DAYBREAK

Section Introduction



Overview for 1 Peter

Purpose: Peter wrote to the scattered Christians of the Early Church, following the Lord's instructions for him to "strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:32) by encouraging them in the face of their intense suffering and persecution.

Author: Simon Peter, one of the twelve Apostles.

Time Period Covered: Possibly around A.D. 60-64. Emperor Nero's extensive and intensive persecution of Christians took place from A.D. 64 through 68. During this time, believers throughout the Roman Empire were tortured and killed for their faith. History indicates Peter was executed in Rome during this persecution.

Date Written: Bible scholars believe this epistle was written between A.D. 62 and 64, perhaps before Nero's official persecution began.

History: Because the Christians of this time were under such intense persecution, they often used code words to disguise their actual locations. Many Bible scholars believe that "Babylon" was a code word for Rome and that Peter was there when he wrote the epistle (1 Peter 5:13).

A historical timeline of events in Peter's life:	
A.D. 26-27	Peter was called and followed Christ.
A.D. 30	Peter denied Christ before the Crucifix-
	ion; he later repented, and on the day of
	Pentecost, proclaimed with boldness that
	Jesus had risen.
A.D. 40	The Lord revealed to Peter that salvation
	is for the Gentiles. Cornelius and other

A.D. 63-67 Peter wrote 1 Peter and 2 Peter.

Holy Ghost.

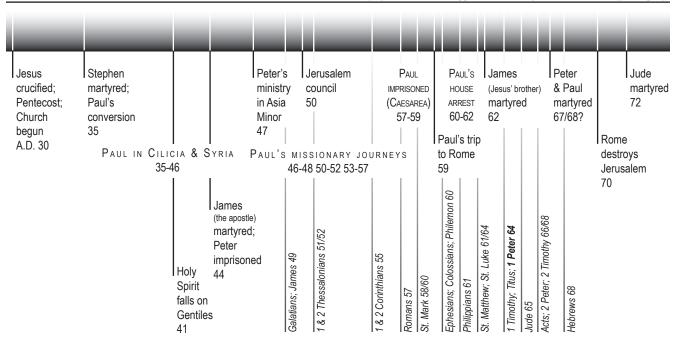
A.D. 67-68 Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome.

Gentiles with him were filled with the

Setting: Once Nero had made his official decree that believers in Jesus be attacked and persecuted, many Christians were forced to flee for their lives, and the church in Jerusalem was scattered throughout the Mediterranean world. Peter wrote to Christians in five Roman provinces in the Black Sea area—Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia—where many had apparently tried to find safety. However, the letter was also intended to be read to all churches everywhere. Emperor Nero died in A.D. 68, which brought a temporary lull to the persecution, but soon after a new round of fierce persecution began.

Summary: Peter himself summarized the purpose of the Book of 1 Peter. In Chapter 5 verse 12, he offered concluding thoughts on his letter when he said, "I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand." Peter earnestly urged the dispersed Christians to have patience, hope, holiness, and endurance in the face of hostile mistreatment and persecution by those who wished to see this growing faith destroyed. His focus was on their attitudes in these trying situations, and he encouraged them to remember the inheritance God had promised them.

In chapter 1, Peter began his epistle by writing of the believers' character in their current circumstances, introducing the subject of holiness. He challenged them to holy living, and explained how holiness was provided and experienced in daily life. From chapter 2 through chapter 5 verse 9, Peter advised Christians on how holiness would lead them to conduct themselves in various types of relationships, especially in times of suffering and persecution. He concluded the epistle with personal salutations from the church, and a prayer for peace.



Outline

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 - A. The present possessions (1:3-5)
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 - C. The present privilege (1:10-12)
- III. The challenge to the believer (1:13—2:10)
 - A. To holiness (1:13-21)
 - B. To love (1:22-25)
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- IV. The conduct of the believer (2:11—5:11)
 - A. In summary (2:11-12)
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 - C. In suffering (3:13—4:19)
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- V. Conclusion (5:12-14)
 - A. Closing exhortation (5:12)
 - B. Greetings and benediction (5:13-14)