11:31 LXX] 19 Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God dedicate, consecrate, and by living a life of well doing entrust their souls to God, who is our trustworthy Creator.

Counsel to the Adults (5:1–4)

1 Being an elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ and who am also a partaker with you of the future glory that shall be revealed, I call upon the elders among you: 2 Feed the flock of God in your midst, watching over them not by compulsion but voluntarily, as God has instructed; and not for shameful money but eagerly; 3 and not lording over those entrusted to you but by being examples to the flock. 4 And when the High Shepherd shall appear, you will receive a crown of glory that shall never fade or wither away.

Counsel to Youth (5:5a)

5 In the same spirit, youth, stand arrayed behind your leaders.

Counsel to All (5:5b–11)

And all of you, sustaining one another, be robed with humility, for “God is arranged in battle to stand against the proud, but gives grace to the humble” [Prov. 3:34 LXX]. 6 So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God so that he may exalt you at the final judgment. 7 “Cast all your cares and worries upon him” [Ps. 54:23 LXX], for he cares for you. 8 Be alert and watchful, for the devil, your enemy, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, being firm in the covenant, knowing that the same sufferings are being foisted upon all your brothers and sisters throughout the world. 10 But the very God of every gift, who has called us into his eternal glory in Christ after we have suffered for a brief time, will perfectly and firmly affix, strengthen, and be the solid foundation rock for all of us. 11 In him is strength into the eternities. Amen.

Closing Salutation (5:12–14)

12 I have written these few words to you with the help of my scribe Silvanus, a faithful brother whom I esteem. I exhort and bear witness that this gift of God is true. Stand fast in it. 13 She who is my co-elect in Babylon, along with my son Mark, send you best wishes. 14 Greet each other with an expression of sincere Christian affection. Peace be with all of you who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.