

1 Peter 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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,

Analysis

This doxology erupts in praise for God's transformative work in regeneration. "Blessed be" (*eulogētos*, εὐλογητός) is the language of worship, ascribing glory to God for His saving acts. The phrase "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" affirms both Christ's deity and His incarnate sonship, establishing the Trinitarian foundation of salvation. The core truth is that God "hath begotten us again" (*anagennēsas hēmas*, ἀναγεννήσας ἡμᾶς)—using the aorist participle to indicate a completed, decisive action. This "new birth" (regeneration) is not human achievement but divine initiative, an act of sovereign grace. The means is "his abundant mercy" (*kata to poly autou eleos*, κατὰ τὸ πολὺ αὐτοῦ ἔλεος)—God's compassion overflowing toward the undeserving. The purpose is "unto a lively hope" (*eis elpida zōsan*, εἰς ἐλπίδα ζῶσαν), a living, active expectation grounded not in wishful thinking but in objective reality: "the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Christ's bodily resurrection guarantees believers' future resurrection and validates all gospel promises. This hope is "lively" because it springs from a living Savior, providing confident assurance amid suffering and persecution.

Historical Context

Peter writes to believers experiencing severe trials, offering theological foundation for endurance. In first-century Roman culture, hope (*elpis*) was considered foolish—Stoic philosophy counseled resignation to fate, while pagan religion offered no confident expectation beyond death. Christianity's resurrection hope was revolutionary: not mere immortality of the soul (a Greek concept) but bodily resurrection to eternal glory. Peter grounds this hope in the historical event of Christ's resurrection, which he personally witnessed (John 20-21, Acts 1:3). For persecuted Christians facing potential martyrdom, this "living hope" provided courage—physical death was not defeat but gateway to resurrection life. The emphasis on God's mercy reminds readers their salvation wasn't earned but graciously given, securing assurance even in darkest trials.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does understanding salvation as God's work of regeneration (not your decision or effort) affect your security and joy in Christ?
2. In what ways does the resurrection of Christ make your hope 'living' rather than wishful thinking, and how does this change your response to suffering?

Interlinear Text

Εὐλογητὸς τὸ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τὸ κυρίου ἡμῶν
Blessed which be the God and Father which Lord of our
G2128 G3588 G2316 G2532 G3962 G3588 G2962 G2257

Ἰησοῦς Χριστοῦ τὸ κατὰ τὸ πολὺ αὐτοῦ ἔλεος
Jesus Christ which according to which abundant mercy
G2424 G5547 G3588 G2596 G3588 G4183 G846 G1656

ἀναγεννήσας ἡμᾶς εἰς ἐλπίδα ζῶσαν δι' ἀναστάσεως
again us unto hope a lively by the resurrection
G313 G2248 G1519 G1680 G2198 G1223 G386

Ἰησοῦς Χριστοῦ ἐκ νεκρῶν
Jesus Christ from the dead
G2424 G5547 G1537 G3498

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 1:23 (References God): Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 John 5:4 (References God): For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Romans 15:13 (Hope): Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Ephesians 1:7 (Grace): In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

2 Corinthians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

1 John 3:3 (Hope): And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Romans 12:12 (Hope): Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

1 John 2:29 (Parallel theme): If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Ephesians 1:3 (Blessing): Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Exodus 34:6 (Grace): And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org