

FIRST PETER INTRODUCTION

AUTHOR: Simon Peter, the Apostle (1 Peter 1:1).

The author claims to be an eyewitness of Christ's sufferings (1 Peter 5:1).

He was a businessman, a fisherman (Mark 1:16-20).

He became a disciple through the witness of his own brother (John 1:40-42).

He was given the name of Peter by the Lord Himself (John 1:41-42; Matthew 16:16-18).

He was one of three men who were apparently closer to the Lord than others who followed the Lord—one of three who formed an inner circle around Christ. James and John were the other two (Matthew 17:1-2; Mark 5:37; Mark 9:2; Mark 14:23).

He publicly denied Christ at the crucifixion, but he later repented rather bitterly (Mat. 26:69-75).

He had a private interview with the *risen* Lord which deeply affected him (1 Cor. 15:5; John 21:7, 15-21).

He was chosen by God to become the missionary apostle to the circumcision, the Jews of the dispersion (Galatians 2:7-8, 11-21).

He was crucified head downward in Rome under Nero, according to tradition (around A.D. 68).

Interestingly, tradition says that Peter's wife served with him in the ministry.

DATE: Uncertain. Probably A.D. 63-67. The early date is indicated by the following facts.

The epistle was written after some of Paul's letters were penned. Peter knew of Paul's writings (2 Peter 3:15). If tradition is correct, the writing would be before Nero's death. It was probably written A.D. 63-67.

TO WHOM WRITTEN: "To the strangers scattered throughout" five Roman provinces (1 Peter 1:1).

PURPOSE: There are at least two reasons for Peter writing this letter.

To challenge and strengthen believers to stand against the onslaught of persecution being levelled against them.

To reinforce the glorious truth that the believer is only a stranger and a pilgrim upon the earth (1 Peter 1:1-4; 1 Peter 2:11; cp. Hebrews 11:13).

SPECIAL FEATURES:

1 Peter is "A General Epistle." That is, it is not written to a specific church or individual, but rather, it is written to all Christian believers.

1 Peter is "An Epistle of Pastoral...flowing from the depth and richness of a pastor's heart (see 1 Peter 1:8, 17, 19, 22; 1 Peter 2:2-4, 7, 11, 25; etc.)

1 Peter is "The Epistle for the Suffering Church." The church was being severely persecuted, suffering "many trials" (1 Peter 1:6) They were suffering "wrongfully" (1 Peter 2:18), suffering *for righteousness' sake*.

1 Peter is "An Epistle of the True Grace of God" (1 Peter 5:12). Peter reveals that the *true grace of God* involves three stages. a. There is the grace of salvation (1 Peter 1:10).

b. There is the grace of redemption, that is, the end of one's salvation (1 Peter 1:13).

c. There is the grace that carries one through life day by day (1 Peter 1:2; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5).

FIRST PETER CHAPTER 1 OUTLINE

HOW TO BE SECURE THROUGH SUFFERING 1:1-12

Know That You Are the Chosen of God, 1:1-2

1 They are believers, believers who are only strangers scattered over the earth (v.1)

Commented [DBH1]:

2 They are people elected by God (v.2a)

3 They are people set apart to God and covered by the blood of Christ (v.2b)

4 They are people who obey God (v.2c) 5 They are people who experience grace and peace

Know the Believer's Living Hope, 1:3-5

1 The source of the hope: The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (v.3)

a. By the mercy of God (v.3a) b. By the new birth (v.3b) c. By the resurrection of Christ (v.3c)

2 The inheritance of the hope (v.4)

a. Incorruptible, undefiled (v.4a) b. Does not fade away (v.4b) c. Reserved in heaven (v.4c)

3 The assurance of the hope (v.5)

a. Kept by God's power (v.5a) b. Guarded by faith (v.5b)

Know the Truth About Trials and Temptations, 1:6-9

1 Know the fact: Life is full of trials and temptations (v.6)

a. They are only for a season (v.6a) b. They bring heaviness (v.6b)

2 Know the purpose for trials and temptations (v.7)

a. To test and prove our faith (v.7a) b. To bring praise, honor, glory to both Christ and us (v.7b)

3 Know how to conquer trials and temptations (v.8-9)

a. By your love for Christ (v.8a) b. By your belief in Christ (v.8b) c. By your joy and glory (v.8c) d. By your salvation (v.9)

Know the Wonder and Greatness of Salvation, 1:10-12

1 Salvation required special men, special prophets, to share the message (v.10a)

2 Salvation was to be the personal experience of God's grace (v.10b)

3 Salvation was a mystery (v.11a)

4 Salvation was to be wrought by the sufferings and glory of the Messiah (v.11b)

5 Salvation was destined for future believers (v.12a)

6 Salvation is now proclaimed in the gospel (v.12b)

7 Salvation is so glorious that it arouses the angels to understand and look into it (v.12c)

HOW TO LIVE THROUGH SUFFERING: GIVE YOUR LIFE TO GOD

Get Your Mind Ready, 1:13-16

1 Focus upon the coming grace and salvation of God (v.13)

a. Gird up the loins of your mind (v.13a) b. Be sober (v.13b)
c. Hope to the end for God's salvation (v.13c)

2 Focus upon obedience (v.14)

a. Do not be conformed (v.14a) b. Reason: No longer ignorant of God (v.14b)

3 Focus upon holiness (v.15-16) a. God is holy (v.15a) b. God has called you (v.15b)

c. Scripture demands holiness (v.16)

Live on Earth in the Fear and Reverence of God, 1:17-21

1 Because you call God "Father" (v.17a) 2 Because God shall judge the world (v.17b)

3 Because you are a stranger and pilgrim on earth (v.17c) 4 Because you have been redeemed (v.18-20) a. Redeemed from an empty life (v.18a) b. Redeemed freely—not redeemed by corruptible things (v.18b) c. Redeemed by the blood of Christ (v.19-20) **1) He was sinless (v.19) 2) He was foreknown (v.20a) 3) He has now come and been revealed (v.20b) 5 Because you believe in the God who raised up and glorified Christ (v.21)**

Love One Another Fervently, 1:22-25

1 Reason 1: You have purified your souls (v.22) a. By obeying the truth (v.22a) b. By the Spirit's power (v.22b) **2 Reason 2: You are born again by the Word of God (v.23)** a. The Word is incorruptible (v.23a) b. The Word lives forever (v.23b) **3 Reason 3: Your flesh withers and falls away (v.24-25)** a. Life is short, just like grass (v.24) b. The Word and the believer endure forever (v.25)