

## Fact Sheet for “A Reality Check” 1 Peter 1:3-12

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03/27/2016 Resurrection Sunday

Reality Check – True or False?

There is a coming zombie apocalypse – F

“I am no Jedi, but I know the Force. It moves through and surrounds every living thing.” – F

Life on earth evolved. – F

Aliens brought life here. - F

Jesus did indeed rise from the dead – T

Everyone born in the 1700's has died. – T

The Bible says that Christians will inherit eternal life. – T

The Bible is mostly true. – F (The Bible is completely true.)

Let's look at some truth recorded in the Bible.

Resurrection Sunday was the third great Jewish feast out of seven listed in Leviticus 23, the Feast of First Fruits. There was no exact date set for that feast (Leviticus 23:9-14). That date was set when Joshua led the Hebrew people into the Promised Land (Joshua 5:10-12). Now it would forever be the Sunday following the Passover, usually Easter. *Note that in the Jewish calendar Passover occurs one month after Easter in 5 out of 19 years.*

<sup>ESV 3</sup> ¶ **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

*This is very similar to Paul's words to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 1:3).*

We are all familiar with the term “born again” from Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3:7. In that verse “born again” translates two words. However in 1 Peter 1:3 “born again” translates one word that is only used twice in the NT, here and in verse 23. Now here is a point of Greek grammar. The word translated “born again” is spelled differently in these two verses, and this results in a slightly different meaning. In 1 Peter 1:23 it is a statement of fact. Peter's readers had been born again. In 1 Peter 1:3 it is causal. God had caused us to be born again (compare verses 1&2). This living hope is based on the living resurrected Christ (see 1 Peter 1:20-21). The apostle Paul wrote about this (1 Corinthians 15:16-21). The believer's hope is sure, certain, and real because of Jesus Christ's resurrection, instead of the deceptive, empty, and false hope that the world offers. When we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ we are also celebrating the certainty of our salvation and our own future resurrection to life.

<sup>4</sup> **to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,**

Peter used three words, each beginning with the same letter and ending with the same syllable, to describe this inheritance. [ἄφθαρτον (aph'-thar-ton) – imperishable, ἀμίαντον (a-mi'-an-ton) – undefiled, ἀμάραντον (a-mar'-an-ton) – unfading]

<sup>5</sup> **who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

“Guarded” is a military term used to refer to a garrison within a city (2 Corinthians 11:32). Christians are being guarded by God’s power through faith. Our faith is certainly involved, but it is God’s power that guards us.

<sup>6</sup> **In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,**

Remember that these Christians had suffered persecution for their faith and had been scattered throughout Asia Minor.

<sup>7</sup> **so that the tested genuineness of your faith-- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

“Tested” is the same word that is used in Romans 12:2 (“prove in NASB).

<sup>8</sup> **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

The next three verses add to a whole series of passages about how we got our Bible.

<sup>10</sup> ¶ **Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.**

Think about the Bible for a moment. This was not a book written by one man or one committee. It was written over a period of 1500+ years by over 40 human authors. Nothing it records has ever been proven false. Everything that should have come true prophetically has come true exactly. Nothing has failed. It does not contradict itself. There is no other book in the world that even comes close to it in accuracy. And 1 Peter 1:10-12 is just one part of the description of how we got our Bible.

1. Where do you stand with Christ? Do you believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again to save you from your sins? If not, why not? I challenge you to investigate the truthfulness of God’s Word. Or ask Christ to save you from your sins today and give you eternal life.

2. Are you a Christian, but not so sold out for Christ. Think about the inconsistency of this position. Make a decision today to put both feet on the same side of the fence. Make a decision to rededicate your life to Christ today.