NEW TESTAMENT · GENERAL EPISTLES · BOOK 60 OF 66

1 Peter

Begotten again unto a lively hope (1:3)

5	c. A.D. 62–64	5	“Lively Hope”
Chapters, 105 Verses	Written	Provinces (1:1)	(1:3)

BACKGROUND

A Letter of Hope

NAME

1 Peter

Named for “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1). Petros, like Cephas, means “a stone” (John 1:42).

AUTHOR

Peter, by Silvanus

The apostle, “a witness of the sufferings of Christ” (5:1), writing “by Silvanus” (5:12), with Marcus (5:13).

DATE

c. A.D. 62–64

Before or at the start of Nero’s persecution; Peter died in Rome about A.D. 64–68.

PLACE

“Babylon”

“Babylon” (5:13) is a name for Rome, as in Revelation 17–18.

THE READERS

Five Roman Provinces

1 1:1

Pontus

On the Black Sea

2 1:1

Galatia

Central Asia Minor

3 1:1

Cappadocia

The eastern uplands

4 1:1

Asia

Ephesus and the west coast

5 1:1

Bithynia

The north-west

The five provinces covered most of what is now Turkey. The order may follow the route of the one who carried the letter.

TIMELINE

Peter’s Life and Letters

c. 28
Called by Jesus

c. 33
Pentecost (Acts 2)

c. 44
Freed from prison (Acts 12)

c. 49
Jerusalem council (Acts 15)

c. 62–64
1 Peter written

c. 64–68
Peter dies in Rome

Dates are approximate (A.D.).

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

I | II | III | IV

Each bar shows that part’s share of the 105 verses.

I 1:1–2:10 · 35 verses

A Living Hope and a Holy Life

New birth, holiness, and a chosen people.

II 2:11–3:12 · 27 verses

Strangers and Pilgrims in the World

Good conduct, submission, and Christ’s example.

III 3:13–4:19 · 29 verses

Suffering for Doing Good

Christ’s suffering and victory, and the fiery trial.

IV 5:1–14 · 14 verses

Shepherding, Humility and Standing Firm

Elders, humility, the adversary, and greetings.

Who We Are

- Begotten again (1:3)
- Redeemed by His blood (1:19)
- A royal priesthood (2:9)

How We Live

- Holy in all conduct (1:15)
- Doing good when wronged (2:20)
- Humble and watchful (5:6–8)

1 PETER AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 4

A Living Hope and a Holy Life

CHAPTER 1

A Lively Hope

> *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*
>
> 1 Peter 1:3 (KJV)

1:4
An Inheritance
"Incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

1:7
Faith Tried
"Much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire."

1:16
Be Holy
"Be ye holy; for I am holy."

1:19
Redeemed
"With the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

"The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever" (1:24–25).

CHAPTER 2

Living Stones

1 **2:2**
Grow
The sincere milk of the word

2 **2:4**
The Living Stone
Chosen of God, precious

3 **2:5**
Lively Stones
A spiritual house

4 **2:6**
Chief Corner Stone
Laid in Sion

5 **2:9**
A People
For God's own praise

> *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light."*
>
> 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

Pilgrims Who Suffer for Good

CHAPTERS 2–3

Strangers and Pilgrims

2:11

Pilgrims

“Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.”

2:17

Honour

“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

3:4

Wives

“The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.”

3:7

Husbands

“As being heirs together of the grace of life.”

> *“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”*
>
> 1 Peter 2:24 (KJV)

CHAPTERS 3–4

Suffering for Doing Good

3:15

Be Ready

Give a reason of the hope that is in you

3:18

Christ Suffered

“The just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God”

4:7

Watch

“The end of all things is at hand”

4:8

Love

“Charity shall cover the multitude of sins”

4:12

The Fiery Trial

“Think it not strange”

4:16

As a Christian

“Let him not be ashamed”

Readers understand Christ’s preaching “unto the spirits in prison” (3:19) in several ways; the page names the passage without choosing.

1 PETER AT A GLANCE · PART 4 OF 4

Shepherds, Humility and Standing Firm

CHAPTER 5

Shepherds and Sheep

5:2

Feed the Flock

“Not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.”

5:4

The Chief Shepherd

“Ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

5:5

Humility

“God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

> *“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”*
> 1 Peter 5:7 (KJV)

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (5:8).

“The God of all grace … make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (5:10). Greetings come from Babylon and Marcus (5:13).

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Living Hope
Through the resurrection.
1:3–5

Holiness
Be ye holy.
1:15–16

God’s People
A royal priesthood.
2:9–10

Suffering
Then glory.
4:12–13; 5:10

Christ’s Example
Follow His steps.
2:21–24

Humble Trust
Cast your care on Him.
5:6–7

KEY VERSE

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

1 Peter 1:3 (KJV)