

Book of 1Peter

Synopsis



Introduction

Book No	60
Name	1Peter
Written By	Peter
Testament	New
Category	Epistles
Date Written	Approx. 62 – 64 A.D
Place Written	Rome
Audience	Jewish Christians
Purpose	To offer encouragement to suffering Christians
History Covered	NA
Chapters	5
Verses	105
Key Verse	That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ (1:7)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Peter ❖ Silas ❖ Mark
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Asia Minor

Purpose of the Book

Many first-century followers of Christ were suffering and being abused and persecuted for believing in and obeying Jesus. Beginning in Jerusalem at the hands of their Jewish brothers, the persecution spread to the rest of the world—wherever Christians gathered. It climaxed when Rome determined to rid the empire of the “Christ-ones”—those who would not bow to Caesar.

Peter knew persecution firsthand. Beaten and jailed, Peter had been threatened often. He had seen fellow Christians die and the church scattered. But he knew Christ, and nothing could shake his confidence in his risen Lord. So Peter wrote to the church scattered and suffering for the faith, giving comfort and hope, and urging continued loyalty to Christ.

Peter begins by thanking God for salvation (1:2-6). He explains to his readers that trials will refine their faith (1:7-9). They should believe in spite of their circumstances; for many in past ages believed in God’s plan of salvation, even the prophets of old who wrote about it but didn’t understand it. But now salvation has been revealed in Christ (1:10-13).

In response to such a great salvation, Peter commands them to live holy lives (1:14-16), to reverently fear and trust God (1:17-21), to be honest and loving (2:1-3), and to become like Christ (2:1-3).

Jesus Christ, as “the living cornerstone” upon whom the church is to be built (2:4, 6), is also the stone that was rejected, causing those who are disobedient to stumble and fall (2:7-8). But the church, built upon this stone, is to be God’s holy priesthood (2:9-10).

Next, Peter explains how believers should live during difficult times (2:11–4:11). Christians should be above reproach (2:12-17), imitating Christ in all their social roles—masters and servants, husbands and wives, church members and neighbors (2:18–3:17). Christ should be our model for obedience to God in the midst of great suffering (3:18–4:11).

Peter then outlines the right attitude to have about persecution: Expect it (4:12), be thankful for the privilege of suffering for Christ (4:13-18), and trust God for deliverance (4:19).

Next, Peter gives some special instructions: Elders should care for God's flock (5:1-4), younger men should be submissive to those who are older (5:5-6), and everyone should trust God and resist Satan (5:7-11).

Peter concludes by introducing Silas and by sending personal greetings, possibly from the church in Rome, and from Mark (5:12-14).

When you suffer for doing what is right, remember that following Christ is a costly commitment. When persecuted for your faith, rejoice that you have been counted worthy to suffer for Christ. He suffered for us; as his followers, we should expect nothing less.

Since all true Christians experience hostility from an ungodly world, the call to patience and holiness amid suffering is applicable to all. However, the message is most pertinent where the opposition is severe. Persecution of Christians is as great in many areas of the world today as it was in the first century, and 1 Peter offers hope to those suffering for Christ's sake.

As you read 1 Peter, remember that trials will come to refine your faith. When they come, remain faithful to God.

Overview

- ❖ 60th book of the BIBLE, 21st in the New Testament, 16th of the 21 epistles and 2nd of the 7 epistles written by various authors
- ❖ Peter:
 - Was one of the original 12 apostles.
 - Was one of the inner circle of the apostles (Peter, James, & John.)
 - Denied Christ three times on the night of the betrayal.
 - He was given the "keys" to the kingdom of heaven."
 - He opened the doors to the Jews. Acts 2
 - He opened the doors to the Gentiles. Acts 11
 - Was married and his wife sometimes traveled with him. 1 Corinthians 9:5
 - Was an elder in the church. 1 Peter 5:1-4
- ❖ According to tradition, Peter was crucified upside down in Rome prior to Nero's death in A.D. 68.
- ❖ Peter authored two books of the New Testament:
 - 1 Peter

- 2 Peter
- ❖ The basic theme of 1 Peter is the proper response to Christian suffering.
- ❖ Peter is writing to Christians in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to them now that the Romans, as well as the Jews, are persecuting the church.
- ❖ In the Book of 1 Peter:
 - The word “suffering,” and its equivalents, occur some 2 times.
 - The sufferings of Christ are mentioned in every chapter of 1 Peter.
- ❖ Christ in 1 Peter:
 - Chapter 1 - Christ is man’s source of hope and man’s redeemer. 1:3, 18-19
 - Christ is:
 - The chief cornerstone. 2:6
 - Man’s example. 2:21
 - Man’s sin-bearer. 2:24
 - Chapter 3 - Christ is Lord. 3:15, 22
 - Chapter 4 - Christ is man’s sufferer. 4:1, 13
 - Chapter 5 - Christ is the Chief Shepherd and overseer. 5:4
- ❖ Peter also death with:
 - Spiritual growth
 - Christian wives and their husbands
 - Elders
 - Salvation
 - Grace of God
 - Hope
 - The devil

Hebrew Names of GOD used in 1Peter

NA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

In four separate passages Peter links Christ’s sacrificial sufferings with His glory that followed death (1:11; 3:18; 4:13; 5:1). The letter details the fruits of Christ’s suffering and victory, including provision for a new life now and hope for the future (see 1:3, 18, 19; 3:18). Anticipation of Christ’s return in glory causes believers to rejoice (1:4–7). In other ways also Christ now makes a profound difference in the lives of Christians: they

love Him (1:8); they come to Him (2:4); they offer “spiritual sacrifices” through Him (2:5); they are reproached because of Him (4:14); they should expect to be rewarded when He returns (5:4).

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is active in the entire process of salvation: the “Spirit of Christ” in the Old Testament prophets “testified beforehand” concerning the Cross and the subsequent glory (1:11); Christ was raised from the dead “by the Spirit” (3:18); evangelists preached the gospel by the Spirit; believers responded in obedience “through the Spirit” (1:2, 22); a foretaste of the coming glory is had through the Spirit (compare 4:14 with v. 13 and 5:1).

Mega Themes of 1Peter

SALVATION

Our salvation is a gracious gift from God. God chose us out of his love for us, Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin, and the Holy Spirit cleansed us from sin when we believed. Eternal life is a wonderful gift for those who trust in Christ.

Our safety and security are in God. If we experience joy in relationship with Christ now, how much greater will our joy be when he returns and we see him face to face. Such a hope should motivate us to serve Christ with greater commitment.

PERSECUTION

Peter offers faithful believers comfort and hope. We should expect ridicule, rejection, and suffering because we are Christians. Persecution makes us stronger because it refines our faith. We can face persecution victoriously, as Christ did, if we rely on him.

Christians still suffer for what they believe. We should expect persecution, but we don't have to be terrified by it. The fact that we will live eternally with Christ should give us the confidence, patience, and hope to stand firm even when we are persecuted.

GOD'S FAMILY

We are privileged to belong to God's family, a community with Christ as the founder and foundation. Everyone in this community is related—we are all brothers and sisters, loved equally by God.

Because Christ is the foundation of our family, we must be devoted, loyal, and faithful to him. By obeying him, we show that we are his children. We must accept the

challenge to live differently from the society around us.

FAMILY LIFE

Peter encouraged the wives of unbelievers to submit to their husbands' authority as a means of winning them to Christ. He urged all family members to treat others with sympathy, love, compassion, and humility.

We must treat our families lovingly. Though it's never easy, willing service is the best way to influence loved ones. To gain the strength we need for self-discipline and submission, we need to pray for God's help.

JUDGMENT

God will judge everyone with perfect justice. We all will face God. He will punish evildoers and those who persecute God's people. Those who love him will be rewarded with life forever in his presence.

Because all are accountable to God, we can leave judgment of others to him. We must not hate or resent those who persecute us. We should realize that we will be held responsible for how we live each day.

Life Lessons in 1Peter

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>The Book of 1 Peter challenges us to live godly lives, even in the midst of trial, suffering, or persecution. Circumstances do not affect godly principles for living. Whether you are being loved or cursed, you are to bless. Whether you will be embraced or persecuted, your life and testimony are to witness to the hope of salvation in Jesus Christ. Consistency in godly living, despite</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Let your life witness for Jesus, regardless of circumstances. ❖ Understand that suffering is part of the Christian life. Study Jesus' responses to suffering, and follow His example. ❖ Women, place greatest value on the inner beauty of the heart. Seek to have a peaceful and humble spirit, which is precious to God. ❖ Men, have a peaceful and humble spirit; be understanding of your wife. Honor her as an equal heir of salvation, so that your prayers will not be impeded. ❖ Choose to bless and not curse or retaliate.

<p>circumstances, is the true test of growth in godliness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Speak words of blessing, and be a blessing everywhere you go. ❖ Keep Jesus as Lord of your life. Always be ready to share your hope and faith with others. ❖ Extend hospitality with a joyful heart. ❖ Live in humility with all people. Understand that pride will cause God to resist you, so repent and turn from it. Humble yourself, knowing that God will give you grace and lift you up in His time. Give God your anxieties. ❖ Know with confidence that He will care for you.
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Devote yourself to loving Jesus, even though you cannot see Him. Loving and believing in Him with faith releases unspeakable joy and glory in your life. Spend time studying the OT prophecies about Jesus and their fulfillment in the NT. Realize that angels long to look on these things and that studying the Bible is a privilege. Worship Jesus; praise and honor Him.</p> <p>Faithfully glorify the Lord even when you know you will face persecution, remembering that the Spirit of glory and of God will rest on you in the midst of your suffering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Deeply love and believe in Jesus, even though you cannot see Him. ❖ Interpret the OT with the revelation in the NT. ❖ Study the messianic prophecies in light of their fulfillment in Jesus' life. Worship the Lord as you see the miracle of who Jesus is as revealed in Scripture. ❖ Come to Jesus. Honor and worship the precious, living stone—the chief cornerstone on which our life of faith and the church is built. ❖ Understand that you are part of God's chosen and special people, the church. Therefore, praise Him, who brought you out of the darkness of sin and death into the light of freedom and life. ❖ Glorify Jesus even amid intense persecution.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Joyfully know that you are sharing in Jesus' sufferings. Understand that when you are insulted and despised, the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>We are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, which makes us holy. The Holy Spirit sets us apart for the purpose of obedience and holy living. Live in holiness and honor the Lord, knowing that your salvation was bought at the great and precious price of His own blood. In response to all that the Lord has done for you, dedicate the rest of your days to doing His will.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that the Holy Spirit makes you holy, set apart by the blood of Jesus. Obedience is to be our response. ❖ Understand that God has made you holy, even as He is holy so that you can live a holy life by His grace and the power of His Spirit, who lives in you. ❖ Live in holiness, honoring the Lord. Remember that your life was bought with Jesus' blood. ❖ Seek to be honest, sincere, and pure in all relationships. ❖ Thirst for God's Word. Apply it to your life so you will grow. ❖ Live each day to do God's will.
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>The goal and reward of faith is salvation. Therefore, faith is precious, even more precious than gold. God refines our faith as gold as we go through trials and testing. Gold is refined by fire; as the temperature increases, impurities begin to become evident. As they surface, they can be removed, thereby purifying the gold. This is true with our faith as well. As we undergo testing and see the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that our inheritance of salvation in Jesus is a living hope, kept for us in heaven where it cannot be ruined or fade away. Know that God's mighty power is keeping you through faith for salvation. ❖ Remember that as you endure suffering, your faith is being refined as with fire. Value your faith more than gold. Look toward the coming of Jesus, so that your faith, having been tested, will result in praise, honor, and glory to Jesus.

<p>impurities of sin surface, we are to ask forgiveness so we can be made clean and pure. Embrace God's refining work in your life; it is His mercy to you and will result in praise and honor to Him.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that the goal of your faith is salvation. ❖ Understand that OT can be fully understood in the light of the NT
<p>Keys to relating to authority</p> <p>All rightful authority is derived from GOD. Therefore to submit to authority honors GOD. Submission is an act of faith establishing GOD as the ultimate authority over the relationship. Be it connected with government, church, employment or home. The higher the authority the greater the accountability to GOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ submit to and respect all authority ❖ do not use your freedom in CHRIST as an excuse for sin ❖ obey and respect your employer ❖ submit yourself to the authority of those who govern the church ❖ humble yourself before GOD ❖ trust HIM to promote you as HE wills
<p>Keys to GODly relationships</p> <p>GOD designed marriage to illustrate the relationship HE intends to have with HIS people. The husband is to give his wife honor and understanding, protecting her and acknowledging that she is a fully partnered heir of GOD. The wife is to accept the care and authority of the husband living in a manner that honors him. The beauty of character and gentleness of spirit of such a woman will be precious to GOD and to her husband</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ wife place yourself in submission to your husband ❖ live in a way that honors your husband and GOD ❖ believe that this godly conduct will win an unsaved husband to CHRIST ❖ husband be kind and gentle with your wife ❖ honor her as your very best friend ❖ listen to her and spend time with her ❖ cherish her and make her feel extremely important ❖ recognize that not doing so will hinder your prayer life and obstruct answers ❖ love all believers fervently

Praise Points in 1Peter

- ❖ His Spirit, who equips us to walk in obedience (1:1-2)
- ❖ His special favor and wonderful peace, which are available in abundance (1:2)
- ❖ The ability he gives us to worship in the midst of suffering (1:6)
- ❖ The results he intends to bring about through our trials (1:7)
- ❖ Christ's example of how we should endure suffering (2:21-23)
- ❖ The inner beauty that his Spirit makes possible (3:4)
- ❖ His lordship in all the situations we face (3:15)
- ❖ The privilege of sharing in Christ's suffering (4:13)
- ❖ The promised return of his Son (5:4)
- ❖ The privilege of giving our worries and cares to him (5:7).

Worship Insights in 1Peter

Suffering and rejoicing are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, Peter's first letter suggests that worship is what gives meaning to persecution and helps us to endure it. Through our worship life, we understand who we really are as a community of faith: a temple, a spiritual house for the Lord. More than this, we are a holy priesthood commissioned to offer God's acceptable sacrifice of praise through Christ. We are God's own possession, chosen to proclaim his excellence and his deliverance (1 Peter 2:5-10).

Only our high calling as a worshiper could sustain us during a time of great opposition to the faith of Jesus Christ. Through worship we gain a vision of God's eternal greatness that allows us to witness to even the hostile and indifferent in such a way that they, too, must one day give glory to God (2:12).

In worship, we tell and retell God's story, which is also the story of our liberation from the false perspective of our age. In worship we exalt not things that lead to emptiness but the fullness of the life of God, made known to us in his risen Son.

- ❖ Worship involves expressing the deep emotions of our heart (1:8).
- ❖ Coming to the Father in worship unites us with other believers (2:5).
- ❖ All believers are holy priests and are able to offer the sacrifice of worship to God (2:5).
- ❖ God claimed us so that we might show his goodness to others (2:9).
- ❖ We offer worship to respond to what God has done for us (2:9-10).
- ❖ We must worship Christ as Lord of our life (3:15).

- ❖ Worship involves approaching God with true humility (5:6).
- ❖ We are urged to give even our worries and cares to God (5:7).

An Outline of 1Peter

- I. What Salvation Is All About: 1Pe_1:1-25**
 - A. Why Has God Chosen You?: 1Pe_1:1-2**
 - B. The Fringe Benefits of the New Birth: 1Pe_1:3-5**
 - C. How Trials Can Bring Joy: 1Pe_1:6-9**
 - D. The Priority of Salvation: 1Pe_1:10-12**
 - E. Called to Be Holy: 1Pe_1:13-16**
 - F. Living Like Strangers Here on Earth: 1Pe_1:17-21**
 - G. Loving from the Heart: 1Pe_1:22-25**
- II. What Christian Living Is All About: 1Pe_2:1-25**
 - A. Growing Goes Better with Milk: 1Pe_2:1-3**
 - B. Building with Living Stones: 1Pe_2:4-8**
 - C. The Truth About Self-Image: 1Pe_2:9-10**
 - D. Goodness, Freedom, and Servanthood: 1Pe_2:11-17**
 - E. Called to Be Servants: 1Pe_2:18-25**
- III. What Being Good Is All About: 1Pe_3:1-22**
 - A. How to Be a Good Christian Wife: 1Pe_3:1-6**
 - B. How to Be a Good Christian Husband: 1Pe_3:7**
 - C. Repaying Evil with Good: 1Pe_3:8-12**
 - D. Sharing the Hope: 1Pe_3:13-16**
 - E. Suffering for Doing Good: 1Pe_3:17-22**
- IV. What Suffering is All About: 1Pe_4:1-19**
 - A. Living for the Will of God: 1Pe_4:1-6**
 - B. The End is at Hand: 1Pe_4:7-9**
 - C. You are Called to Ministry: 1Pe_4:10-11**
 - D. Suffering as a Christian: 1Pe_4:12-19**
- V. What Christian Leadership Is All About: 1Pe_5:1-14**
 - A. Priorities for Christian Leadership: 1Pe_5:1-4**
 - B. Clothing Yourself with Humility: 1Pe_5:5-7**

C. Standing Firm in the Faith: [1Pe_5:8-11](#)

D. Final Greetings: [1Pe_5:12-14](#)