

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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I PETER

STUDY GUIDE



I PETER

SCRIPTURE READING:

I Peter

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. It appears that this letter was dictated by Peter, the renowned disciple of Jesus, to Silvanus (Silas), who actually wrote it.
- B. It is believed to have been written at the time Nero and the provinces of Asia were persecuting Christians. The phrase “strangers scattered or dispersed ” in I Peter 1:1 seems to support this belief.
- C. I Peter 5:13 suggests that this letter was written from Babylon.
- D. The five geographical locations mentioned by Peter were five provinces of Rome.
 - 1. Pontus was a Roman province in northern Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).
 - 2. Galatia was a Roman province in the central region of Asia Minor.
 - 3. Cappadocia was a large Roman province in eastern Asia Minor.
 - 4. Asia was a Roman province in western Asia Minor.
 - 5. Bithynia was a coastal Roman province in northwestern Asia Minor.

II. CHAPTER ONE

- A. Peter identifies himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ. (I Peter 1:1)
- B. His letter is directed to the strangers (foreign residents) who have been scattered (dispersed) into five different Roman provinces.

1. The “strangers” are believed to be Jews who have been dispersed in these various provinces, possibly because of the persecution.
 2. Some believe that the “strangers” may have been those who had heard Peter preach in Jerusalem after he was filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. (I Peter 1:1; Acts 2:5-11)
 3. Considering the time and Peter’s reference to persecution, it appears that the first explanation is the most probable.
- C. Through the foreknowledge of God, those to whom Peter was writing were selected by God. They were set apart by the Spirit, Who leads one to obedience and grants one revelation of the cleansing blood of Jesus. (I Peter 1:2)
- D. Peter desires that they experience grace and increasing peace. (I Peter 1:2)
- E. Peter calls God, Who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, adorable because we are born again with a living hope. The abundant compassion of God has been granted to the believers through the resurrection of Jesus. (I Peter 1:3)
- F. The believers have been given an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled, and perpetual. It is reserved for us in heaven. (I Peter 1:4)
- G. Through faith, believers are protected by the power of God. We are prepared for the salvation that will be revealed in the last time. (I Peter 1:5)
- H. Because these believers knew what was awaiting them, they could greatly rejoice, even though at the present they were experiencing tribulation as a result of various adversities. (I Peter 1:6)
- I. These adversities were testing their faith, which is more precious than gold purified by fire. The gold will perish, but genuine faith will result in praise, honor, and glory when Jesus Christ appears. (I Peter 1:7)
- J. Although these believers had never seen Jesus, they still loved Him. (I Peter 1:8)

- K. Because these believers believed in Jesus, they rejoiced with unspeakable, glorious joy. (I Peter 1:8)
- L. The fruition of their faith would be the salvation of their souls. (I Peter 1:9)
- M. The prophets who had prophesied of this grace inquired of and carefully searched for the salvation which was to come. (I Peter 1:10)
- N. These prophets were searching for the time or the manner of time that the Spirit in them was indicating when He spoke of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that would follow. (I Peter 1:11)
- O. Although the prophecies concerning the Messiah were given to the prophets, they were not revealed to them; these prophecies were revealed to those who were ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Like the prophets, angels desired to see what those ministering the gospel had seen. (I Peter 1:12)
- P. Because of the revelation that had been granted unto them, Peter tells these believers to prepare their minds for service and to exercise self-control. He tells them not to waver in their hope that will come into fruition when Jesus Christ is revealed. (I Peter 1:13)
- Q. As obedient children, these believers are exhorted not to conform to the former lusts in which they had previously been involved as a result of their ignorance. (I Peter 1:14)
- R. Peter exhorts these believers to be pure and blameless in all their behavior, just as the One Who called them is pure and blameless. (I Peter 1:15)
- S. Peter declares the reason they should be pure and blameless is that Leviticus 11:44 instructs God's people to be consecrated. (I Peter 1:16)
- T. Father God, upon Whom we call, judges without partiality, and He judges according to each individual's deeds; therefore, we should live our lives in this foreign residence in fear. (I Peter 1:17)

- U. Peter reminds his readers that they were not redeemed with corruptible things, such as silver and gold; however, they had been redeemed from their profitless behavior that had been passed on to them through the traditions of their ancestors. (I Peter 1:18)
- V. The redemption of humanity was paid for by the precious (valuable) blood of Jesus, Who was as a lamb without blemish. (I Peter 1:19)
- W. In the beginning, before the world was conceived, God knew that Jesus would be the Redeemer of humanity. In these final times, He has revealed Jesus as the Redeemer for those who, through Him, believe in God, Who raised Him from the dead and honored Him, so that our faith and hope would be in God. (I Peter 1:20-21)
- X. We learn from this verse that the soul is cleansed (purified) by obeying the truth through the spirit, to the point of sincere fraternal affection. The admonition is given to love one another purposely with a pure heart. (I Peter 1:22)
- Y. The believers are born again, not by corruptible seed, but by incorruptible seed, through the Word of God that lives and abides forever. (I Peter 1:23)
- Z. We are reminded that all flesh is like a garden which withers away, and the glory of flesh is like the blossoms of the garden that fall away, but the Word of the Lord endures forever. (I Peter 1:24-25)
- AA. The everlasting Word of the Lord is proclaimed through the gospel. (I Peter 1:25)

III. CHAPTER TWO

- A. Because the Word of God is everlasting, we should put away all ill will (hatred), misleading methods, deceptions, jealousy, and all slander, and as newborn babes, we should desire the sincere (unadulterated--pure) milk of the Word, so we can grow in salvation. (I Peter 2:1-2)
- B. This admonition is to be followed if the reader has, through experience, found the Lord to be of good use (beneficial in his life). (I Peter 2:3; Psalm 34:8)

- C. We come to Jesus, recognizing Him as a living stone Who was rejected by the builders, but chosen by God as valuable. (I Peter 2:4)
- D. The believers are also like living stones that are being used to build a spiritual dwelling. The believers are being built into a priestly fraternity that is undefiled and lifts up to God acceptable sacrifices through Jesus. (I Peter 2:5)
- E. Referring to Jesus as the chief cornerstone Who is chosen and valuable, Peter quotes from Isaiah 28:16. Anyone who believes on Jesus will not be embarrassed. (I Peter 2:6)
- F. To those who believe, Jesus is valuable, but to the unbelieving, He is the stone rejected by the builders, Who has become the chief cornerstone, a stone to trip and a rock to snare. (I Peter 2:7-8)
- G. By not believing the Word, these unbelievers set themselves in a place to stumble. (I Peter 2:8)
- H. The believers are a chosen generation, a kingly, priestly fraternity, a sacred race, a preserved people that their excellence might be brought to public attention. We have been called from darkness into His wonderful light. (I Peter 2:9)
- I. At one time, believers did not even exist as people, but now we are God's people. Prior to the redemptive work of Jesus, we had not obtained mercy, but now we have mercy. (I Peter 2:10)
- J. Peter exhorts his readers as foreign residents and commands them to refrain from fleshly lusts that battle against the soul. (I Peter 2:11; Philippians 3:20)
- K. The behavior of the believer should be good, so that those who are not believers cannot slander or portray him as one who does wrong. By the good deeds that they see, they will give glory to God at the day of examination. (I Peter 2:12)
- L. These believers are instructed to submit to everyone created by the Lord, including the king and those who are sent by him to recompense the criminals or to commend those who do well. (I Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:1-7)
- M. Submitting to these authorities is the will of God; it will put to silence the foolishness of ignorant people. (I Peter 2:15)

- N. We are to submit to them as citizens, not slaves; however, we must not to use our freedom as an excuse to do evil or to cause trouble. Although we are not the slaves of men, we are God's slaves. (I Peter 2:16)
- O. We should respect everyone, love the fellow believers, revere God, and appreciate the king. (I Peter 2:17)
- P. Servants should submit to their masters, not only to the good and kind, but also to those who are perverse and display a bad disposition. (I Peter 2:18)
- Q. Submitting to this type person is a gracious act. It is through a godly conscience that one is able to go through hardships and unjustly experience sorrows. (I Peter 2:19)
- R. What honor is it to submit to punishment and to be beaten for your sins? If you submit to suffering painful experiences because you did well, it is gratifying to God. (I Peter 2:20)
- S. We have been called to suffer for Christ. He suffered for us, thereby leaving an example for those who believe Him. We are to follow in His steps. (I Peter 2:21)
- T. Jesus did not sin; neither did He speak with deceit. (I Peter 2:22)
- U. When He was accused and disgraced, He did not retaliate. When He went through His painful experiences, He did not threaten anyone. He stayed submitted to the Righteous Judge (God). (I Peter 2:23)
- V. Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the cross so that we could die to sin and live unto righteousness. Through the marks placed on His body, we are healed. (I Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-5)
- W. We were like sheep who wander from safety, but we have returned to the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. (I Peter 2:25)

IV. CHAPTER THREE

- A. Wives are instructed to be submissive to their own husbands. Husbands who do not believe the Word may be won through the conduct of their wives as they watch in fear their pure behavior. (I Peter 3:1-2)

- B. Wives should not try to win their husbands by their external appearance, which places emphasis on hairstyle, jewelry, and clothes. (I Peter 3:3)
- C. Their adorning should be from within, from the concealed person (spirit) of the heart, not from the corruptible exterior, which is sure to deteriorate. Wives should display a humble, undisturbed spirit, which, in the presence of God, is very valuable. (I Peter 3:4)
- D. In former times, consecrated women who hoped in God beautified themselves by submitting to their own husbands in the same manner that Sarah submitted herself to Abraham, calling him her authority. (I Peter 3:5-6)
- E. Peter identifies the wives who do well as daughters of Sarah, who are not to be afraid, if any are. (I Peter 3:6)
- F. Husbands are instructed to dwell with their wives according to knowledge. With respect, they are to regard her as the weaker vessel and a joint-heir of the grace of life, so that their prayers are not hindered. (I Peter 3:7)
- G. All believers should be like-minded and sympathetic. We should display comradeship; we must be compassionate and kind. (I Peter 3:8)
- H. We should not render evil for evil or slander for slander, but we should speak well of others. We were called to bless so that we might inherit a blessing. (I Peter 3:9)
- I. Those who are determined to love life and see good days must keep their tongues from evil, and their lips must not speak deceit. They must shun evil and do good. They must also seek and pursue peace. (I Peter 3:10-11)
- J. The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their petitions. The face of the Lord is upon those who do evil. (I Peter 3:12)
- K. Realizing that the Lord is watching over us, Peter poses the question, “Who will injure you if you are imitators of good?” (I Peter 3:13)

- L. If one suffers for the sake of righteousness, he is extremely blessed. We are exhorted not to be frightened or agitated by intimidations. (I Peter 3:14)
- M. We must always keep the Lord set apart in our hearts, and we must always be prepared to answer anyone who asks the reason for our hope, with humility and fear. (I Peter 3:15)
- N. It is important for every believer to maintain a good conscience so that if any speak of us as evildoers, they will be ashamed of the slander brought against those who practice good conduct through Christ. (I Peter 3:16)
- O. If God chooses to allow one who does well to suffer, it is better to suffer for doing well than for doing evil. (I Peter 3:17)
- P. Christ also suffered once for sin (the just bore the penalty of the unjust), so that He could lead us to God. The physical body was killed, but the Spirit brought it back to life. (I Peter 3:18)
- Q. It was by His spirit that He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who in the past did not believe. Although God patiently waited while Noah was building the ark, only eight people were saved from the waters of the flood. (I Peter 3:19)
- R. Like the eight who were saved from and through the flood waters, we, too, are saved through water baptism, in a figurative way.
 - 1. Water baptism does not purify the flesh; however, it does prove to God that the conscience is good.
 - 2. It is through water baptism that we identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, Who does save us. (I Peter 3:20-21)
- S. Jesus has gone back into heaven, and He has taken His position at the right hand of God. All angels, authorities, and powers are subject to Him. (I Peter 3:22)

V. CHAPTER FOUR

- A. As Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, we must also equip ourselves with His understanding. It is through the suffering of the flesh that sin ceases. (I Peter 4:1)

- B. Those who have the understanding of Christ refuse to pursue the longings of the flesh and seek to do the will of God for the remainder of time they live in their physical bodies. (I Peter 4:2)
- C. The past life was satisfied with living after the manner of the Gentiles, who lived morally undisciplined lives characterized by lusts, excessive drinking, wild parties, drinking contests, and infamous idol worship. (I Peter 4:3)
- D. Those who still practice this lifestyle think it strange that the believers do not continue with the unrestrained, wild, extravagant living, so they make slanderous remarks. (I Peter 4:4)
- E. These slanderers will give an account to Him Who is prepared to judge both the living and the dead. (I Peter 4:5)
- F. Because Jesus is also judge of the dead, it was necessary that the gospel be preached to the dead so that they may be judged in the same manner as those who are living in physical bodies. Although their bodies were dead because of judgment, their spirits were given the opportunity to live in harmony with God. (I Peter 4:6)
- G. The conclusion of all things is approaching, so exercise sound judgment and self-control. Be attentive to prayer. (I Peter 4:7)
- H. Intentional love should precede everything because love will conceal a multitude of sins. (I Peter 4:8)
- I. Believers should be hospitable to one another without grumbling. (I Peter 4:9)
- J. The gifts we have received were bestowed upon us for the purpose of serving one another; therefore, as good administrators, we must recognize and utilize the various gifts of God. (I Peter 4:10)
- K. Anyone who speaks should speak according to what he has heard from God. (I Peter 4:11)
- L. Anyone who serves should serve according to the ability given unto him by God that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory and power forever. (I Peter 4:11)
- M. We should not think it strange when calamities come against us to test us. It is not as though something unusual has occurred. (I Peter 4:12)

- N. We should rejoice when we participate in Christ's sufferings so that when His glory is revealed, we can be cheerful and greatly rejoice. (I Peter 4:13)
- O. If we are defamed for the name of Christ, we are supremely blessed because the glory and Spirit of God rest upon us. By the opposition, He is slandered, but through us, He is glorified. (I Peter 4:14)
- P. The sufferings experienced by the believer should be because of godly living. The suffering of believers should not be the result of murder, theft, criminal activity, or meddling. (I Peter 4:15)
- Q. Those who suffer because they are Christians have no reason to be ashamed. They are bringing glory to God. (I Peter 4:16)
- R. Judgment begins at the house of God. If judgment begins with the believers, what will happen to those who do not believe the gospel of God? (I Peter 4:17)
- S. If, with difficulty, the righteous are saved, where will the ungodly and sinner appear? (I Peter 4:18)
- T. Those who suffer according to the will of God should be faithful, committing their souls unto God in integrity. (I Peter 4:19)

VI. CHAPTER FIVE

- A. Peter exhorts the elders, declaring himself also to be an elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a sharer of the glory that would be revealed. (I Peter 5:1)
- B. They are exhorted to tend the flock among them, just as a shepherd would tend his sheep. They are to oversee the flock, not because they are compelled to do so, but voluntarily. (I Peter 5:2)
- C. They are not to oversee as mercenaries, but they are to be cheerfully eager. (I Peter 5:2)
- D. The overseers are not called to control God's heritage; they are to be examples to the flock. (I Peter 5:3)
- E. When the Chief Shepherd (Jesus) appears, He will give the faithful overseers an everlasting crown of glory. (I Peter 5:4)
- F. The young, or spiritually immature, should submit themselves to the elder, who is spiritually mature. (I Peter 5:5)

- G. All are commanded to be submissive to one another and to clothe themselves with humility because God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. (I Peter 5:5)
- H. If we will humble ourselves under the powerful hand of God, He will exalt us at the proper time. (I Peter 5:6)
- I. We should cast all of our concerns (anything that would distract us) on Him because He is concerned about us. (I Peter 5:7)
- J. Believers should exercise good judgment; they must also be observant because their adversary, the devil, walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (I Peter 5:8)
- K. We are to resist the devil steadfastly through our faith, knowing that other believers in the world are experiencing the same afflictions. (I Peter 5:9)
- L. The God of all grace has called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus. The small amount of suffering experienced by the believer thoroughly completes, securely fixes, strengthens, and establishes him. (I Peter 5:10)
- M. To God be perpetual glory and power. (I Peter 5:11)
- N. It appears that this letter was dictated to Silvanus (Silas), who actually wrote it. He is called a faithful brother. (I Peter 5:12)
- O. This brief communication by letter was for the purpose of exhorting and bearing witness to the true grace of God, wherein the believer stands. (I Peter 5:12)
- P. The recipients of this letter are greeted by Marcus and the church in Babylon, who are also chosen along with them. (I Peter 5:13)
- Q. The command is given to greet one another with a kiss of love. (I Peter 5:14)
- R. The letter concludes, extending peace to all who are in Christ Jesus. (I Peter 5:14)

VII. CONCLUSION

- A. The recipients of this letter were evidently experiencing physical persecution, so Peter sent this letter to encourage them to persevere, assuring them that God would reward them.

- B. Often, persecution causes people to become discouraged to the point of giving up. It is imperative that we encourage one another.
- C. God is faithful! He will generously reward those who endure to the end.
- D. Satan is a persistent adversary who works through people. We must not succumb to his plans and schemes. We must fight the good fight, finish our course, and encourage others along the way.