

# Peter's First Letter

## *Peter's First Letter*

### A Bible Study



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# 1

## CHAPTER 1:1-2

Who is Peter addressing and how does he refer to them?

What is God's work in them supposed to produce?

What does "sprinkling by his blood" mean? See Leviticus 16:15-16, Hebrews 9:13-14

## CHAPTER 1:3-5

What reasons are given for praise to God and to Jesus?

What is the salvation that Peter is referring to in v5?

## CHAPTER 1:6-9

What are the factors that can help Christians to persevere, and even rejoice in times of trial?

## CHAPTER 1:10-12

In what ways are we privileged?

## CHAPTER 1:13-16

What should be our response to the gospel we have received?

## CHAPTER 5:12-14

What is Peter referring to as "Babylon"?

As you think about the significance of this reference, and look back over Peter's letter, what impression do you get of the relationship between the church and the culture of the day?

Do you see any parallels with our own situation?

How has Peter encouraged them in their setting in history, and what encouragements have you found for your own?



## CHAPTER 5:1-4

What should characterise the leaders within a church?

### CHAPTER 5:5

What is the command to young people, and how does this fit in with the other commands concerning submission in Peter's letter?

### CHAPTER 5:6-11

How does a person go about humbling themselves?

How do you cast your anxiety on God?  
When have you done this yourself?

Where does our strength to persevere come from?

What does it mean for God to be holy?

What does it mean for us to be holy?

### CHAPTER 1:17-21

In v17 Peter refers to his readers as exiles or strangers. Why? Do you ever feel like an exile or stranger in the community you live in?

What does it mean for you to live in "reverent fear"?

What do these verses reveal to us about Jesus, and how does that impact upon Christians?

### CHAPTER 1:22-25

How can we be born again?

What do you think is the difference between loving our brothers and sisters, and loving them "deeply from the heart"?

What lasts and what doesn't?

Make a lists of the things in your life which will end with your life,  
and those that will go on forever...

Transitory

Eternal



What adjustments do you need to make in your life to empha-  
size its eternal aspects?



### CHAPTER 2:1-3

What should we rid ourselves of and how might we do it?

What is the “pure spiritual milk” that we are to crave?

### CHAPTER 2:4-8

Contrast the effects of the “living stone” on Christians and on  
unbelievers. Can you cite examples of these sorts of ef-  
fects on Christians?

What are the marks of those who have done away with sin?

### CHAPTER 4:7-11

What are the practical steps Christians should be taking?

Why is it urgent to do these things?

What is the outcome when we do?

### CHAPTER 4:12-19

What are the blessings and encouragements in suffering for  
Christ?

An explanation of verses 19-21...

*Although there are a number of possible explanations it seems most likely that Peter is saying that the Spirit of Jesus spoke to those who were under judgement, even in the days of Noah. That is... the Spirit of Jesus spoke through Noah to warn of what was to come, to those imprisoned in sin. (see also 4:6)*

*The connection seems to be, that if we have that strong, but gentle spirit within us, (ie the Spirit of Jesus), then that Spirit will also speak through us to those around us who are under judgement, - even those who malign us. and then referring to the flood Peter says...*

<sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this [the flood] prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,”

*So like a rainbow, baptism has become a sign of our salvation through water... Not that the water itself saves us (any more than the rainbow saved Noah). Rather it is a sign of our response to God, as we seek cleansing and renewal from him. It is a willingness to put behind us the destructiveness of sin and to seek righteousness in Jesus Christ. The power of the salvation is then in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who reigns in heaven.*

Of what assurance is it to you that Christ reigns *now* in heaven?

What bearing does this knowledge have on all the talk about submission in chapter 2?

## **4** CHAPTER 4:1-6

*4:1 “Therefore” refers back to 3:18.*

How can suffering in the body do away with sin? (refer back to 1 Peter 1:6-7 and to 4:17)

## **CHAPTER 2:9-12**

What confidence can we derive from knowing that we are “chosen”?

What is our role and purpose as a “royal priesthood”?

How should we live?

## **CHAPTER 2:13-25**

What is the main purpose here in Christians voluntarily curtailing their freedom to submit to those in authority over them?

Are there instances where submission to authorities would not be the right course of action?

The passage has been used in the past to justify slavery. What are your thoughts?

What was the attitude of Jesus when he was unjustly treated?

When we are eager to justify ourselves, what does v23 teach?

**3** **CHAPTER 3:1-6**  
Peter's exhortation here follows the theme from 2:13-25  
What is the wife's prime aim in her relationship with her non-Christian husband?

Where does a wife's true beauty lie and how does this contrast with the emphasis in today's media?

Do you think that the Scriptures still call on wives to submit to their husbands? Why/how or why not?

**CHAPTER 3:7**  
What is the Christian husband's responsibility here?

In what way is his wife considered "the weaker partner"?

How might acting otherwise "hinder your prayers"?

**CHAPTER 3:8-12**  
What are the features that make for harmony?  
Can you relate instances where you have seen this in action?

Peter quotes part of Psalm 34. Read the whole psalm and discuss the assurances it gives, (and the conditions).

**CHAPTER 3:13-17**  
Where are the indications here that God will not always smooth the way before us? (See also 4:1)

What should be our attitude to unbelieving people who may try to make life hard for us?

**CHAPTER 3:18-22**  
How is Christ an example to us?