

FIRST PETER Life in Exile —Part 1

1:1— “The Life, Ministry, and Message of Peter”

“Christ Himself, who was Peter’s Master in the doctrine which leads to eternal life, is our Master too.”

—Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God*

Authorship:

“Peter” — First identified in scripture as “Simon” (Greek), “Simeon” (Hebrew)

“Simon Bar-Jonah” (...son of Jonah).

— Given the nickname “Peter” (Petros, Cephas) meaning stone, pebble, or rock by Jesus (Jn. 1:42)

Circumstances and Date of Writing:

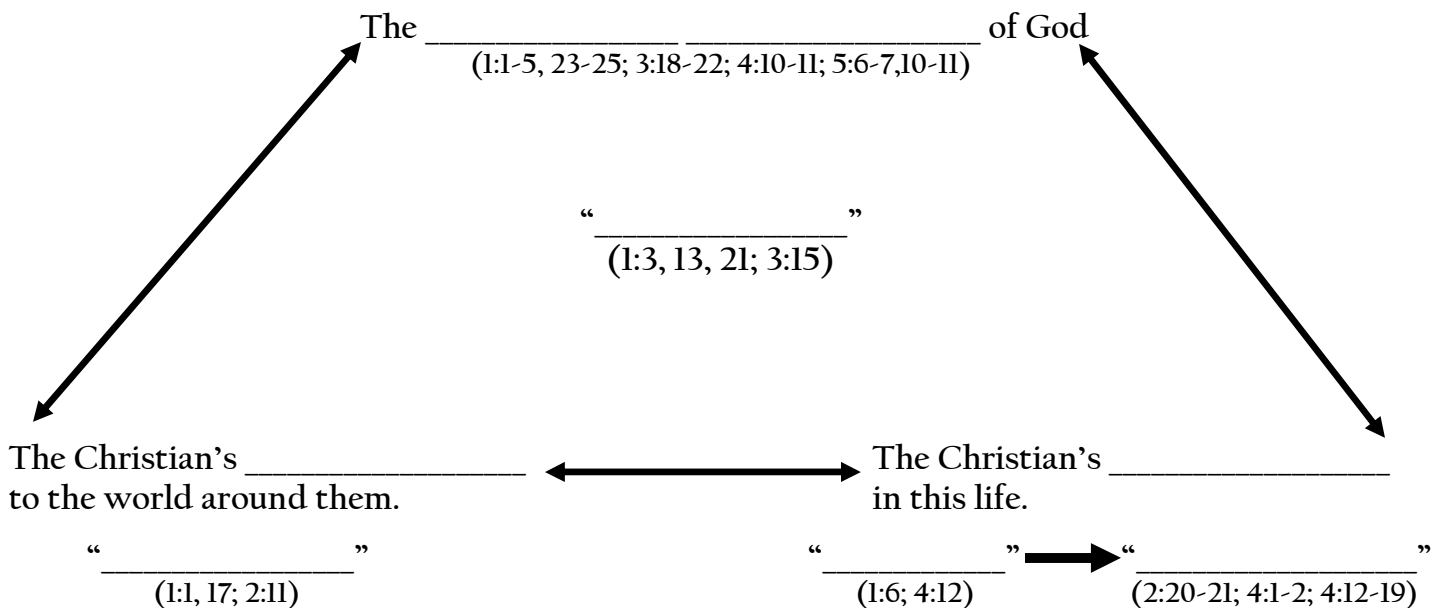
- The letter was written from _____, referred to as “Babylon” in 5:13, sometime around A.D. 63. just before the Roman Emperor Nero’s persecution of Christians began (A.D. 64)
- Peter spent roughly the last decade of his life serving the church in Rome and was martyred there in about A.D. 67.
- The letter was delivered by a man named Silvanus (Silas) in 5:12, who had previously accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey as his secretary (Acts 15:40).

The Purpose of the Letter:

“By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.” —5:12

- Peter’s purpose in writing the letter is to _____ these Christians and to declare again to them the true grace of God.
- Once they understood God’s grace, they would be able to _____ in the midst of trials!

Major Themes:



¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

The Life and Ministry of the Apostle Peter

“Experience can be a hard teacher. In Peter’s case, the ups and downs of his experience were dramatic and often painful. The Lord dragged him through three years of tests and difficulties that gave him a lifetime of the kind of experiences every true leader must endure...[These] experiences—even the difficult ones—were all necessary to shape Peter into the man he needed to become.” —Dr. John MacArthur, *Twelve Ordinary Men*

Peter understood God’s sovereign authority.

- Peter’s calling (Matt. 4:18, Lk. 5:1-10, Jn. 1:40-42)
- Peter’s witness to Jesus’ power and authority (Matt. 14:22-33, Mk. 4:35-41, Lk. 9:28-36)
- Peter’s confession of Christ (Matt. 16:13-20)
- Peter’s witness of the resurrected Jesus (Jn. 21:1-13)
- Peter’s preaching at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-41)
- Peter’s witness of God saving Gentiles in the house of Cornelius (10:1-44)

Peter understood that his relationship to the surrounding world was that of exile.

- Every Jew understood that they were a people in exile. (Deut. 29:27-28)
- He and the rest of the believing Jews became exiles among the exiles (Acts 5:17-33, 40-42)

Peter understood that the circumstances of his life included trials and suffering.

- Some of Peter’s trials were the result of his own sin (Matt. 16:21-23; 26:40-46; Lk. 22:54-62)
- Some of Peter’s trials occurred simply because he was a Christian (Acts 5:40-42; 12:1-5)

Peter understood that he was a recipient of God’s _____ and was given by the sovereign authority of Jesus the privilege to _____ God’s people.

John 21:15-19

- Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, graciously _____ Peter.
- He then passed on to Peter the task of shepherding (_____) His sheep.
- The letter of First Peter is a “_____” epistle written with the goal of feeding us in order that we might know God’s grace and stand firm in it!

*“The pastor of grief and dreams
guides his flock towards the next field
with all his care. He has heard
the bell tolling but the sheep
are hungry and need the grass today and
everyday. Beautiful his patience, his long
shadow, the rippling sound of the flocks moving
along the valley.”*

—Denise Leveratov, “A Cure of Souls” in *Poems, 1960–1967*
(New York: New Directions Publishing, 1983), 92.