

## ***Introduction to 1 Peter***

### **I. Author**

#### A. Challenges to Peter's authorship

1. The Greek is too good to be written by a Galilean fisherman
2. Author calls himself an "elder" (5:1)
3. Shows dependency on Paul's letters

#### B. Attributed to Peter from earliest times

##### 1. Verbal clues

- a. The rejected stone — Act 4:10-11 / 1 Peter 2:7-8
- b. God no respecter of persons — Acts 10:34 / 1 Peter 1:17
- c. God's "foreknowledge" — Acts 2:23 / 1 Peter 1:2, 20
- d. The judge of "the living and the dead" — Acts 10:42 / 1 Peter 4:5
- e. Greek: *xylon* ("wood" or "tree") — Acts 5:30; 10:39 / 1 Peter 2:24

##### 2. Allusions to things significant to Peter

- a. A Servant's heart — John 13:4-8 / 1 Peter 1:13; 4:10
- b. Balance between servanthood and freedom — Matt.17:24-27 / 1 Peter 2:16
- c. Human "stones" — John 1:42 / 1 Peter 2:5
- d. Shepherding the Flock — John 21:15-17 / 1 Peter 5:2-4

### **II. Time and Place of Writing**

#### A. Probably just prior to Neroean persecution

#### B. From "Babylon" (1 Peter 5:13)—probably Rome, since Mark was there with Paul (Col.4:10)

### **III. Written to whom?**

#### A. Paul's converts or region further north?

#### B. Jewish believers?

1. *Diaspora* — 1 Peter 1:1
2. Contrasted with "gentiles" — 1 Peter 2:12; 4:3

#### C. Gentile believers

1. A spiritual *diaspora* — 1 Peter 2:11
2. Gentiles as "heathen" — 1 Cor.10:32; Eph.4:17
3. Ignorance — 1 Peter 1:14
4. Vain traditions — 1 Peter 1:18
5. "were not a people" — 1 Peter 2:10
6. Former "idolatries" — 1 Peter 4:3

### **IV. Shared material with other scripture**

#### A. Jesus' teachings

Topic	1 Peter	Jesus
1. People, seeing good works will glorify God	2:12	Matt.5:16
2. Blessed for suffering righteously	3:14	Matt.5:10
3. Humble self, be exalted by God	5:6	Luke 14:11
4. No anxiety, cast cares of Him	5:7	Matt.6:25

B. Paul's letters, especially Romans and Ephesians (cf., 2 Peter 3:15-16)

Topic	1 Peter	Romans	Ephesians
1. "Election according to foreknowledge"	1:2	8:29	1:4-5
2. Regeneration through Christ's resurrection	1:3	8:11-17	2:5
3. Our inheritance	1:4		1:11
4. Our rejoicing in trials that refine us	1:6-7	5:3-4	
5. The mysterious plan belatedly revealed	1:10-12	16:25-26	3:1-6
6. The curiosity of the angels about our salvation	1:12		3:10
7. Nonconformity to former patterns of life	1:14; 4:1-4	12:1	4:17
8. God judges all men impartially by their works	1:17	2:5-10	
9. Redemption by the blood of Jesus	1:18		1:7
10. We are built into a spiritual temple	2:5		2:20-22
11. Citation of Hosea 1:10 and 2:23 combined	2:10	9:25-26	
12. Submission to authorities as God's agents	2:13-14	13:1-7	
13. Servants/Masters	2:18-25		6:5-9
14. Wives/Husbands	3:1-7		5:22-33
15. Brotherly love	3:8	12:10	
16. Do not retaliate	3:9	12:17-21	
17. <i>Charismata</i> to be used in serving others	4:10-11	12:3-8	4:11-13
18. Submission to one another	5:5		5:21
19. Warfare against Satan and evil	5:8-9	13:12; 16:20	6:10-19
20. "To Him be glory and dominion forever, etc."	5:11		3:21
21. The "grace in which we stand"	5:12	5:2	

**V. The theme of suffering**

- A. Suffering necessary for testing and improvement—1 Peter 1:6-7; 5:10 (Job 23:10; Pr.17:3)
- B. Suffering and defeating slander—1 Peter 2:12; 3:16
- C. Jesus' example and unjust suffering—1 Peter 2:18-23; 3:13-18; 4:12-19
- D. Suffering for nonconformity—1 Peter 4:1-4

**VI. Passages of special interest:**

- A. 1 Peter 1:10-12 The curiosity of prophets and angels
- B. 1 Peter 2:4-8 The house of living stones
- C. 1 Peter 2:9-10 The new holy nation
- D. 1 Peter 2:24-25 By His stripes we have been healed
- E. 1 Peter 3:1-7 Wives and husbands
- F. 1 Peter 3:19-21 Preaching to spirits in prison
- G. 1 Peter 4:6 Gospel preached to the dead
- H. 1 Peter 4:10-11 Spiritual gifts
- I. 1 Peter 5:1-5 Exhortation to elders and "youngers"
- J. 1 Peter 5:8-9 The menacing lion