

# Introduction to the Books of I & II Peter



While there's life, there's hope!

That ancient Roman saying is still quoted today & like most adages, it has an element of truth but no guarantee of certainty.



It is not the fact of life that determines hope, but the faith of life lived in Christ.

# I. A Look at the Author



"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ" (1 Pt 1:1)

Peter was a Fisherman by trade,  
he was not an Educated man

# Perhaps His Two Names Suggest Two Natures:

The old nature (Simon) that was prone to fail.

The new nature (Peter) that can lead to victory.

Peter probably arrived in Rome after Paul was released from his 1st imprisonment 62 A.D.



- First Peter was written about the year 63.
- Paul was martyred about 64, and perhaps that same year, or shortly after, Peter laid down his life for Christ.

**John 21:7-25**, “Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. <sup>9</sup> Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." <sup>11</sup> Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"-- knowing that it was the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. <sup>14</sup> This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. <sup>15</sup> So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."



<sup>16</sup> He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."  
Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

<sup>18</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish.” <sup>19</sup>

This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

<sup>20</sup> Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

<sup>21</sup> Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what *about* this man?"

# Peter was still useful to Jesus.



- He would go on to preach the First Gospel sermon to the Jews (Acts 2), and later to the Gentiles (Acts 10).
- According to Origen, as quoted by Eusebius, "at the end Peter being at Rome was crucified head downwards, having himself requested that he might so suffer." (Church History)

A study of Peter's life and character  
reveals noble traits.

His enthusiasm, boldness & dedication  
are worthy of emulation.

Yet some of the sharpest rebukes  
found in the N. T. were given to him.

## II. A Look at the Recipients

- First and Second Peter is addressed "to God's elect, strangers in the world, who were scattered throughout the world.
- God desires to bring mankind into a saving relationship with Him through Jesus the Christ.
- So it is that the Father elects, the Spirit sanctifies; and the Son cleanses by his blood.
- The book is written to God's elect, those who had become a child of God, by being baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.

Peter called them "strangers" (1 Peter 1:1), which means "resident aliens, sojourners."



**SOJOURNERS**  
We are on a life long journey but only here for a time

- They are called "strangers and pilgrims" in 1 Peter 2:11.
- These people were citizens of heaven through faith in Christ (Phil. 3:20), and therefore were not permanent residents on earth.
- Like Abraham, they had their eyes of faith centered on the future city of God (Heb. 11:8-16).
- They were in the world, but not of the world John 17:16.

These Christians were scattered by persecution to five different parts of the Roman Empire, all of them in northern Asia Minor (modern Turkey).



They shared the Word of God wherever they went (Acts 8:4).



His message was, “There is Hope  
in Christ, so don't give up.”



# III. The Message (1 Peter 5:12)

- It is the confident assurance of future glory and blessings, based upon Christ D,B & Resurrection.
- This confident hope gives us the motivation to live faithful lives of Christian service.
- It does not put us in a rocking chair where we complacently await the return of Jesus the Christ.
- Instead, it puts us in the marketplace, on the battlefield, where we keep on going when the burdens are heavy and the battles are hard.

It is not difficult to follow Peter's train of thought.

- If we know Christ as Savior, then we have hope!
- Salvation & submission are preparation to suffer; but if we focus on Christ, we can overcome & God will transform our suffering into future glory.
- So 1 Peter is a letter of Encouragement (1 Pt 5:12)
- The theme of Suffering runs throughout the letter, but so does the theme of Glory

(1 Pt 1:7-8, 11, 21; 2:12; 4:11-16; 5:1, 4, 10-11)

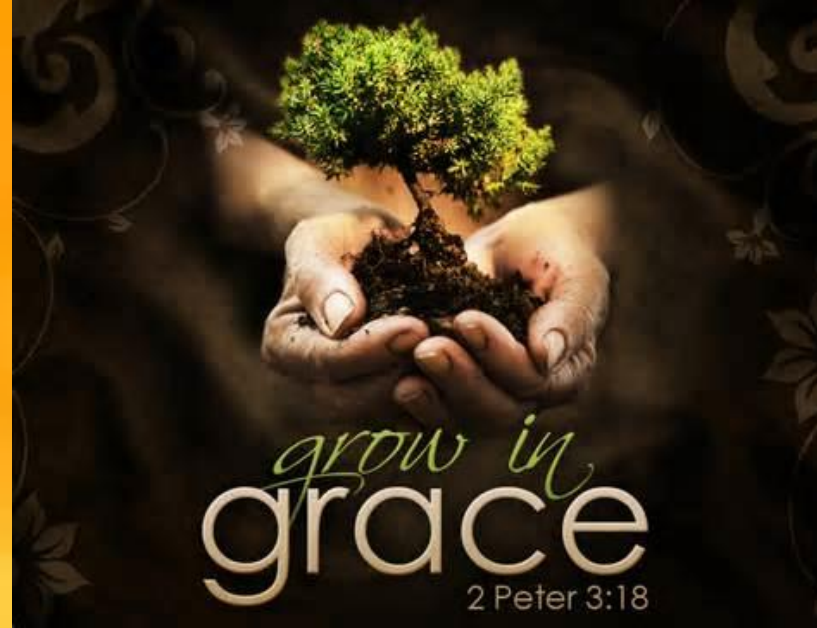
Peter is the apostle of Hope,  
as Paul is the apostle of Faith  
and John the Apostle of Love.

- As believers, we have a "living hope" because we trust in a living Christ (1 Pt 1:3)
- This hope enables us to keep our minds under control (not worry)

The word "grace" is used in every chapter of 1 Peter:

1:2, 10, 13; 2:19 3:7;

4:10; 5:5, 10, 12.



- Grace is God's generous favor to undeserving sinners and needy saints.
- When we depend on God's grace, we can endure suffering and turn trials into triumphs.

1 Peter contains three themes:  
Suffering, Grace, and Glory which unite  
as an encouraging message for believers  
experiencing trials & persecution.

These themes are summarized in 1 Peter 5:10, "But  
may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal  
glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while,  
perfect, establish, strengthen, & settle *you*."

- This is a verse we would do well to memorize.

## IV. The Reaction to the Letter

Today a close study of these books can give Christians the encouragement to build and maintain a faith relationship with God through Jesus the Christ.

Note:



Peter was never the Rock upon which the Church was built, the foundational rock that the church was built upon was Peter's confession that Jesus was the "Christ, the son of the living God."