



From the beginning, the children of our Lord are a minority in this world... And the world rejects and persecutes us because our principles follow our heavenly King and differ from his principles and method... But this persecution is a gift and an opportunity for us to preach with it by our love for others and our patience in tribulation... trusting that the end will be happy, with consolation in trial... and a glorious eternity.

+ **Chapters:** 5.

+ **To whom this book is directed?**

- For the churches of Asia Minor (present-day Turkey): Galatia, Pontus, and Cappadocia.

+ **Writing circumstances:**

- St. Peter wrote this letter after dozens of years of his service... and he was then in Rome.
- The person who helped Saint Peter write the epistle was Saint Silas the Apostle (Slonis), who was helping him in the ministry.
- Christians in Asia Minor at that time were in distress and persecution from their Roman and Greek neighbors in these cities.

+ **The purpose of the book:**

- Encouraging the Church to bear persecutions and tribulations.

## Father/ Dawoud Hanna

*Priest of St. Mark and St. Thomas  
Coptic Orthodox Church in Hong Kong*



# SMCOA

ST MARK & ST THOMAS COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH – HONG KONG

HONG KONG: +852 57435749

EGYPT: +201288416082



**+ The book arrangement:** Patience and joy in distress.

CHAPTER 1: 1,2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two characteristics of the children of our Lord.</li> <li>- Two very important characteristics represent the entire New Testament church.</li> </ul>
CHAPTER 1: 3 -12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pain is a purifying fire.</li> <li>- A new view of pain as a source of strengthening our faith and our transition to a higher spiritual status.</li> </ul>
CHAPTER 1:13 TO CHAPTER 2:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Testament Church Identity.</li> <li>- The New Testament Church as an extension of the Old Testament Church.</li> </ul>
CHAPTER 2:11 TO CHAPTER 4:11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Persecution is the domain of evangelism</li> <li>- Persecution as an aid to us in our mission as ambassadors for Christ.</li> </ul>
CHAPTER 4:12 TO CHAPTER 5:9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Hope during persecution.</li> <li>- Turns it into a joy.</li> </ul>
CHAPTER 5: 10 -14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing salutation.</li> <li>- Closing advice from Saint Peter.</li> </ul>



**FATHER. DAWOUD HANNA**

Priest of St. Mark & St. Thomas Coptic Orthodox Church

HONG KONG: +852 57435749 EGYPT: +201 288 41 6082

[/smcoa](#) [fr.dawoud.hanna@smcoa.org](mailto:fr.dawoud.hanna@smcoa.org)

أبونا / داود حنا كاهن كنيسة القديسين الرسولين مرقس وتوما، بمونج كونج

**S M C O A**

SAINT MARK COPTIC ORTHODOX ASSOCIATION



## + The book summary:

### 1- TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD (CHAPTER 1: 1,2)

+ St. Peter greets the Church in two characters: the elect and the sojourners... He wants here to tell them (since he is speaking to nations) that they are in Christ one family with the Church of the Old Testament (God's chosen people who sojourn in the land).

Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit to obedience, and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:1 and 2)

+ This verse is very beautiful... It reminds us of the Gospel of John when it talks about the believers in Jesus that they are (born of God).

+ Of course, this is a great condolence for the Church of the New Testament, because most of them are nations... The adjective "the elect" that was applied to the Jews as the people of our Lord in the Old Testament has now applied to the Church of the New Testament.

Peter, Apostle of Jesus Christ, to the Emigrants from the Dispersion of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. (1 Peter 1:1)

+ The word "foreigners" is a very beautiful word... St. Peter is speaking to the Christian nations who are originally residents of this country... but because of their faith they have become strangers in their homeland and are treated badly by the people of their country.

+ This is our situation as Christians in the world... As His Holiness the Pope said: (I lived as a stranger in the world)... Like the dove of Noah who is unable to find a resting place for her feet... Likewise, the children of our Lord live in the world, but the world does not live in them.

## + What do we learn?

+ A very important and fundamental principle: in Christ we are all one, no one is better than another or has advantages over another... We are all one family.

Lord, let me remember as I treat with all my brothers that they are truly your children and brothers... Do not be arrogant to anyone because you have given me grace that they do not have.



## 2- PAIN IS A PURIFYING FIRE (CHAPTER 1: 3 -12)

+ Praise be to our Lord who made the power of the resurrection of Jesus stay with us through baptism (the new birth)... giving us a new identity as one family and children of God... and giving us hope for a happy eternity.

+ But at the same time, the present in which pains, hardships, and persecutions appear to be the exact opposite of this hope... Saint Peter reveals to us that the fires of afflictions purify our faith and make us ready for the Day of Judgment.

“So that the validation of your faith, which is more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found for praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:7)

+ The most beautiful analogy for trials and hardships: Like the fire that purifies gold from impurities... Our Lord hands us tests, and He knows that we can, with His help and grace, succeed in them in order to be purified.

+ This makes us have something to offer and stand before our Lord... As we say: (The martyrs come bearing their torments and the righteous come bearing their virtues)... Neither torment nor virtue will come without pain.

+ If we understand this, we will benefit from suffering and let it strengthen our faith more.

“Blessed be the God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has begotten us again to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)

+ The new birth through baptism (in which there is resurrection with Christ)... This is what we participated in and defined our identity as one church and one family.

+ It is also what preserves our hope: we await the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come.

### + What do we learn?

+ Fire is painful, but it purifies gold from the impurities in it, so that it comes out of the fire much better and more precious than the first.

○ Lord, I need to be purified from my faults and sins... I thank You even if I am in pain for the trials that purify me, increase my faith, and bring me closer to You.



## 3- THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (CHAPTERS 1:13 CHAPTERS 2:10)

+ 6 stages and positions of the Church of the Old Testament were symbolized and applied to its extension (the Church of the New Testament:

- **(Chapter 1:13)** Just as the people of God left Egypt with the prophet Moses for a new life, so the Church of the New Testament (the Gentiles) also left their old life and went to a completely different new life.

- **(Chapters 1:15 and 16)** Just as the people of God used to receive the law and commandments in the wilderness in order to strengthen them and make them ready for the new life, our Lord also recommends to the Church of the New Testament with commandments that make it ready... the most important of which is holiness.

- **(Chapter 1:17 to 21)** Just as the people of God ate the Passover, the Church of the New Testament offers every day the Eucharistic sacrifice: the body and blood of our Lord Jesus.

- **(Chapter 1: 22 to 25)** Just as the people of God took the Old Testament with the blood of goats and calves, the Church took the New Testament with the blood of our Lord Jesus on the Cross, and with His Holy Spirit in Baptism...and the commandments are no longer written on tablets of stone, but on our hearts by the holy Spirit.

- **(Chapter 2: 1 to 8)** Just as Solomon's temple was built as a place of worship, the New Testament has a new temple built on the cornerstone (our Lord Jesus)... Each one of us is a temple in which the Holy Spirit of God dwells.

- **(Chapters 2:9 and 10)** The priesthood has changed: in the Old Testament Aaron and his descendants were only presenting symbolic worship at specific times only... While the priests of the New Testament belong to the King of Kings, our Lord Jesus, on a new ritual: the Melchizedek ritual.

“And you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of possession, that you may proclaim the virtues of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1Peter 2:9)

+ A very beautiful verse that is described by summarizing the Church of the New Testament: a people chosen by our Lord (as we said above, for everyone who chooses to believe in our Lord Jesus), a new priesthood through the true sacrifice (the body and blood of our Lord) who acquired us with His blood on the cross to sanctify and justify us.



+ and thus a transition took place. For our situation from darkness to the true light... The majesty of the nations, the people sitting in the darkness, saw a great light... The rejected people who were without hope or mercy, became the people of God like the prophecy of the prophet Amos.

+ And we have a role: we preach to the world around us this loving redeemer God. .. We preach our deeds before our words.

### + What do we learn?

+ It is very nice that we are searching books while we are understanding them, as our fathers, the apostles did in their writings... We see our Lord Jesus and the Church of the Old Testament and compare the symbol with the one that symbolizes Him.

Lord, let me focus on the Old Testament, and I understand that it is not just a story, but you are present in it, I am present in it, and the Church is present in it.

### 4- PERSECUTION IS A FIELD FOR PREACHING (CHAPTER 2:11 TO CHAPTER 4:11)

+ **Chapter 2: 13 to 17** St. Peter encourages them to submit to authority and rule as good citizens despite the injustice they are in... Because violence will not solve anything... We must learn from our Lord Jesus who endured injustice and pain in order to complete his message.

+ **Chapter 2:18 to 3:7** St. Peter focuses on two groups whose situation is very difficult in the house of the non-Christian man of the house: the Christian wife and the Christian slave...because it is normal at this time that everyone in the house worships the gods of the householder (the man of the house). Consequently, their adherence to Christ will expose them to hardships, great persecution, and enmity, even in their own homes.

+ And the response is not supposed to be violence or reciprocity, but rather by showing love as our Lord Jesus commanded us to love enemies. But if the husband is a Christian and the wife is not, the husband must give his wife all the dignity as she is supposed to give him the dignity exactly as God commanded (contrary to Roman culture).

+ This is the greatest testimony given by a Christian in a non-Christian home... The same words apply in our time to homes where there are people who are Christians by name, but far from God and the Church.



+ **Chapter 3: 8 to 4: 11** St. Peter says that even if the Christian man acted with all meekness, persecution would still exist...just like our Lord Jesus, who was without sin, but the world rejected and persecuted him... Our Lord died to forgive the sins of everyone, including people whom crucified him.

+ But this is not the end... The end is a glorious resurrection... And we took the power of this resurrection through baptism... And this gave us the hope that after the cross there is resurrection, and after the pains there is glories..

“There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21)

+ Baptism... the door of the secrets... this great secret that we have in our hands is the power of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

“For this is the will of God: that by doing good you should silence the ignorance of foolish men... For what glory is it if you are struck down when you are wrong, and you endure? Rather, if you suffer while doing good and then be patient, then this is a favor with God” (1 Peter 2:15 and 20)

+ This is the gospel of our Lord Jesus: the gospel of the second inclination... Not only do I not respond to evil with evil... Rather, I answer it with good... I act as my Lord and God who endured injustice and showed love and forgiveness, and He is the righteous one who did not sin.

+ This is the greatest testimony we can give to our Lord Jesus.

“Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel--rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.” (1 Peter 3:3 - 4)

+ A very beautiful verse about what distinguishes a woman, not only in front of God, but in front of people as well... Even if people are attracted at first to the outward appearance only, after a while this time of fascination goes away and the focus remains on the inside, not the outside... This is what every girl and woman is Christian should take care of.



+ Also, our Lord, when he looks, this is what he sees... Our Lord chose the Virgin Mary, not because she is beautiful in appearance, but because she is meek and humble... The same words our Lord says to every soul in us to the bride of the anthem.

### + What do we learn?

+ A difficult message for the Christian person in a non-Christian society that refuses him ... He will continue to love, be patient and forgive, and the persecution and injustice will continue to be exist .

O Lord, as you have endured and you are the Holy One without sin, give your children grace and consolation so that they may bear witness to you amidst persecutions and hardships.

### 5- HOPE IN PERSECUTION (CHAPTER 4: 12 TO CHAPTER 5: 9)

+ **Chapter 4: 12 to 14** A new view of experience and pain as a source of joy! Not only do we bear temptation, but we rejoice in it, as our Lord said: Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. (Matthew 5:11,12)

### + Chapter 5 is advices:

1- For the elders of the church (bishops) that they imitate the good shepherd our Lord Jesus (as he said in John 10)... they shepherd their church with love and activity (without greed) and without a sense of power and pride... Of course, amidst their persecution, it is important that they think of the good shepherd who sacrifices himself for the sheep. And this part was chosen by the Church to be read in commemoration of the departure of the priests, bishops and patriarchs.

2- For young people: with humility and obedience to the elders.

3- For the whole church: resisting Satan and his tricks by steadfast in faith in our Lord Jesus, constant readiness, spiritual vigil, and hope for the second coming of our Lord.

+ Satan is the only enemy of the Church, and he is the one who motivates persecution against it.





## DISTRESS IS A SOURCE OF JOY

“but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy” (1 Peter 4:13)

+ This is the secret of joy in the experience that St. Peter himself and the disciples knew and felt when the chief priests beat them for preaching, so they rejoiced that they were insulted because of the name of our Lord... just as our Lord was unjustly insulted for no reason.

+ Of course, this is because God's promise is clear to those who endure unjust persecution for His name's sake: “Because great is your reward in heaven”.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith” (1 Peter 5:8 and 9)

+ The one who says (there is no such thing as Satan, this is the human being who does everything)...or (there is no need to stay up late and prepare).

+ The verse is clear: The devil is like a chained lion. If one of us underestimates him and gets close to him, he will swallow him.

+ We must resist by staying awake and alert to ourselves... and steadfast in our correct faith in our Lord Jesus.

“nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock”  
(1 Peter 5:3)

+ This is service in Christianity... a loving relationship between a shepherd and his sheep... not a position or authority.

### + **What do we learn?**

+ A Higher Level of Patience and Endurance: Joy in Temptation as a Source of Testimony to Our Lord, of Participation in His Passion, and a Sure Way to Heavenly Glory.

O Lord, give me this level of love... I feel how much You love me and how close I am to You in trials... I rejoice by anything of Your hand that has the mark of the nail of Your cross and Your love for me.

**Father/ Dawoud Hanna**

*Priest of St. Mark and St. Thomas  
Coptic Orthodox Church in Hong Kong*



## 6- A CONCLUDING GREETING (CHAPTER 5: 10 - 14)

+ St. Peter prays that our Lord strengthens them...and the message is sent to them from Rome (which he likens to Babylon, the great evil city, because Babylon is in the Bible from the Old Testament, one of the prophecies of Jeremiah, and it is a symbol of evil and sin).

“But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.” (1 Peter 5:10)

+ This is our hope in our sufferings and trials...Pain is small compared to great glory and eternal joy in the happy eternity...and with it consolations in the midst of temptation.

### + What do we learn?

+ Babylon and Jerusalem... There is always a conflict, but even when the children of our Lord are forced to go to Babylon, it will be their turn to bear witness to Him and the glory of His name there.

Lord, let me be the light of the world and the salt of the earth... I testify to your name even if I have to be far from the safety and love of my church... like Daniel and the 3 boys.




## FATHER. DAWOUD HANNA

Priest of St. Mark & St. Thomas Coptic Orthodox Church

HONG KONG: +852 57435749

EGYPT: +20 1288416082

 /smcoa

 fr.dawoud.hanna@smcoa.org

أبونا / داود حنا كاهن كنيسة القديسين الرسولين مرقس وتوما، بهونج كونج

# S M C O A

SAINT MARK COPTIC ORTHODOX ASSOCIATION

LEVEL 16 - 139 WING LOK STREET, SHEUNG WAN, HONG KONG