

Hope In The Midst Of Suffering

Expository Studies in 1 Peter

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Introduction to 1 Peter

Author: This letter makes a direct claim to have been written by the apostle Peter (1:1) with the help of Silvanus (5:12). Peter, the brother of Andrew and son of Jonah (Matt. 16:17), was a fisherman from Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee. The name Peter (meaning “rock”) was given to him by Jesus (Mark 3:16; John 1:42). Generally it is believed that Peter held leadership in the circle of the twelve. He is always listed first in the lists of disciples in the New Testament (Matt. 10:2; Mark 3:16; Luke 6:14-16).

Silvanus is almost certainly the same Silvanus (Silas) who served with Paul on the second missionary journey (Acts 15:40). The phrase “Silvanus” (5:12) may indicate that he did not simply write down Peter’s words, but put in his own words what Peter expressed to him. Peter then was the author of the letter, but Silvanus was the penman or secretary (amanuensis).

Recipients: Peter wrote for Christians in a wide area in the five Roman provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia (1:1). The recipients are referred to as “Pilgrims” or “Sojourners,” a term normally reserved for Jews who from the time of the fall of Jerusalem (to the Babylonians in 586 BC) were scattered into many countries. It appears that many of the initial readers of this letter were not Jews, and the term could be applied to the “new people of God” (2:4-10) who were scattered from their permanent heavenly home (see Phil. 3:20).

Date: AD 63-64 would be the approximate date for the writing of this epistle. It was a time of suffering for many believers, and it is just prior to the intensive persecution by the Roman emperor Nero (AD 64-68) under whose hand, according to ancient traditions, Peter eventually suffered martyrdom (cf. John 21:18-19).

Place of Writing: In 5:13 Peter seems to indicate “Babylon” as his location when he wrote this epistle. Four main interpretations have been set forth as to his meaning: 1) Mesopotamian Babylon; 2) Egyptian Babylon; 3) Jerusalem; and 4) Rome. Views one and four have been the more popular, with Rome being the traditional view. If this is correct, “Babylon” is being used symbolically for Rome as is the case in Rev. 17:9-10. However, the possibility of Mesopotamian or historic Babylon being correct should not be prematurely dismissed. Babylon did exist as a small town on the Euphrates River in Peter’s day. Also, it is not certain “Babylon” was used symbolically for Rome until late in the first century when Revelation was probably written. One could interpret the reference in 5:13 literally, though church tradition would seem to favor the identification as Rome.

Theme: First Peter, while addressing many issues, focuses on the theme of “hope (and eventual “glory”) in the midst of suffering.” While unbelievers cannot accept or understand this paradox, believers, because they have received a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, can face fiery trials (4:12). Christ provides both the model and inspiration for responding to each suffering (2:21-24).

Survey of 1 Peter

Major message: Stand firm in the true grace of God! (5:12)

Goal: To give hope and encouragement to all who hurt.

Date: About AD 63.

Recipients: Christians who were scattered, persecuted, and maligned.

	Our Living Hope	Our Strange Life	Our Fiery Ordeal	
Introduction	<i>"May grace and peace be yours..."</i> (1:2)	<i>"Beloved, I urge you..."</i> (2:11)	<i>"Beloved, do not be surprised ..."</i> (4:12)	Conclusion
	as we claim our hope. (1:3-12)	abstain! (2:11-12)	Don't be surprised. (4:12)	
	as we walk in holiness. (1:13-25)	submit! (2:13-3:7)	Keep on rejoicing. (4:13)	
	as we grow in Christ. (2:1-10)	be humble! (3:8-22)	Entrust your soul. (4:19)	
		arm yourselves! (4:1-6)	Cast your anxiety. (5:7)	
		glorify God! (4:7-11)		
1:1	1:2 – 2:10	2:11 – 4:11	4:12 – 5:13	5:14
Emphasis	Informing	Exhorting	Comforting	
	... to go on	... to stand firm	... to rejoice	
	Hope	<i>A living hope</i> through Christ's resurrection (1:3)	<i>A calm hope</i> through personal submission (3:6)	<i>A firm hope</i> through faith (4:19)

Here is one way to outline 1 Peter:

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| I. | <u>God's grace and salvation.</u> | 1:1 – 2:10 |
| | A. Live in hope. | 1:1 – 12 |
| | B. Live in holiness. | 1:13 – 21 |
| | C. Live in harmony. | 1:22 – 2:10 |
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| II. | <u>God's grace and submission.</u> | 2:11 – 3:12 |
| | A. Submit to authorities. | 2:11-17 |
| | B. Submit to masters. | 2:18-25 |
| | C. Submit in the home. | 3:1-7 |
| | D. Submit in the church. | 3:8-12 |
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| III. | <u>God's grace and suffering.</u> | 3:13 – 5:11 |
| | A. Make Jesus Christ Lord. | 3:13-22 |
| | B. Have Christ's attitude. | 4:1-11 |
| | C. Glorify Christ's name. | 4:12-19 |
| | D. Look for Christ's return. | 5:1-6 |
| | E. Depend on Christ's grace. | 5:7-11 |

Be Hopeful

Warren W. Wiersbe

Wonderful Truths About Salvation
1 Peter 1:1-12

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| I. | <u>Salvation was planned.</u> | 1:1-2 |
| | 1. We are elected by the Father. | 1:1-2 |
| | 2. We are sanctified by the Spirit. | 1:2 |
| | 3. We are redeemed by the Son. | 1:2 |
| II. | <u>Salvation is permanent.</u> | 1:3-5 |
| | 1. We are protected by the person of God. | 1:3 |
| | 2. We are protected in the place of God. | 1:4 |
| | 3. We are protected by the power of God. | 1:5 |
| III. | <u>Salvation is precious.</u> | 1:6-9 |
| | 1. It enables us to <u>live</u> for Jesus. | 1:6-7 |
| | 2. It enables us to <u>love</u> Jesus. | 1:8-9 |
| IV. | <u>Salvation was promised.</u> | 1:10-12 |
| | 1. The Scriptures prophesied the saints' salvation. | 1:10 |
| | 2. The Scriptures predicted the Savior's suffering. | 1:11 |
| | 3. The Scriptures proclaim the Spirit's service. | 1:11-12 |

The Vanity of “Happy Meal” Christianity
1 Peter 1:13-21

True happiness is found in:

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| I. | <u>The “Hope” of His Coming.</u> | 1:13-14 |
| | 1. We are motivated to discipline our lives. | 1:13 |
| | 2. We are motivated to deny former lusts. | 1:14 |
| II. | <u>The “Holiness” of His Conduct.</u> | 1:15-16 |
| | 1. Holiness is the essence of God’s character. | 1:15 |
| | 2. Holiness is the expectation for God’s children. | 1:16 |
| III. | <u>The “Humility” of His Character.</u> | 1:17-21 |
| | 1. He is an impartial Father. | 1:17 |
| | 2. He is an incorruptible Redeemer. | 1:18-19 |
| | 3. He is an indestructible Savior. | 1:20-21 |

How Can I Love Other People?
1 Peter 1:22-25

You can love others when:

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| I. <u>The Spirit cleanses your heart.</u> | 1:22 |
| 1. It purifies the soul. | |
| 2. It purifies the heart. | |
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| II. <u>The Scriptures change your nature.</u> | 1:23-25 |
| 1. The Word of God is powerful. | 1:23 |
| 2. The Word of God is eternal. | 1:24-25 |
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| III. <u>The sermon challenges your mind.</u> | 1:25 |
| 1. The Word must be precise. | |
| 2. The Word must be preached. | |

How Can I Please God?
1 Peter 2:1-10

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| I. | <u>As God's child I must desire the Scriptures.</u> | 2:1-3 |
| | 1. We put away every evil work. | 2:1 |
| | 2. We pursue the energizing Word. | 2:2-3 |
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| II. | <u>As God's house I must dedicate my service.</u> | 2:4-8 |
| | 1. Those who receive Jesus Christ serve Him. | 2:4-7 |
| | 2. Those who reject Jesus Christ stumble over Him. | 2:7-8 |
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| III. | <u>As God's people I must proclaim His salvation.</u> | 2:9-10 |
| | 1. We are a chosen generation. | 2:9 |
| | 2. We are a royal priesthood. | 2:9 |
| | 3. We are a holy nation. | 2:9 |
| | 4. We are a special people. | 2:9-10 |
| | a. We proclaim His majesty. | 2:9 |
| | b. We partake of His mercy. | 2:10 |

How to Make a Difference With Your Life

1 Peter 2:11-12

- I. Know who you are. 2:11**
1. You are a visitor in this world.
 2. You are a traveler through this world.
- II. Know how to live. 2:11-12**
1. Resist carnal appetites. 2:11
 2. Expect critical attacks. 2:12
- III. Know who will come. 2:12**
1. Exalt Him until He comes.
 2. Expect Him to come.

Submission Is Not A Dirty Word
1 Peter 2:13-25

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| I. | <u>It silences the foolish.</u> | 2:13-17 |
| | 1. Submit in action. | 2:13-16 |
| | 2. Submit in attitude. | 2:17 |
| II. | <u>It pleases God.</u> | 2:18-20 |
| | 1. Do good to those who do you good. | 2:18 |
| | 2. Do good to those who bring you grief. | 2:18-20 |
| III. | <u>It exemplifies the Savior.</u> | 2:21-25 |
| | 1. Christ is our sufferer. | 2:21-23 |
| | 2. Christ is our substitute. | 2:24 |
| | 3. Christ is our shepherd. | 2:25 |

How to Win a Lost Spouse to Jesus
1 Peter 3:1-7

- I. You win your spouse by your conduct. 3:1-2**
1. They are not won by what they hear. 3:1
 2. They are won by what they see. 3:2
- II. You win your spouse by your character. 3:3-6**
1. A godly personality is essential. 3:3-4
 2. A godly example will encourage. 3:5-6
- III. You win your spouse by your concern. 3:7**
1. You must know them personally.
 2. You must know them physically.
 3. You must know them spiritually.

How to Be a Blessings to Others
1 Peter 3:8-12

- I. Redefine how you think.** **3:8**
1. Think harmoniously.
 2. Think compassionately.
 3. Think lovingly.
 4. Think graciously.
 5. Think courteously.
- II. Reward when you respond.** **3:9**
1. Giving a blessing is your decision.
 2. Receiving a blessing is your motivation.
- III. Restrain how you talk.** **3:10**
1. It contributes to an enjoyable life.
 2. It controls evil lips.
- IV. Regulate how to act.** **3:11**
1. Do good.
 2. Pursue peace.
- V. Remember who is watching.** **3:12**
1. God has eyes that see.
 2. God has ears that hear.

The Ever-Ready Christian
1 Peter 3:13-17

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| I. <u>We must be ready for action.</u> | 3:13-14 |
| 1. Seek what is good. | 3:13 |
| 2. Suffer for what is right. | 3:14 |
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| II. <u>We must be ready with an answer.</u> | 3:15 |
| 1. We must know <u>what</u> we believe. | |
| 2. We must know <u>why</u> we believe. | |
| a. Be ready to defend the faith. | |
| b. Have a reasons(s) for defending the faith. | |
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| III. <u>We must be ready in attitude.</u> | 3:15-17 |
| 1. Develop godly character. | 3:15 |
| 2. Develop a good conscience. | 3:16 |
| 3. Develop a good conduct. | 3:16 |
| 4. Develop a godly confidence. | 3:17 |

Why Would Jesus Die For Me?

1 Peter 3:18 – 4:6

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| I. <u>Jesus died that I might come to God.</u> | 3:18-22 |
| 1. Jesus Christ was punished for sinners. | 3:18 |
| 2. Jesus Christ preached to sinners. | 3:19-20 |
| 3. Jesus Christ provides for sinners. | 3:21 |
| 4. Jesus Christ pleads for sinners. | 3:22 |
| 5. Jesus Christ presides over sinners. | 3:22 |
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II. <u>Jesus died that I might cease from sin.</u> |
4:1-3 |
| 1. I can think differently. | 4:1 |
| 2. I can live differently. | 4:2-3 |
| a. I have a new Master in life. | 4:2 |
| b. I have a new manner of life. | 4:3 |
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III. <u>Jesus died that I might confound the world.</u> |
4:4-6 |
| 1. The lost do not understand the Christian's actions. | 4:4 |
| 2. The lost are not prepared to give an account. | 4:5-6 |

How Can I Give Glory to God?

1 Peter 4:7-11

I can glorify (honor) my God by:

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| I. <u>Praying guardedly as God has told me.</u> | 4:7 |
| 1. I should pray expectantly. | |
| 2. I should pray earnestly. | |
| 3. I should pray eagerly. | |
| II. <u>Doing good like God has shown me.</u> | 4:8-9 |
| 1. I am to love others fervently. | 4:8 |
| 2. I am to help others joyfully. | 4:9 |
| III. <u>Using gifts which God has given me.</u> | 4:10-11 |
| 1. God gives speaking gifts. | 4:10-11 |
| 2. God gives serving gifts. | 4:11 |

How To Smile When You Suffer For Jesus
1 Peter 4:12-19

When I suffer for Jesus:

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| I. | <u>I am reminded of God's promise.</u> | 4:12-13 |
| | 1. God said I can expect suffering. | 4:12 |
| | 2. God said I can enjoy suffering. | 4:13 |
| II. | <u>I am reminded of God's pleasure.</u> | 4:14 |
| | 1. I <u>get</u> His glory. | |
| | 2. I <u>give</u> Him glory. | |
| III. | <u>I am reminded of God's parameters.</u> | 4:15-16 |
| | 1. I do not honor God when I suffer because of sin. | 4:15 |
| | 2. I honor God when I suffer for my Savior. | 4:16 |
| IV. | <u>I am reminded of God's purging.</u> | 4:17-18 |
| | 1. God rightly judges the saints first. | |
| | 2. God ultimately judges sinners last. | |
| V. | <u>I am reminded of God's plan.</u> | 4:19 |
| | 1. God is in control: it is His will. | |
| | 2. God is the Creator: He is working. | |

Shepherding The Savior's Sheep
I Peter 5:1-4

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| I. | <u>There is encouragement for the servant of God.</u> | 5:1 |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It comes from our partners in service. 2. It comes from our perception of the Savior. 3. It comes from our participation in salvation. | |
| II. | <u>There are expectations for the servant of God.</u> | 5:2-3 |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He is to shepherd God's people. 5:2 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The flock is God's possession. b. The flock is under our protection. 2. He is to serve (supervise) God's people. 5:2-3 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. He is to serve willingly. 5:2 b. He is to serve eagerly. 5:2 c. He is to serve humbly. 5:3 | |
| III. | <u>There will be an exaltation of the servant of God.</u> | 5:4 |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It comes from the chief Shepherd. 2. It consists of a crown of splendor. | |

How to Deal With the Devil

1 Peter 5:5-14

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| I. | <u>Be submissive under the power of God.</u> | 5:5-7 |
| | 1. Be submissive to the right people. | 5:5 |
| | 2. Be submissive because of divine purposes. | 5:5-7 |
| | a. He blesses the humble. | 5:5 |
| | b. He exalts the humble. | 5:6 |
| | c. He cares for the humble. | 5:7 |
| II. | <u>Be steadfast through the principles of God.</u> | 5:8-9 |
| | 1. Recall the basics. | 5:8 |
| | 2. Resist the devil. | 5:9 |
| | 3. Remember the saints. | 5:9 |
| III. | <u>Be secure in the providence of God.</u> | 5:10-11 |
| | 1. Rest in His provision. | 5:10 |
| | 2. Realize His purpose. | 5:10 |
| | 3. Rejoice in His power. | 5:11 |
| IV. | <u>Be strengthened by the peace of God.</u> | 5:12-14 |
| | 1. Enjoy God's grace. | 5:12 |
| | 2. Express family greetings. | 5:13-14 |
| | 3. Experience Christ's goodness. | 5:14 |