

A Survey of the Book of I Peter

TEACHER: RAY REYNOLDS

Author:

The book claims to have been written by the apostle Simon Peter (**I Peter 1:1**). Irenaeus and others validated this as a fact. Clearly from the material it can be assumed that the writer had an extensive knowledge of the life and teachings of Jesus. This proves that they had to be an eyewitness. Also, the words sound very similar to the words Peter spoke throughout Acts.

Peter was the most prominent of the twelve apostles and an outstanding leader in the early church. His name is mentioned over 150 times in the New Testament. He was a fisherman and brother to the apostle Andrew (**Matthew 4:18, 16:17, Luke 5:10**). Peter is almost always listed first when the apostles are discussed in Scripture.

Date:

It is generally accepted it was written in the early 60's AD. Some have ascribed 62-63 AD to the book. It was during this specific time that Nero began persecuting Christians (**I Peter 5:13**). This would have affected Peter in a very personal way. The apostle John gives a reference to the closing years of Peter's life in the last chapter of his gospel. John's interpretation of Christ's prediction makes it clear that Peter would die a violent death. The evidence is strong that Peter spent his last years in Rome and suffered martyrdom under Nero, who reigned 54-68 A.D.

Theme:

This book is about persecution and suffering. At this time tribulation was more sporadic and local rather than general. Suffering was due to the fact that Christianity was unpopular, not because of Roman policies, which would come later. Christians were exposed to slander, boycott, mob violence, and death, depending on the political leaders in that particular region. Paul and James also mentioned the sufferings of this present time (**Romans 8:18, I Corinthians 7:26, 15:30, II Timothy 2:11-13, 3:12, James 1:2ff**).

Peter identifies the true enemy, Satan, who is working through the Romans and the Jews, as a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (**I Peter 5:8**). Therefore, Peter appeals to the conduct of Jesus. He was the first to ponder WWJD? He especially emphasizes the meekness and patience of Christ (**I Peter 1:21, 3:13**). Then, he also admonishes the leaders of the church (**I Peter 5**).

Audience:

The letter was intended for the exiled Christians in Asia Minor (**I Peter 1:1**). It was written from Rome. The identification of Babylon with Rome is common (**I Peter 5:13, Revelation 14:8, 17:5, 18:2, 10, 21**). Peter's letters were specifically directed to Christians in five Roman provinces: Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

Key Verses:

I Peter 1:3-5, 13-16, 2:1-2, 2:4-5, 2:9-10, 2:21-25, 3:1-7, 3:17, 3:21-22, 4:1-6, 5:1-4, 5:8-11

Outline:

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| I. | <i>The Hope of a Christian - I Peter 1:1-12</i> | VI. | <i>The Salvation of a Christian - I Peter 3:15-22</i> |
| II. | <i>The Holiness of a Christian - I Peter 1:13-25</i> | VII. | <i>The Wisdom of a Christian - I Peter 4:1-11</i> |
| III. | <i>The Maturity of a Christian - I Peter 2:1-12</i> | VIII. | <i>The Suffering of a Christian - I Peter 4:12-19</i> |
| IV. | <i>The Submission of a Christian - I Peter 2:13-25</i> | IX. | <i>The Humbleness of a Christian - I Peter 5:1-7</i> |
| V. | <i>The Companionship of a Christian - I Peter 3:1-14</i> | X. | <i>The Strength of a Christian - I Peter 5:8-14</i> |

A Survey of the Book of II Peter

TEACHER: RAY REYNOLDS

Author:

The book claims to have been written by the apostle Simon Peter (**II Peter 1:1**). However, traditions about this are weak and conflicting. The language and style is different from I Peter. However, **I Peter 5:12** reveals Silas and John Mark's influence in the first book. This may have been a more personal letter from his own hand and with influence from Jude (**II Peter 2:1-3:4** is nearly a word for word quote of **Jude 4-19**).

There are those who feel that no other book in the New Testament is more hotly debated in reference to date and author. It should be noted that these things were debated before the book was placed in the NT canon and after 367 AD it was universally accepted, despite these arguments. Many critics are also critical of other books, dates, and authors, just because they dislike accepting things as assumed so because of tradition. Being critical is not necessarily a bad thing, but it if takes the focus off of the message, then it becomes a distraction.

Date:

It is generally accepted it was written in the mid 60's AD. Some have ascribed 64-65 AD to the book, while others believe it to be closer to 66-68 AD. It is obvious that it was written around the same time as the book of Jude, but there are differing views as to which one came first.

Theme:

This book is about seeking knowledge. Peter previously commanded Christians to defend their faith (**I Peter 3:15**). This, of course, included knowledge (**John 8:32**). Faith is reasonable and is not a leap into the dark. Once this is understood we can see that false teachers can be successfully defeated by carefully examining the Scriptures (**II Peter 2**). The threat of false teachers at the time of 2 Peter had become a reality, which is also seen in the book of Jude. He reveals that some will attempt to "twist" the Scriptures (**II Peter 3:15**).

Peter hopes that Christians will see that they can know, beyond the possibility of error, that God exists and that the Bible is His Word (**II Peter 1:20ff**). The way to such knowledge is spiritual growth and maturity (**II Peter 1:3-10**). This is one of the reasons why he spends his last chapter dealing with preparing for the second coming and giving an account for our spiritual walk.

Audience:

The letter was intended for a general audience (**II Peter 1:1**). There is little doubt that he intended it for the exiled Christians in the Roman provinces of Asia Minor: Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (**II Peter 3:1**).

Key Verses:

II Peter 1:5-9, 1:19-21, 2:4-11, 2:21, 3:1-9, 3:10-13, 3:17-18

Outline:

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| I. | <i>The Blessings of God (1:1-15)</i> | IV. | <i>The Teaching of God (2:17-22)</i> |
| II. | <i>The Glory of God (1:16-21)</i> | V. | <i>The Promise of God (3:1-9)</i> |
| III. | <i>The Justice of God (2:1-16)</i> | VI. | <i>The Peace of God (3:10-18)</i> |