

# 1 Peter 1

Commentary used: *Gospel Advocate NT Commentary (Peter, John, Jude)*, Guy N. Woods

## **What do we know about Peter?**

1. Brother of Andrew (converted by Andrew)
2. A fisherman by profession (along with Andrew, James and John – sons of Zebedee)
  - fished on Sea of Galilee
3. Peter lived at Capernaum
4. A very humble background
  - The Sanhedrin recognized that he was uneducated (*Acts 4.13*)
5. A married man – *Matthew 8.14-15* (Jesus healed his mother-in-law)
  - Also *1 Corinthians 9.5* talks about how Peter took along his wife in his preaching journeys

## **His life:**

- With Jesus for all major events (one of the “inner three”)
- Denied Christ three times and wept bitterly (*Luke 22.62*)

## **Summary of his personality:**

- Impetuous, warm hearted, humble, courageous as he matured in his faith
- Baptized first Gentile into the church (Cornelius)
- Last mentioned in Acts: *Acts 15* – council in Jerusalem
- Last mentioned in Bible in *Galatians 2.11* – discriminated against Gentiles and was corrected by Paul

## **Tradition says he was crucified upside down**

- Jesus seems to have said that he would die a violent death (*John 21.18*)

## **The book of 1 Peter:**

- Written to encourage Christians to remain steadfast in the face of persecution

## **Read 1 Peter 4.12-13** – theme of the book:

*(1 Peter 4.12-13) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.*

- References to suffering: *1 Peter 1.6/3.17/4.15, 19*

## **Where was the letter written from? - 5.13** – Babylon

- Literally in Babylon
- The Catholic Church believes that Babylon was a symbol for Rome, but that is not correct
- This is not a book full of deep symbolism (as *Revelation* is)
- The Catholic Church has no physical evidence that Peter was ever in Rome – it is very embarrassing for them, since he is supposed to be the first pope – so they claim that "Babylon" refers to Rome
- That is not correct

## **Date for the book:**

- Because of many references to persecution, probably c. 65 AD and the beginning of the

persecution of Nero

- There are many similarities between *1 Peter* and *Ephesians*
- Bible scholars believe that *Ephesians* was written in about 63 AD (shortly before *1 Peter*)
- See: *Gospel Advocate Commentary*, p. 17, for a list of similarities

## **1 Peter 1.1-2**

**V1 – How did First Century letters began?** Person writing the letter, people letter addressed to, blessings or greetings

- Meaning of word *Peter*?** *Matthew 16:18* – small rock or a fragment of rock
- Peter’s “given” name?** Simon Bar-Jonah
- Who gave him the name *Peter*?** Jesus Christ
- Peter wanted to be known by the name Jesus gave him
- How did Peter identify himself?** Apostle of Jesus Christ
- To whom was the letter addressed?** New American Standard Bible: aliens, American Standard Version: sojourners
- Significance?** This world is not our home

**V2 – What part does God the Father play in our salvation?** He has chosen us; he set up the plan by which we may be saved

- Explain “foreknowledge”?** He set up a plan of salvation, and all who obey it were foreknown to be saved
- What does the Holy Spirit do?** Sanctify us (set us apart)
- Jesus Christ?** Sprinkled clean by his blood
- A reference to *Exodus 24.8* – the blood was sprinkled on the people
- Notice the 3 parts of the Godhead, the concept of the Trinity
- Some deny the 3 parts of the Godhead
- The blessings?** Grace (Greek) and peace (Hebrew)
- A blessing of Gentile and Jews (found many places in New Testament, especially in the writings of Paul)

## **1 Peter 1.3-12**

**V3–** A blessing (word of praise) for God the Father

- Why was Peter thankful for God the father?** The opportunity for us to be baptized
- The Bible never refers to a "baptized Christian" – to be baptized makes a person a Christian -See *John 3.5ff* and *1 Peter 3.21*
- So it is redundant (waste of words) to talk about a baptized Christian
- As a result of being baptized, what have we gained?** A living hope, a hope with substance to it
- The basis for our hope?** Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- Notice the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ (also *1 Corinthians 15*)

**V4 – What is our hope?** Heaven

- Some groups (such as the Jehovah Witnesses) say Christians will not go to heaven, but to an earth that has been cleansed – they need to study this passage (along with *John 14.2*)

**V 5 – Who protects us from falling away? God**

- What is the protection based on? Our faith
- So it is up to us to remain faithful

**V 6 – What did the Christians have to endure? A period of persecution and trials**

**V 7 – Would anything good come from this persecution? Yes, their faith would be proven**

- Note: Our faith is more precious than gold

**V 8 – Had the Christians in Asia Minor seen Jesus? No**

- It is hard for us to fall in love with someone we have not seen, but those Christians had (and we do today)
- Notice the joy that Peter speaks of in the midst of persecution

**V 9 – The result of their faith? Salvation of souls**

- Peter is encouraging them in their persecution

**V 10 – How did Peter characterize the Old Testament prophets? Made careful search and inquiry**

- They were really interested in the coming of the Messiah

**V 11 – A diligent and painstaking search**

- What were prophets telling about? The sufferings of Christ, followed by glories
- Some Old Testament Scriptures on the resurrection of Jesus Christ: *Psalm 16.10, Psalm 68.28*

**V 12 – Were the prophets speaking about their own times? No, the times of Peter and those Christians**

- Notice: The gospel was preached in the Old Testament (*Isaiah 53*)
- What has Peter said thus far to encourage the persecuted Christians?

## **1 Peter 1.13-21**

**V 13 – Gird up your minds**

- Ancient garments were long, flowing, and tied up tight for trips
- Meaning of rest of v 13? All our work in life is to be directed toward one goal

**V 14 – What kind of lives had they lived before becoming Christians? Lives of lust**

- Why had they lived that way? Ignorance, didn't know any better, easy to conform to the world

**V 15 – What should our behavior be like? Like God's: holy**

**V 16 – We are to imitate God in our lives**

*Leviticus 11:44-45 “For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth. ‘For I am the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your God; thus you shall be holy for I am holy.’”*

**V 17** –Is the “if” section correct? Yes, God does judge impartially  
-How should we then live? “In fear” and respect  
-Note: an interesting expression at the end of *verse 17*  
-Meaning? This life is very temporary

**V 18** – Were we saved by payment of expensive perishable ransom? No

**V 19** –What were we redeemed with? Blood of Jesus

**V 20** –Notice the phrase *these last times* – the Christian dispensation is often referred to this way

**V 21** – They had faith in God

## **1 Peter 1.22-25**

**V 22** – What had their love led them to do? Love the brethren  
-How deep was this love to be? From the heart  
-Why would this be important in a time of persecution?

**V 23** –Is their salvation imperishable? No, it is the seed of the salvation that is imperishable  
-The seed? The Word of God

**V 24-25** – The Word of God is permanent - a quote from *Isaiah 40.6-8* (in the Septuagint)  
-Interesting side note: **Read 1 Cor. 5.9** - Paul’s first letter to Corinth must not have been inspired, because it did not become part of the New Testament  
-In other words, the apostles could write things that were not inspired – only the inspired documents survived and were included in the New Testament

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# 1 Peter 2

## 1 Peter 2.1-3

**V1 – Sins to be put aside?** Malice (wickedness, desire to hurt someone else), guile (to deceive, as bait before a fish), hypocrisy, envy, slander

-**What kind of sins are these?** Mostly sins of the tongue

-**Why are those sins mentioned during a time of persecution?** Christians must control their tongues during persecutions

**V2 – Do newborn babies have to be urged to take milk?** No, they are very eager and will drink all they can get

-**When we are babes in Christ, what should we long for?** More knowledge of the Bible, often seen in new converts

**V3 –** Once we have tasted salvation, we keep coming back, like tasting ice cream

## 1 Peter 2.4-10

**V4 – Why could Christ be called a “living stone”?** Raised from the dead, not like idols

-**How did people treat this living stone?** Rejected it

**V5 – What is the application to us?** We are always to be living stones

-The church is not the building (real stones), but the living stones (the Christians)

-**What are our sacrifices?** Prayer, praise, contribution, worship, etc.

**V6 –** Quote from:

*Isaiah 28.16 “Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.”*

**V7 –** Quote from:

*Psalms 118.22 “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.”*

-**In what sense is Christ the cornerstone of the church?** He is the head of the church, not the pope

**V8 – Why do some people “stumble” over Jesus?** Because they are disobedient to the word (they are not interested in the truth)

**V9 –** A beautiful passage about the chosen race (*Isaiah 4.20*) – used to be applied to the Jews

-Here it is applied to the Christians

-**White race? Black race? Red race?** No

-Royal priesthood (*Isaiah 61.6*) – see v 5 – *a holy priesthood*

-Holy nation (*Exodus 19.6*) – **USA? China? Russia?**

-A people for God’s own possession (*Ezekiel 37.23*)

-**What is our obligation as God’s people?** To spread the Word

-Notice the contrast between darkness and light

-**Purpose of v 9?** To build up the confidence of the persecuted Christians

**V 10 – Meaning?** Jews were just nomads in days of Abraham, but God made a nation of them

-**How do v 4-10 apply to Peter's theme (encouraging Christians being persecuted)?** It is a great privilege to be a Christian

## **1 Peter 2.11-12**

**V 11** – Some translations: **sojourners and pilgrims**

-In other words, we are to live clean, moral lives

**V 12 – Why should Christians live good lives?** To influence the Gentiles (non-believers)

-**Day of visitation?** Day when they have opportunity to obey the gospel

## **1 Peter 2.13-17**

Theme: submission to civil rulers

-One of the most common charges against Christians in the First Century was that they disobeyed the laws

-**Why would this charge have been made against Christians?** Because Christians refused to offer incense to Caesar and proclaim him to be Lord

-Also, remember *Acts 4* when Peter and John were ordered by the Sanhedrin to stop preaching Jesus as Christ

**V 13-14 – What was Peter's commandment on this subject?** To obey the laws of the land, unless they conflict with the laws of God

-**What type of government does the Bible recommend?** No recommendations

-Some people think that God's form of government has to be a democracy, but not so

-Regardless of the form of government, Christians are to submit (even dictatorship, as with a king)

-**What is the purpose of the government?** *V 14b* – to punish evil-doers and reward good behavior

**V 15 – What is the value of obeying the laws?** To silence the critics of the Christians

-Don't give them an excuse to attack and persecute Christians

**V 16** –Don't use freedom to do evil

-**Example?** Pornography business today; abortion is also big business

**V 17** – Be fair with all people

## **1 Peter 2.18-20**

Theme: Duties of servants to masters (some Christians must have been slaves)

-**Why would this be important in a time of persecution?** To rebel against slave owners would just bring on more persecution of the Christians

**V 18** – **What does Peter say to Christian slaves?** Honor their owners  
-**What about a bad and cruel slave owner?** Still obey him

**V 19** – **Why obey a bad owner?** For the sake of conscience

**V 20** – **What finds favor with God?** Bearing up under harsh treatment

-**What book in the Bible tells us how to bring slavery to an end?** Book of *Philemon*

-Sometimes we do business with someone who just hates his job and criticizes the boss; he is not happy with his pay, etc.

-But the Christian should not be complaining and saying, "Take this job and shove it"

-That is not the Christian attitude

-We can change jobs, but constantly complaining about a job just makes things worse

-In the long run, the hearts of people are changed more by our good behavior than by our rebellious spirit

## **1 Peter 2.21-25**

**V 21** – **Why did Christ suffer?** As an example for us

**V 22** – **Was Christ guilty of anything?** No – a quote from *Isaiah 53*

**V 23** – **How did Christ treat those who persecuted him?** He did not return evil for evil, but practiced what he taught (See *Matthew 5.38-48*)

-**What will God do about those who wrong us?**

*Romans 12.17-20 - Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD."*

**V 24** – How Jesus suffered - references to *Isaiah 53*

-**Result of Jesus dying on the cross?** We should die to sin and live righteous lives

**V 25** – They had returned to the Shepherd

-**What was the purpose of this verse to the theme of 1 Peter?**

-Magnificent language here

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# 1 Peter 3

## 1 Peter 3.1-6 - Wives with unbelieving husbands

### V1 – How would this apply to persecuted Christians?

-What is the best way for a Christian wife to try to convert her husband? Without a word - most husbands do not respond to nagging and debating, etc.

*Proverbs 25.24 It is better to live in a corner of the roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.*

### V2 – What kind of behavior? Chaste and respectful

-Respectful to whom? God and their husbands

### V3 – What kind of appearance is not needed? Merely external, braided hair, gold jewelry, expensive dresses

-In the First Century, rich women wore elaborate hair styles, sometimes with hair as much as a foot above their heads ("bee-hive" hair-do in the 1960's, etc.)

### V4 – What is the proper way to dress? With a gentle and quiet spirit

### V5 – How did holy women of the Old Testament behave? In this way (v 4)

-Example? Ruth, Hannah, Esther

### V6 – Peter's example? Sarah showed respect for Abraham

-Explain v 6b? Do not live in terror of non-Christian husband - he must **not** be allowed to interfere with his wife's worship to God

*1 Corinthians 7.15 - Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.*

-Paul and Peter had the same message to wives with unbelieving husbands: God is to come first in the lives of the wives

-They are not to be afraid of their husbands

-They can refuse to obey their husband when it comes to the Christian faith

-But in other situations, the wife is to be in subjection to her husband

## 1 Peter 3.7

### V7a – Peter's instructions to the husband? Be understanding about his wife

-Why? Because she is the weaker vessel

-In what sense is a wife weaker than her husband? Physically

-Many people today pretend that men and women can do the same jobs: police officers, fire fighters, soldiers, etc. – that is not fair

-Women generally are weaker than men in physical tasks

-Golf courses: women tee-off (different from men)

-Usually in road work, the women hold the stop signs, while the men dig the ditches



**V 7b – How should the husband treat his wife?** Fellow heir of the grace of life  
-**Why be kind to one's wife?** So that one's prayers will not be hindered

## **1 Peter 3.8-12**

**V 8** – A good summary of our relationship to one another

**V 9 – Attitude toward insults?** Do not return insult for insult, but give a blessing instead of a curse  
-Can you imagine how many marriages would be saved by this policy? Most arguments would end immediately

**V 10-11** – Quote of *Psalm 34.12-16*

- For a long life, what comes first?** Controlling the tongue
- Next?** Turning away from evil and seeking peace

**V 12** – God's watching us at all times, to reward the good and punish the evil

## **1 Peter 3.13-17**

**V 13** – No eternal harm will come to us if we live righteous lives

**V 14 – The Christian's attitude toward persecution?** A blessing  
-A quote from *Isaiah 8.12* – Do not be intimidated by those who persecute us

**V 15** – A very interesting verse

- Peter's instructions?** To be ready to give an answer
- Are we always to give an answer?** No
- Did Jesus Christ ever refuse to give an answer?** Yes

*Luke 23.8 - Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus: for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him. And he questioned Him at some length; but he answered him nothing.*

*Amos 5.12-13 - For I know your transgressions are many and your sins are great, you who distress the righteous and accept bribes, and turn aside the poor in the gate. Therefore, at such a time the prudent person keeps silent, for it is an evil time.*

- When we do answer, what is to be our attitude?** Gentleness with reverence

**V 16** – **Why should we live a good life?** So that those who persecute us will be ashamed of themselves

**V 17** – **If God has a choice about our suffering, what kind of suffering does he prefer?** That we suffer for doing what is right

## **1 Peter 3.18-22**

**V 18** – **How is Christ our example for suffering?** The just suffered for the unjust

**V 18b** – He put to death the fleshly way of life and instituted the spiritual way of life

**V 19** – Peter does not say Christ preached to spirits while they were in prison, but that the spirits are now in prison

**V 20** – **When were they preached to?** In the days of Noah

**-How did Christ preach to people in the day of Noah?** Through Noah

**-Is Noah ever considered a preacher?**

*2 Peter 2.5 - And did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.*

**-They had the option to obey the gospel for their generation**

**-They refused and are now in “prison”**

**-Who were the eight persons saved?** Noah, wife, three sons, and their wives

**V 21** – **Corresponding to what?** The salvation of eight people by means of the ark

**-What corresponds to that ark?** Baptism

**-Many denominational churches teach that they were saved by the water, in that it cleansed the earth**

**-But not so - they were saved by the ark riding on top of the water (this does not allow people to disregard water baptism, as some contend)**

**-Is baptism just getting wet?** No, it is more than taking a bath, but it is the cleansing of the conscience

**-Is baptism necessary for salvation?** Answer: **Was the ark necessary for saving for eight souls?**

**-How is baptism based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ?**

*Romans 6.3-5- Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection...*

**V 22** – All has been brought into subjection to Jesus Christ (remember *Matthew 28.18-20*)

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# 1 Peter 4

## 1 Peter 4.1-6 – Remaining steadfast in commitment

### V1 – Does enduring persecution make a Christian stronger or weaker? Stronger

-The person who has suffered persecution is less attracted to the allurements of this world

### V2 – Such Christians live more for the will of God (because of their suffering)

### V3 – Meaning? They had already had enough time to be evil

-How did they (non-believers of that day) behave? *V 3c* (many of the same sins as we have today)

-"What? You go to church every Sunday? And a second service on Sunday? And Wednesday night? Are you crazy?"

### V4 – What surprises people in the world? That our lives are not like theirs

### V5 – What should people in the world be worried about? The coming day of judgment

### V6 – Good people had obeyed the gospel and had then died physically, but they had endured persecution in this life

## 1 Peter 4.7-11 – Encouragement to remain faithful

### V7 – According to Guy N. Woods, a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem

-If it does refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., what was about to come to a complete end? The Law of Moses, the Old Testament, the entire Jewish way of life was about to end

-When Jerusalem fell to the Roman Army in 70 A.D., it literally became impossible to ever practice Judaism again (the tribal records were destroyed, the altar was gone, the temple was gone....)

-Some believe Peter meant that for every person the "Day of Judgment" was "imminent" (could occur at any time)

-The Max King (70 A.D.) people believe that this was a reference to the end of the world in 70 A.D., but that is not correct – we know that the world did not end in 70 A.D.

-Because the end is always near as we live our lives, how should Christians behave? Soberly and with sound judgment

### V8 – Why did Peter recommend love for fellow Christians? It will cover many sins

### V9 – Why show hospitality without complaining? It is easy to complain - "They had us over last, so I guess we have to have them over..."

### V10 – What are we to do with gifts? Use them in serving our fellow Christians

**V 11** – A powerful verse

- What must our preaching be like?** The utterances of God
- What does that mean?** Based on the Word of God
- This is the reason that "expository preaching" is best – the lesson is based on one passage, and the points of the passage become the points of the sermon
- This is better than topical lessons, where the emphasis is on human wisdom and not the wisdom of God
- Also, in our Bible classes, we should study straight from the Bible, starting with when children can understand reading straight from the Bible
- How are we to serve?** With all our strength
- God and Christ are to be glorified through all our actions

**1 Peter 4.12-19** – More on suffering as Christians

**V 12** – **Were they to be amazed that they were being persecuted?** No, that was the normal way of life for a Christian

**V 13** – Be glad to share in the sufferings of Christ

**V 14** – **Attitude toward persecution?** Rejoice if it is because of the name of Christ

- Notice the Trinity in v 14

**V 15** – **For what should we not be persecuted?** For common crimes (murder, stealing, disturbing the peace, etc.)

**V 16** – **What should be the cause of our suffering?** For being called Christians

-**What are the other two places where the name Christian is used?**

*Acts 11.26 – And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable number; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

*Acts 26.28 – And Agrippa replied to Paul, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.”*

-This was the new name prophesied about by Isaiah:

*Isaiah 56.5 – To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial, And a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which will not be cut off.*

*Isaiah 62.2 – And the nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will designate.*

*Isaiah 65.15 – And you will leave your name for a curse to My chosen ones, And the Lord GOD will slay you. But My servants will be called by another name.*

**V 17** – **Meaning?** If the church (the object of God’s love) falls on hard times (persecution), what will be the outcome for the evil world?

**V 18** – An amazing verse – from *Proverbs 11.31*

*Proverbs 11.31 – If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, How much more the wicked and the sinner!*

-Meaning: The righteous will barely make it to heaven - what will become of the wicked people?

**V 19** – We must entrust our souls to God, as we endure persecution

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# 1 Peter 5

## 1 Peter 5.1-5 – Advice to elders in the church

**V1 – What are those comments based on?** Peter was an elder himself - he had seen the sufferings of Christ, and he had the same hope that the other Christians had

-Were any other apostles elders? Yes – Apostle John – *2 John 1*

**V2 – Whose flock is it?** It belongs to Christ, not to the elders

-They are overseers someone else's flock

-What attitude are elders to have? Not to beat the church into submission

-Can elders scripturally be paid to serve in that capacity?

*1 Timothy 5.17-18 – Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,” and “the laborer is worthy of his wages.”*

-But elders are not to use this passage to take advantage of people financially

**V3 – Explain “not lording it over the flock”?** Not church dictators

-Elders can make decisions on matters of opinion, but there must be some Scriptural basis for all decisions

-Some have used v 3 to say that elders can lead only by example

-Are there any Scriptures that say elders are to lead more than just by example?

*Acts 20.28 – “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”*

-Read **Titus 1.10-11** – instructions to elders (to stop the mouths of the false teachers)

*Hebrews 13.17 – Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

-So what is Peter's point here in *1 Peter 5.3*? That elders are not to have a domineering, arrogant attitude - they are not to abuse their authority

**V4 – What is the reward for serving as an elder?** Crown of glory when the Chief Shepherd appears

-That is the only thing that makes all trials and tribulations of being an elder worthwhile!

**V5 –** Younger people are to subject to elders (maybe older members of the congregation in this verse)

-What is the solution to most congregation problems? An attitude of humility on the part of the people

## 1 Peter 5.6-11 – Humility and watchfulness

**V6 –**God knows more about this than we do, so we should submit ourselves to God

**V7 – How do we deal with the pressures of this life?** Cast our worries on God

-Other Scriptures on this subject?

*Matthew 6.34 – “Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

**V 8** – **What image of Satan does Peter give here?** Roaring lion seeking some one to devour  
-Illustration: Foxes are totally silent when we see them going down the street at night

**V 9** – **What should encourage us in suffering?** To know that our fellow Christians are also undergoing suffering  
-“In the world” – not of the world

**V 10** – In time, God will make all things right with us

**V 11** – Doxology, a verse of praise to God

**1 Peter 5.12-14** – Closing remarks

**V 12** – **Silvanus?** Silas (with Paul on the Second Missionary Journey)  
-It is possible that he wrote this letter as Peter dictated it to him

**V 13** – Guy N. Woods: possible reference to Peter’s wife  
*1 Corinthians 9.5 – Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles, and the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?*  
-**Was Mark a son of Peter?** No, but a child in the faith

**V 14** – The holy kiss – the custom of the day, like a handshake today

**Your favorite verse from 1 Peter/please read it out loud:**

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# **Review of 1 Peter**

**Locality of Peter?** 5.13 – Babylon

**Date of Book?** About 65 A.D.

## **Chapter 1**

**To whom was the letter addressed?** Asia Minor (Pontus, Cappadocia, Galatia, Bithynia

**Trinity found?** 1.2

**Kind of hope that we have?** Living hope - 1.3

**How were the New Testament Christians better off than the Old Testament prophets?** 1.10-11

**Scriptures indicate that life is short?** 1.17, 2.11 – sojourners and pilgrims

**Last times?** 1.20 – the Christian dispensation

**Translation Peter quoted from?** Septuagint

**Books missing from the Bible?** No – 1.24-25

## **Chapter 2**

**What was to be the attitude of New Testament Christians?** New born babes – 2.1

**Who was the chief cornerstone?** Jesus Christ – 2.4

**What does this make us?** Living stones – 2.5

**Description of Christians?** 2.9 – chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's own possession

**2.12 – Day of visitation?** Day when Christ returns for us

**Theme of 2.13-17?** Submission to government

**Which form of government?** All forms

**Why did Peter say that we should obey the government?** To silence our critics

**Advice to slaves?** 2.18-20

**How did Jesus Christ set the example for us in suffering?** 2.23

## **Chapter 3**

**Advice to wives with unbelieving husbands?** 1 Peter 3.1-6

**Behavior?**

**Appearance?**

**Nagging?**

**Advice to husbands?** Wife is weaker vessel, treat with kindness

**Advice to both?** Don't trade insults...

**How to live a long life?** 3.8-12 – control the tongue

**Must we always answer our critics?** 3.15

**How did Jesus Christ preach the gospel to people in the days of Noah?** Through Noah to spirits now in prison

**Ark parallel to?** Baptism

**What is baptism based on?** Resurrection of Jesus Christ



## **Chapter 4**

**What surprises people in the world?** We don't do what they do

**End of all this is at hand?** 4.7 = Jerusalem

**Advice on hospitality?** No complaints

**How must we preach?** Utterances of God

**V 12 – amazed at persecution?** No

**What are we not to suffer for?** 4.5 – murder, stealing, meddling

**How many times is the word *Christian* found in the Bible?** Three times – 4.16, Acts 11.26, Acts 26.28

**New name:** Isaiah 56.5, 62.2, 65.15

**If righteous shall scarcely be saved...?** 4.18

## **Chapter 5**

**Basis of Peter's advice?** He was an elder

**Whose flock is it?** Jesus Christ's flock

**Do elders have authority over the church?** Yes – Acts 20.28, Hebrews 13.17

**Attitude they should not have?** Lord it over the flock

**How to deal with anxiety?** Turn it over to God

**To what is Satan compared?** Roaring lion

**Letter dictated to \_\_\_\_\_?** Silvanus

**Description of John Mark?** Son in the faith

**Final greeting?** Holy kiss

## Was the Apostle Peter Ever in Rome?

(Note: This editorial originally appeared in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE of June 3, 1948. It is reprinted by request.)

The foregoing question is vital in the discussion of Catholicism. Just how important it is may be seen from a consideration of a few statements from recognized Catholic authorities.

### THE PAPAL CLAIM

"If anyone should deny that it is by the institution of Christ, the Lord, or by Divine Right, that blessed Peter should have a perpetual line of successors in the primacy over the Universal Church, or that the Roman Pontiff is the successor of blessed Peter in the primacy, let him be anathema!" (Decree of Vatican Council, 1870.)

"I acknowledge the Holy Catholic, Apostolic Roman Church, for the mother and mistress of all Churches; and I promise true obedience to the Bishop of Rome—successor to St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and Vicar of Jesus Christ. I do at this present freely profess, and sincerely hold, this true Catholic faith, without which no one can be saved. (Naturally, one would conclude from this that all non-Catholics will be lost, since without 'this true Catholic faith . . . no one can be saved.' B.C.G.) (Creed of Pope Pius IV, 1564.)

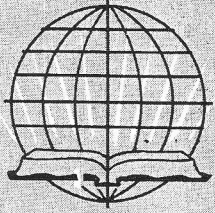
"After the death of St. Peter, the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, has always been taken as the visible head of Christ's Church, because St. Peter established his See at Rome and consecrated it with his blood." (*Fam. Ex. Cath. Doctrine*, page 3, 1888. Imprimatur: Cardinal Gibbons.)

"The pontificate of St. Peter lasted thirty-three years, of which twenty-five were passed in Rome." (Darras, *Church History*, Volume 1, page 42. Imprimatur: Pope Pius IX.)

These quotations show that Catholics claim that Peter was in Rome twenty-five years; that he was the first Bishop of Rome; and that he established a "perpetual line of successors." If Catholics could prove that Peter spent twenty-five years in Rome, that would not prove that he was Bishop of Rome, visible head of the church, and that he established a "perpetual line of successors." If they cannot prove that he was ever in Rome, all these claims fail. They are invalid and worthless. The burden of proof that Peter was ever in Rome rests on the Romish Church. What are the scriptural evidences that Peter was ever at any time in Rome? Simply none. The evidences of Scripture rather show that Peter was never in the Imperial City.

In the first place, Peter was the apostle to the circumcision—not to the uncircumcision, though he did preach to the household of Cornelius. Paul said: "But from those who were reputed to be somewhat (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth not man's person)—they, I say, who were of repute imparted nothing to me: but contrariwise, when they saw that I had been intrusted with the gospel of the uncircumcision, even as Peter with the gospel of the circumcision (for he that wrought for Peter unto the apostleship of the circumcision wrought for me also unto the Gentiles); and when they perceived the grace that was given unto me, James and Cephas [Peter] and John, they who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship, that we should go unto the Gentiles, and they unto the circumcision." (Gal. 2: 6-9.) A twenty-five year residence in Rome would hardly be agreeable to Peter's apostleship to the "circumcision," or Jews. It was Paul, and not Peter, who was the apostle to the Gentiles.

(Continued on page 522)



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Again, the Book of Acts describes the labors of Peter as in Palestine and Jerusalem, rather than in Italy and Rome. This argument is well presented by Gallagher in these words:

"The Scripture informs us that Jerusalem was the residence of Peter. It is said (Acts 8: 1) that 'at that time' (the stoning of Stephen, A.D. 34), 'there was a great persecution of the church which was at Jerusalem. And they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria except the apostles.' In chapter 8: 14 we read of Peter and John being sent to Samaria. Here Peter met Simon Magus. In chapter 9 Peter's visitation at Lydda and Joppa is narrated. In chapter 10, at Cesarea, he preaches to the household of Cornelius. He returned to Jerusalem, and was present at the council, A.D. 52. It is obvious that he could not have gone very far from Jerusalem on journeys, or that, if he had gone to the Imperial Capital, no mention could have been made of it.

Peter was, therefore, not at Rome when the council sat in Jerusalem, A.D. 52. In Gal. 1: 8 we read that Paul went to Jerusalem to see Peter, three years after his conversion, A.D. 38, and found him there. Fourteen years after (Gal. 2: 1), he goes again to Jerusalem, and there meets Peter. If, according to Pope Pius IX, and the Roman Church, Peter was then in Rome, why did not Paul seek him there? According to their statement, he would have been there six to eight years. This, we have seen, the Scriptures plainly contradict.

On Peter's alleged journey to Rome after his escape from Herod (Acts 7: 17), J. Addison Alexander remarks: "That Peter went to Rome is a "conjecture" in order to sustain the tradition that Peter was for many years the bishop of the church there, a tradition inconsistent with the absolute silence of Paul respecting him, in writing to and from Rome."

Further, if Peter spent twenty-five years in Rome as bishop of Rome and visible head of the church, it is strange that Paul in one epistle written to Rome and six written from Rome never made any mention of Peter's residence in the capital city of the empire. Edgar, in his "Variations of Popery," page 44, with cutting wit and sarcasm, remarks:

"A single hint is not afforded by Peter himself nor by his inspired companions—Luke, James, Jude, Paul, and John. Pope Peter, in his epistolary productions, mentions nothing of his Roman residency, episcopacy, or supremacy. Paul wrote a letter to the Romans, and from the Roman city addressed the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Timothy, and Philemon. He sent salutations to various Roman friends, such as Priscilla, Aquila, Epenetus, Mary, Andronicus, Junia, and Amplias; but forgets Simon, the supposed Roman hierarch. Writing from Rome to the Colossians, he mentions Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Marcus, Justus, Epaphras, Luke, and Demas, who had afforded him consolation; but, strange to tell,

neglects the sovereign pontiff! Addressing Timothy from the Roman city, Paul of Tarsus remembers Eubulus, Pudens, Linus, and Claudia, but overlooks the Roman bishop! No man, except Luke, stood with Paul at his first answer, or at the nearer approach of dissolution. Luke also is silent on this theme. John, who published his Gospel after the other evangelists, and his Revelation at the close of the first century, maintains, on this agitated subject, a provoking silence."

Finally, when Paul was approaching the Imperial City, certain brethren came out to meet him at The Market of Appius and The Three Taverns; but nothing is said of Peter as being among these brethren. Three days after Paul reached Rome he called together those who were chief of the Jews—evidently unbelieving Jews—to present to them his case and the reason for his being in Rome. The Jews told him that they had no letters from Judea concerning him. They further expressed a desire to hear Paul preach. All this sounds strange, if Peter had been bishop in Rome for years. "And he [Paul] abode two whole years in his own hired dwelling." (Acts 28: 30.) And in his later imprisonment "no one took his part," but "all forsook" him. (2 Tim. 4: 16.) If Peter spent twenty-five years in Rome as bishop and visible head of the church, he was there while Paul was a prisoner in the Imperial City; yet he allowed him to dwell for two years in his own (Paul's) hired house and "forsook" him at his first trial. Rather indifferent and coldblooded treatment for a brother in Christ, to say nothing of an apostle who, according to the Romish claim, was bishop of Rome and "visible head of the church."

# When Did Peter Go to Rome?

O. J. Russell

James Cardinal Gibbons in his widely circulated work, *The Faith of Our Fathers*, makes the following statement: "St. Peter is called the first Bishop of Rome because he transferred his See from Antioch to Rome, where he suffered martyrdom with St. Paul. We are not surprised that modern skepticism, which rejects the Divinity of Christ and denies even the existence of God, should call in question the facts that St. Peter lived and died in Rome." (Page 87.)

Those conversant with the work quoted above, in view of the psychological approach and subtle "brain washing" methods employed throughout the book, are not surprised when the author by shrewd and sophisticated maneuvering of words classifies those denying Peter's residence in Rome with infidels and atheists!

The noted Catholic author further urges that "the reason commonly alleged for disputing this well-attested event is that Acts of Apostles makes no mention of Peter's labors and martyrdom in Rome. . . ." (Page 87.) This does not fully state the objection as Gibbons would have his readers believe. *The New Testament is not only silent about Peter's labors and martyrdom in Rome, but speaks rather loudly in locating Simon Peter outside of Rome from A.D. 42 to A.D. 67 when he allegedly served as Bishop of Rome.*

## What the New Testament Teaches

1. In A.D. 40 Peter was in Jerusalem. After Paul's conversion in A.D. 37 he went to Arabia. Paul, in addressing the Galatians, said "Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and abode with him fifteen days." (Galatians 1:13.)
2. Near this time Peter journeyed through western Judea, to Lydda, to Joppa, to Caesarea and back to Jerusalem. (Acts 9, 10, 11.) After his imprisonment under Herod Agrippa I, and his miraculous deliverance, Peter came to Caesarea and "there abode." (Acts 12:19.) Not long after this, Herod Agrippa died. (Acts 12:20-30.) Since Josephus places the event of his death in the fourth year of the reign of Claudius, *this would mean that Peter was still in Palestine in A.D. 45.*
3. Fourteen years after his first visit with Peter in Jerusalem (A.D. 40), Paul returned to see him again. (Galatians 2:1.) *The second visit took place in A.D. 54 and Peter is not yet in Rome.* Not long after this Peter is rebuked by Paul during Peter's visit in Antioch. (Galatians 2:11-14.)
4. After the Antioch visit, Peter spent no little time laboring in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. It is believed that the time involved would extend his work to be at least 60 A.D. Peter and his wife at this late date would still be traveling and working in the East and not in Rome. (1 Peter 1:1-28; 1 Corinthians 9:5).

5. In the Roman letter, written about A.D. 58, Paul salutes twenty-seven persons but does not mention Simon Peter, who according to Roman Catholic theologians, was "governing" the church in Rome. *Strange oversight indeed if Peter were in Rome!*

During Paul's first Roman imprisonment (A.D. 60 to A.D. 64), he, by inspiration, wrote four letters: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. *Although he mentioned many of his fellow-workers in these epistles, he never mentioned Peter who was, according to Roman Catholic claims, the "Sovereign Pontiff."*

Paul wrote his final letter to Timothy during his second Roman imprisonment in about A.D. 67. There is no reference to Peter, but there is this striking statement: *"Only Luke is with me."* (2 Timothy 4:11.)

## Conclusion

Roman Catholic theology affirms that Christ conferred on Peter the "first place of honor and jurisdiction in the government of his whole church" and that "the same spiritual supremacy has always resided in the Popes or Bishops of Rome, as being successors of St. Peter." (Gibbons, p. 78.)

Gibbons further avers that "to be true followers of Christ all Christians . . . must be in communion with the See of Rome, where Peter rules in the person of his successor." (*Ibid.*, p. 78.)

If Peter were not in Rome during the time Catholics project, aside from other false claims made for the primacy of Peter, the vast ecclesiastical system of Roman Catholicism falls.

The New Testament clearly denies the fiction that Peter was Bishop of Rome from A.D. 42 to A.D. 67. If Peter was in Rome during these years, no one can ever rely on the New Testament for any proof!

The New Testament takes Peter out of Rome, turns Catholicism against itself and demonstrates the folly of the traditions of men.—1211 North Granbury Street, Cleburne, Texas 76031. ■