

Author of the Book: “The New Testament provides limited information on Peter’s life and background before his call to discipleship. His Hebrew name is Simon or Simeon (see Acts 15:14). His father’s name is John, and his brother’s name is Andrew (the disciple of Jesus). Peter grew up in Bethsaida (Βηθσαϊδά, *Bēthsaida*), a fishing village on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and operated a fishing business in partnership with the Zebedee brothers, James and John (also disciples of Jesus; John 1:44; Mark 1:16; Luke 5:10). He apparently was married (Mark 1:30; 1 Corinthians 9:5) and later lived in Capernaum.¹ Simon Peter is one of Jesus’ first disciples and later became the spokesman of the Twelve. Although Jesus gives Simon the name ‘Peter’ (‘rock’; Πέτρος, *Petros* in Matt 16:18, Mark 3:16; Κηφᾶς, *Kēphas* in John 1:42), his ability to live up to it is often in doubt in the Gospels. Peter’s rebuke of the Lord (Matt 16:22-23, Mark 8:32-33), his falling asleep in the garden (Matt 26:40, Mark 14:37), his attack on Malchus (Mark 14:47, John 18:10-11) and his denial of Jesus (Matt 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:55-61, John 18:15-27) all support this perception. However, Jesus’ reinstatement of Peter in John 21:15-17 (‘Do you love Me... feed My sheep’) communicates His confidence in and selection of him as the head of the early church. Luke demonstrates this in the book of Acts, which portrays Peter as a bold proclaimer of the gospel (Acts 2:14-41, 3:12-26, 4:8-21), a miracle worker (Acts 3:1-11, 9:32-35, 38-42), an authoritative figure in the early church (Acts 1:15-26, 5:3-10, 8:14-17, 15:7-11), the first missionary to the Gentiles (Acts 10:1-45) and a missionary to the Jews outside of Jerusalem (Acts 12:17). Ultimately, Peter demonstrates his total devotion as a follower of Jesus when he dies a martyr’s death in Rome (1 Clement 5:4).”²

Date of the Book: Researchers believe the book was written around 64-65 A.D.

Audience and Occasion: “First Peter is addressed to Christians scattered throughout five Roman provinces of the peninsula of Asia Minor. That area today is northern Turkey. The churches in those provinces were made up of both Jews and Gentiles. This epistle is rich in references to and quotations from the Old Testament. Jewish Christians would have found special significance in the term *diasporas*, translated ‘scattered,’ used in the salutation (1:1). Jews who lived outside of Jerusalem were referred to as living in the diaspora. Gentile readers would have noted Peter’s exhortation to holy living in light of their background of complete ignorance of God’s Word (1:14). Gentile Christians also would have been greatly encouraged by the fact that, though they *were* in ignorance, they were now considered ‘the people of God’

¹ Jason Gish, *Peter the Apostle*, ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

² Jason Gish, *Peter the Apostle*, ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

(2:10). Clearly Peter carefully included both Jewish and Gentile Christians in his letter of encouragement to the churches of Asia Minor.”³

Peter wanted to encourage this group of believers who were scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithyna to stand firm and live righteously in the midst of their trials and suffering while rejoicing in their position in Jesus Christ, their possession in Jesus Christ to come in the future, and their protection in Jesus Christ as their motivation and strength to stand firm and live righteously in the midst of their trials and suffering.

Key Concepts to Consider

God –

- *God the Father:* Merciful Impartial Judge, Faithful Creator, Chooser of those who are saved, Sovereign
- *God the Son, Jesus Christ:* Sacrificial Lamb, Redeemer, The Great Shepherd to be Obeyed, The Chief Corner Stone
- *God the Holy Spirit:* Sanctifier of Christians, Revealer of Truth

The Lord of all who made the world and all things in it. The Lord of heaven and earth who does not dwell in temples made with hands. The invisible, immortal, eternal King who created and controls all that exists and has existed. All things are from Him, through Him and to Him. The only true Lord of heaven and earth who gives to all people life and breath and all things, as well as controls life and death (1 Timothy 1:17, Romans 11:36, and Act 17:24-26)

Future Grace of God – anticipation of the glorification of ourselves into the likeness of Jesus Christ to perfection; our special place in heaven reserved for us; the presence and companionship of God in the fullest measure; righteousness, joy, and peace in the fullest measure; the rewards to come for faithful life and service, and everything else God has planned

Faith – belief, trust, confidence in someone or something

Hope – expectation of some desired outcome

³ Roger M. Raymer, *1 Peter*, in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 838.

Living Hope – expectation of things that are imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away, and are reserved in heaven; based on eternal things

Dead Hope – expectation of things that are perishable, defiled, and will fade away; promoted by hell; keeping you distracted with the lust of the flesh (what I want that is in this temporal world), the lust of eyes (what I lack that is in this temporal world), and the boastful pride of life (how I look to a dying world)

Suffering for Righteousness – living righteously in the midst of hardships and trials because of one's conscience towards God

Faith and Hope in God and Future Grace – confidence in the character of God and the expectation of God to be and do all of what He promised while having confidence and expectation in receiving from God the blessings to come that are imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away, and are reserved in heaven for us

Chapter 1

Vv. 1-5: **The Proclamation of Your Position and Possession:**
Consider your position, possession, and protection through God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Vv. 6-12: **The Product That Should Come From Your Possession:**
Because of your possession, you should have the right responses to trials.

Vv. 13-25: **The Practice That Should Come from Your Position and Possession:**
Because of your position and possession, you should have the right mindset, motives, and manner toward God and fellow Christians.

Chapter 2

Vv. 1-10: **The Put-Offs and Put-Ons As A Result of Your Position and Possession:**
Put aside the wrong ways and pursue the right things because of what you have received, who you belong to and who you are.

Vv. 11-17: **The Person You Ought to Be As a Result of Your Position and Possession:**
Live as Strangers and Aliens in this world; submitting to authority, loving the Brotherhood, living as Slaves to God, honoring all accordingly.

Vv. 18-25: **The Plan of Submission and Suffering for Right Living You are to Practice As a Result of Your Position and Possession:**
Servants, submit to good and bad leadership; you must suffer for righteousness' sake, knowing you were called for this, following the example Jesus left for you.

Chapter 3

Vv. 1-7: **The Proposal for a Godly Wife and Godly Husband As a Result of Your Position and Possession:**

Wives submit to your husbands, and husbands live with your wives in an understanding way.

Vv. 8-12: **The Promotion of Righteousness As a Result of Your Position and Possession:**

Everyone is to turn from evil and walk in harmony, humility, love, and righteousness while giving a blessing.

Vv. 13-22: **The Precept and Pain of Righteousness/The Presentation of Your Hope/ The Pondering of Your Provider of Hope and the Prize of that Hope:**

Do what is right; if you suffer for it you are blessed as opposed to suffering for doing wrong; give a defense for your hope in Christ with gentleness remembering the work of Jesus Christ, the position of the Jesus Christ, and the benefit that follows faith in Jesus Christ.

Chapter 4

Vv. 1-6: **The Pursuit of The Will of God and the Pain in the Flesh that Follows:**

Those who live for the will of God have ceased living for the lust of men, resulting in suffering in the flesh; your friends are surprised that you do not pursue the lust of men with them so they put you down.

Vv. 7-11: **The Priority of Prayer and the Promotion of Love, Service and Hospitality:**

Since the end of all things is near, you need to keep sound in your understanding and thinking so you can pray right; stay fervent in your love knowing it covers a multitude of sins; be willing to open your home to others without complaint while serving according to your spiritual gift(s).

Vv. 12-19: **The Problems that Come From Testing our Faith/The Praise For Suffering For Jesus/The Process of Judgement:**

Don't be surprised at the attacks that come against you, knowing they are testing your faith; rejoice as you suffer for being a Christian and make sure you do not suffer for doing evil; consider that God is bringing judgment to purify the Christians, so what will become of the non-Christians in this judgment?

Chapter 5

Vv. 1-5: **The Principle for Elders and the Point of Humility:**

Elders, shepherd the flock well; young men, submit to your elders, while everyone needs to walk in humility towards each other, knowing God does not support the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Vv. 6-14: **The Process and Product of Experiencing the Provision of God in Trouble/Possessing the Pure Grace of God:**

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God and cast your concerns to Him, knowing he cares for you and will one day bring you through your sufferings and exalt you when He believes the time is right. Embrace this as the true Grace of God and greet one another with a kiss that show love.

Summary: Who we belong to determines who we are. Who we are should dictate our thinking, our desires, our behavior, our relationship patterns and our service. We belong to God, therefore, we are His children. As a result, we should function in this world not indulging in evil, but trusting in the character and promises of God while functioning according to the precepts of God in all aspects of life (i.e. thinking, desires, behavior, relationship patterns, service) as we encounter suffering and trials because of who we belong to.

Questions I want you to answer as we go through 1 Peter

1. Who do you belong to and what is the evidence that you belong to them?
2. Who do you believe you are and what is the evidence to confirm it is who you are?
3. What do you have?
4. What do you want?
5. Why do you have it and why do you want it?
6. Who or what are you pursuing to keep what you have and to get what you want?
7. What are you waiting for?
8. Who are you waiting for?
9. How does this impact...
 - a. Your lifestyle?
 - b. Your relationships?
 - c. The way you handle Christians?
 - d. The way you handle unbelievers?
 - e. Your work ethic?
 - f. Your understanding of trials?
 - g. The way you handle trials?
10. What do you mostly think about and why?
11. Given what you have discovered, what needs to change in your life and what needs to stay the same?
12. What steps will you take to keep things as they are as well as to change?
13. Who will hold you accountable to taking these steps?