

1 PETER

1. TITLES:

- A. Peter = stone, rock
- B. The First Epistle of Peter
- C. The Book of Suffering and Glory

2. AUTHOR:

Written by Peter, a fisherman, who was one of the twelve apostles

3. DATE:

Probably written between 63 and 65 A.D.

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Suffer (ed, ing, ings) – 16
- B. Glory, glorify (ied) – 16
- C. Grace (Greek Word) – 10
- D. Precious – 5
- E. Hope (Greek Word) – 5

5. KEY VERSES: 4:12,13

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To encourage the Christian suffering under persecution.
- B. To prepare the Christians for greater trial ahead.
- C. To show the Christians the hope of glory that lies ahead.
- D. To exhort them to fulfil practical Christian duties.

7. MESSAGE:

- A. God will balance out the believer's sufferings with glory and their glories with suffering.
- B. Suffering purifies and proves the believer's faith and character.

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C. Christ is the “pattern-stone” of suffering and glory.

D. The cause of believer’s suffering should only be his godliness and not his lack of discretion.

8. OUTLINE:

- I. Suffering in Relation to Salvation 1:1-2:10
- II. Suffering in Relation to Conduct 2:11 - 4:11
- III. Suffering in Relation to Attitude 4:12 – 5:11

9. SUMMARY:

The apostle Peter while a disciple of Jesus had been given the initial revelation of the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow in the church. It is upon this experience that the themes of his epistles are built. The theme of this first epistle is glory through suffering. In the first section suffering is seen in relation to salvation, emphasizing the living hope, the living word, the living stone and our reaction to the same. The second section deals with suffering in relation to conduct, covering every area of life and setting forth Christ as the example. The final section concerns suffering in relation to attitudes in both shepherds and sheep. It should be noted that in every context where “suffering” appears “glory” is also to be found.

Note: One good approach to studying the epistles of Peter is to relate his writings to his own life as revealed in the Gospels and Acts.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as the Foreordained Lamb, the Chief-Cornerstone, the Stone of Stumbling, the Rock of Offence, the Example, the Chief Shepherd, and the Bishop of our Souls, who experienced the sufferings of the Cross and was crowned with Glory and Honour.