

# I PETER

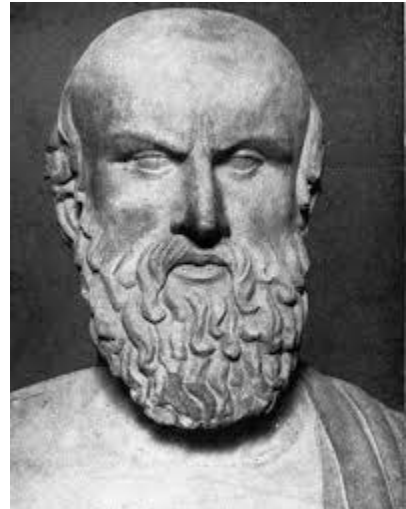
## LIVING AS CHRISTIANS IN A HOSTILE WORLD

### AUTHOR & TITLE

The apostle Peter is accepted as the writer. It is affirmed, 1:1 and by the writer's claim to be "an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ", 5:1. Entitled, *The First Letter of Peter*.

Some recent scholars have suggested it is written as pseudonymous, falsely ascribed to Peter.

- The cultivated Greek of the letter could not have been written by a Galilean fisherman like Peter,
- The theology is too much like Paul's to be ascribed to Peter,
- The OT citations come from the Greek OT (Septuagint), but Peter would have cited Hebrew OT,
- Peter would have referred more to the historical Jesus.



None of these arguments are compelling;

- Peter was a middle-class fisherman who very likely knew Greek from his youth. There is historical (secular) evidence that Greek was spoken commonly in Galilee, and Peter may have used a "secretary" (Silvanus, 5:12) to assist him (see question 1 on page 4),
- It should not be surprising that Paul's & Peter's theologies were similar, they were two of the more prominent apostles and had some recorded interaction, Acts 15, Gal 2, 2 Peter 3:15,
- It would be expected that Peter would cite OT Greek in writing to Greek readers,
- No one should be presumptuous as to demand what the writer should or shouldn't say in a short letter. But Peter does allude to several sayings of Jesus:
  - Lk 12:35 – 1:13
  - Mt 5:16 – 2:12
  - Mt 5:10 – 3:14

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- Finally, there is no historical evidence in the early church that pseudonymous books or letters were accepted as authoritative or inspired, especially not letters. Someone writing in someone else's name was deceptive, cf., 2Th 2:2, 3:17.

### DATE

The date is linked to the issue of authorship. Those who reject Peter as the author date the letter around AD 81-96 (Domitian's reign) or AD 98-117 (Trajan's reign). Both reigned after Peter's death, hence their belief it was written pseudonymously. There is ample evidence to believe it was written by Peter, and leading scholars attribute the letter to Peter, written from Rome just before Nero's reign, between AD 62-63.

### THEME

Per title, "Living as Christians in a hostile world." Peter writes to encourage his readers to persevere IN FAITH while suffering persecution. He reminds them to be full of hope because they will receive an eternal salvation that is promised from God, through Jesus Christ, and that this promise was sealed by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

### KEY POINTS

1. Those who suffer as Christians will be exalted: 1:6-9; 2:18-25; 3:13-22; 4:12
2. The church is the new temple, new Israel, new people: 1:1-2; 2:4-10
3. Christians should set hope on their inheritance: 1:3-9, 13-16
4. Christ's death is basis for our new life of holiness: 1:17-21; 2:24; 3:13-22
5. Christ's suffering is our example for endurance: 2:21-23
6. Christ's resurrection is ultimate triumph: 3:18-22
7. Christians should live righteously in all aspects of daily life: 2:11-3:7

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### KEY WORDS & PHRASES

- Exiles, Elect, Suffering, Grace, Living Hope, Holy, Truth, Living Stones, Predestination, “God’s own People”, Oracles of God, and Anxieties.



### OUTLINE

- I. Greeting (1:1-2)
- II. Call to Salvation (1:3-2:10)
  - a. Living Hope
  - b. The future inheritance as an incentive to holiness
  - c. Living as the new people of God
- III. Livings as strangers/pilgrims/aliens in a Hostile World to Bring Glory to God (2:11-4:11)
  - a. Submission
  - b. Testifying to the gospel in daily life
  - c. Godly response to suffering
- IV. Perseverance in Suffering (4:12-5:11)
- V. Conclusion (5:12-14)



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### CALL TO SALVATION 1:3 – 2:10

#### ***LIVING HOPE***

1. What is the “living hope” Peter mentions in 1:3?
2. T/F – Our hope is predicated on Christ’s resurrection. Explain.
3. List some things you love, but know are:
  - a. Perishable -
  - b. Defiled -
  - c. Fading -
4. What is stronger than God’s power, 1:5? Then why do we have trouble living in hope? Or do we?
5. How could the “exiles” rejoice in their trials/temptations/suffering, 1:7? Seems like a contradiction (to suffer and be happy about it). Explain.
6. How can we rejoice in these?

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### CALL TO SALVATION 1:3 – 2:10

#### **LIVING HOPE** (cont'd)

7. Describe “tested genuineness of our faith”, ESV. 1:7
  
8. Who else was told some were blessed because they believed even though they did not “see.” Hint, John 20:28-29. Explain the circumstances when that statement was made. Correlation for us?
  
9. What does Peter say the “grace that was to be yours” is?
  
10. Why do you think Peter makes reference to the Prophets, 1:10?

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### CALL TO SALVATION 1:3 – 2:10

#### ***THE FUTURE INHERITANCE AS AN INCENTIVE TO HOLINESS***

1. How does Peter expect the exiles to “prepare their minds for action?” Application today?
2. What does it mean to be holy, 1:15? Is it really possible?
3. Is fear a good motivator? Should it be? Explain in light of these passages; Eph 3:12; Phi 1:20; 1Tim 3:13; Heb 4:16, 10:19, 13:6; 1Jno 4:17
4. History lesson. What is the significance of a lamb without blemish?

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### CALL TO SALVATION 1:3 – 2:10

#### ***LIVING AS A NEW PEOPLE OF GOD***

1. Explain 1:20-21; compare/contrast to Calvinist's view of Predestination.
2. How were the exiles to purify their souls? Us today? Why?
3. Why does Peter call the "truth" (1:22) the living and abiding word of God (v23)?
4. What else does he call it?



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### CALL TO SALVATION 1:3 – 2:10

#### **LIVING AS A NEW PEOPLE OF GOD**

5. Why does Peter tell the exiles to put away these five things in 2:1?
  
6. Why use the analogy “pure spiritual milk, 2:2?”
  
7. What is a “living” stone, 2:4? Is there a “dead” stone? Explain.
  
8. What spiritual offerings is Peter asking of these exiles, 2:5? Today’s application?

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### CALL TO SALVATION 1:3 – 2:10

#### ***LIVING AS A NEW PEOPLE OF GOD***

9. Explain 2:8b. Calvinists use this passage to explain that God has predestined some people to be disobedient. Cf 2Per 3:9

Thought Questions from 2:9-10:

- Peter says that the exiles were “once” not a people.... but now they are “God’s people.” How does he say they acquired this lofty name?
- What were they to proclaim? How were they do it?
- What is God’s expectation for His children today in this regard?

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### LIVING AS STRANGERS IN A HOSTILE WORLD TO BRING GOD GLORY (2:11-4:11)



#### ***SUBMISSION***

1. Why does Peter tell them “again” to abstain from earthly passions, 2:11?  
Did they have a special problem with them?
  
2. Describe how the exiles were to view political authority, 2:13-14.
  
3. In light of the situation surrounding our own political/social tensions today, how should God’s people view governmental authority? This is not a political question, so please try to keep personal views in check.

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### LIVING AS STRANGERS IN A HOSTILE WORLD TO BRING GOD GLORY (2:11-4:11)



#### **SUBMISSION** (cont'd)

4. Who were the foolish people Peter refers to (2:15)?

5. Who are they today?

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### LIVING AS STRANGERS IN A HOSTILE WORLD TO BRING GOD GLORY (2:11-4:11)



#### ***TESTIFYING TO THE GOSPEL IN DAILY LIFE***

1. What did it mean to Peter's readers to honor everyone, 2:17? (Even the foolish people?) And today?
2. Servants
3. Wives
4. Husbands
5. All of you

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### LIVING AS STRANGERS IN A HOSTILE WORLD TO BRING GOD GLORY (2:11-4:11)



#### ***GODLY RESPONSE TO SUFFERING***

1. In verse 3:14, Peter again tells them to have no fear. But be ready to defend their faith. Explain.
2. How can these exiles defend their faith with gentleness and respect in such a hostile environment? How can we do it today?
3. Who are the “spirits in prison”, 3:19? And when did Christ proclaim his message to them?

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### LIVING AS STRANGERS IN A HOSTILE WORLD TO BRING GOD GLORY (2:11-4:11)



#### ***GODLY RESPONSE TO SUFFERING*** (cont'd)

4. Explain 3:21-22. Can you explain it from a Calvinist's perspective (someone who doesn't believe baptism is essential to salvation)?
5. Connect Peter's following points together; our baptism, His resurrection, and His current position at the right hand of God.
6. Explain how someone who suffers in the flesh has ceased from sin, 4:1. Cite some 2017 examples of what this might look like.

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### LIVING AS STRANGERS IN A HOSTILE WORLD TO BRING GOD GLORY (2:11-4:11)



#### ***GODLY RESPONSE TO SUFFERING*** (cont'd)

7. What is Peter's point when he says "the end of all things is at hand..."? 4:7

8. What does it mean to "speak as the oracles of God"? 4:11



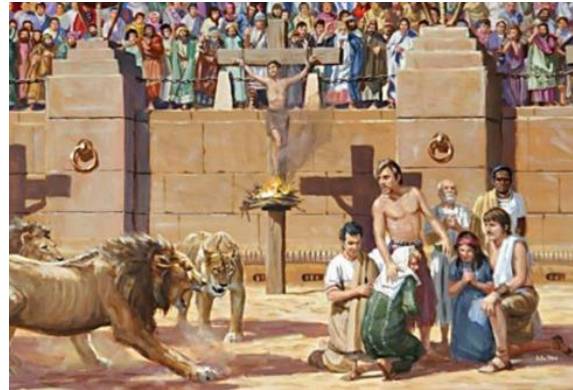
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### PERSEVERANCE IN SUFFERING (4:12- 5:11)



1. What “fiery trial”? 4:12 Is this admonition applicable today? Explain.
2. What did it mean to his readers to “suffer as a Christian”? Is it different for us today?
3. Peter ends chapter four the same way he began chapter one. Explain the similarities (and differences). Why do you think he does this?

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### PERSEVERANCE IN SUFFERING (4:12-5:11)

4. Why give specific instructions to the elders? And what is the significance of “among you”? Context, context, context!

5. Elder qualifications or descriptions of duty?

- a. Exercising oversight
- b. Not under compulsion
- c. Willingly
- d. Not for shameful gain
- e. Eagerly
- f. Not domineering
- g. An example

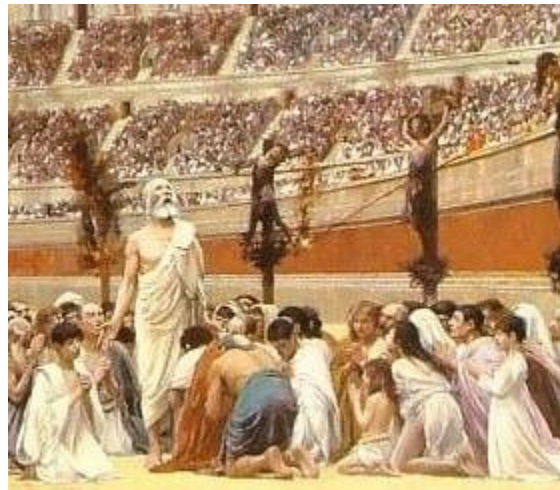
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### PERSEVERANCE IN SUFFERING (4:12- 5:11)



6. Who are the “younger” in 5:5?
7. What does being humble have to do with casting their anxieties on God? 5:7
8. How does one resist a roaring lion?
9. Explain 5:10.

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### CONCLUSION (5:11-12)



1. Who is Silvanus?
2. Who/what is “she who is at Babylon”?
3. What is the relationship between Peter and Mark?