

## Bible Study: First Letter of Peter.

**Introduction:** This letter has been recognised as being written by Peter, one of the disciples of Jesus Christ. It could be that he had some help from Silvanus (**5:12**) in writing this letter to ensure that it was written in a good literacy style in the Greek language.

The letter can be dated to about the early 60s as shown in the content of the letter. At that time Christians were experiencing increasing persecution during the time of the Roman Emperor Nero (**54-68AD**). This letter gave encouragement and strength to Christians to endure suffering.

There have been several interpretations to where the letter was written such as from  
1) a military post called Babylon in Egypt. 2) Babylon in Mesopotamia (present day Iraq).  
3) Jerusalem and 4) Rome.

Some early writers believe that Peter wrote this letter from Rome because tradition has connected him to the end of his life in Rome where it is believed he was martyred (**65-68AD**) during the reign of Nero. However, there was a place called Babylon, a small town on the river Euphrates. It is still possible Peter wrote this letter from such a place with greetings from another brother called Mark, converted through Peter's ministry. The context of **5:13** is neither figurative nor cryptic (hidden, secret, unseen or mysteriously obscure).

We see from this letter much stress on living the Christian life according to God's will along with Peter giving his readers an understanding of who God is.

### Bible Study Questions

The following questions can be attempted in any order. In studying this letter as a small home group or church group it is recommended to hand out the brief introduction and questions before doing the bible study. In doing so, everyone is encouraged to read and study the first letter of Peter and come ready to give a contribution to the group study.

**Q.1** To whom was Peter addressing this letter to? Read **1:1-2**.

**Q.2** What do you know about Peter from the letter? Read **1:1; ch5:1-4,11,13**.

**Q.3** What does the letter reveal about who God is?

Read **1:2-3,5,10,13,15-16,23,25; 2:3,10; 3:12,20; 4:5,11,14,19; 5:5,7,10,11**.

**Q.4** What have we received as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Read **1:2-3,18-19,23; 2:5,9-10; 4:2-4; 5:1,4**.

**Q.5** Make a list showing how to live according to God's will.

Read **1:22; 2:2,11-12,13-17,18-20,21-25; 3:1-6,8,10-11,13-17; 4:7-11; 5:5-7,9,14**.

**Q.6** How did Jesus Christ respond to his sufferings? Read **2:21-24** and compare with **Luke 23:34**.

**Q.7** Does Peter show us difficulties for believers? If so, discuss the difficulties we may have to face.

Read **1:6-7; 2:11-12,19-20; 3:14; 4:12-13,16,19; 5:8-9**.

**Q.8** Write down the main themes revealed in this letter: For example: suffering as seen for Jesus Christ in **1:11; 2:21-24; 3:18; 4:1; 5:1**; and as seen for ourselves in **1:6-7; 2:11,19-20; 3:14; 4:12-13,16; 5:1**.

## **Bible Study Questions continued**

- Q.9** Does this letter reveal to us the gospel? Read **1:12,18-19,23-25; 4:6,17-18.**
- Q.10** Show whether this letter reveals things to come. Read **1:4-7,9; 4:12-13; 5:4,10.**
- Q.11** Why does the gospel of Christ cause offence? Read **3:16; 4:3-5.**
- Q.12** Show whether this letter reveals the characteristics of evil men? Read **3:16; 4:3-5,14.**
- Q.13** Show whether there is any evidence from this letter that Peter was writing to Christians living under increasing persecution? Read **1:6-7; 2:19-20; 3:14,16-17; 4:12-13,16; 5:10.**
- Q.14** Study Peter's first letter to see the relationship we have with God.  
Read **1:2-3,14,17; 5:6-7.**
- Q.15** How does Peter see the responsibilities of leadership in the church? Read **5:1-4.**
- Q.16** In studying Peter's letter what is known of the way unbelievers live? Read **4:3-4.**

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