

## Overview of 1 Peter

### Why study this book:

Faith, refined by suffering, can help us see the Lord more clearly. Peter wrote this letter to tell us that we will go through times of trouble, but God uses those difficulties to strengthen us. We can have hope through hardship that God is always refining us to be holy.

### Author:

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ (1:1), was a close friend of Jesus and a leader in the early church in Jerusalem.

### Date:

The exact date is not known but from the contents of the letter, Peter wrote during the persecution resulting from Nero's reign – sometime between A.D. 60-64

### Setting and Background:

Peter wrote to Christians living in what is now modern day Turkey who were under persecution. Nero had burned down buildings to expand his empire, but he had blamed the Christian community. As a result, many people despised Christians. Peter wrote this epistle to strengthen Christians during this extremely tough time.

### Main Point:

Peter wrote this letter to teach the suffering Christians how to live victoriously in the midst of the hostility. He discussed these themes:

- Don't lose hope
- Don't become bitter
- Trust in the Lord
- Look for His second coming

He charges his readers to live obediently and victoriously in order to evangelize to the hostile world around them. He encourages his readers through proclamation and exhortation. One of his proclamations is that suffering is inevitable for followers of Christ. The underlying theme of 1 Peter is: Christians learn that hardship does not stand outside of God's sovereign will, and they learn that God uses hardship to make us more like Christ.

**Outline:**

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Praise to God for His Grace and Salvation (1:3-12)
- III. Exhortations to Holiness of Life (1:13;5:11)
  - A. The Requirement of Holiness (1:13;2:3)
  - B. The Position of Believers (2:4-12)
    - a. A spiritual house (2:4-8)
    - b. A chosen people (2:9-10)
    - c. Aliens and strangers (2:11-12)
  - C. Submission to Authority (2:13;3:7)
    - a. Submission to rulers (2:13-17)
    - b. Submission to masters (2:18-20)
    - c. Christ's example of submission (2:21-25)
    - d. Submission of wives to husbands (3:1-6)
    - e. The corresponding duty of husbands (3:7)
  - D. Duties of All (3:8-17)
  - E. Christ's Example (3:18;4:6)
  - F. Conduct in View of the End of All Things (4:7-11)
  - G. Conduct of Those Who Suffer for Christ (4:12-19)
  - H. Conduct of Elders (5:1-4)
  - I. Conduct of the Young (5:5-11)
- IV. The Purpose of the Letter (5:12)
- V. Final Greetings and Benediction (5:13-14)<sup>1</sup>

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1. <http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-peter/>
  2. 1 & 2 Peter – John MacArthur
  3. New American Commentary: 1, 2, Peter, Jude.
  4. The Quest Study Bible
  5. The NLT Study Bible
  6. The Gospel Transformation Bible
  7. 1 Peter – The Wiersbe Bible Study Series