

## Purpose

To offer encouragement to suffering Christians

## Author

Peter

## To Whom Written

Jewish Christians driven out of Jerusalem and scattered throughout Asia Minor

## Date Written

Near 62-64 AD, from Rome

## Setting

Peter was in Rome when the great persecution under Emperor Nero began. Peter was executed during this persecution. Throughout the Roman Empire, Christians were being tortured and killed for their faith

## Key Verse

"These trials are only to test your faith... If your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory on the day when Jesus is revealed..." *1 Peter 1:7*

## Special Features

Peter used several images that Jesus had used, for example a rock (the meaning of his name) or living stones and a shepherd with his sheep.

## An Overview (5 Chapters)

- God's Great Blessings to His People (*1:1-2:10*)
- Conduct when Suffering (*2:11-4:19*)
- Shepherding when Suffering (*5:1-14*)

## Major Themes

- *Salvation:* Our salvation is a gracious gift from God. God chose us out of His love for us. Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin, and the Holy Spirit cleansed us from sin when we believed. Eternal life is a wonderful gift for those who trust in Christ.
- *Persecution:* Peter offers faithful believers comfort and hope. We should expect ridicule, rejection, and suffering because we are Christians. Persecution makes us stronger because it refines our faith. We can face persecution victoriously, as Christ did, if we rely on Him.
- *God's Family:* We are privileged to belong to God's family, a community with Christ as the founder and foundation. Everyone in His community is related — we are all brothers and sisters, loved equally by God.
- *Family Life:* Peter encouraged the wives of unbelievers to submit to their husbands' authority as a means of winning them to Christ. He urged all family members to treat others with sympathy, love, compassion, and humility.
- *Judgment:* God will judge everyone with perfect justice. We all will face God, He will punish evildoers and those who persecute God's people. Those who love Him will be rewarded with life forever in His presence.