

What have you learned so far in 1 Peter? What sticks with you?

Peter wrapping up his letter – let's recap a little:

Who is Peter?

Simon -> *Aramaic* Kephas / Cephas (Rock) -> *Greek* Petros / Peter

1. Peter's brother Andrew brings Jesus to meet him. (John 1:40)
2. Peter a fisherman. Jesus tells him to cast nets on the other side. Peter leaves everything and follows Jesus. (Mt. 4:19, Luke 5:1)
3. From Bethsaida, meaning "house of fishing" and near the Sea of Galilee. Location uncertain.
 - Possibly a second Bethsaida West of Galilee near Capernaum.
4. Peter married to a Christian wife. (Mt. 8:14, 1 Cor. 9:5 "a believing wife")
 - Also to be an elder, he would have needed to be married. (1 Tim 3:2, Titus 1:6)
5. Peter / Andrew at some point became fishing partners (*koinonos*) with James / John, the sons of Zebedee. (Luke 5:10)
6. Uneducated, plain, ordinary, along with John. (Acts 4:13)
7. Part of Jesus' inner circle with James and John.
 - Resurrecting Jairus' daughter
 - Jesus' transfiguration
 - Jesus' pain and struggle in Gethsemane
 - Special instructions about future events – the destruction of Jerusalem. (Mark 13)
8. Enthusiastic, energetic, sometimes impulsive – a leader among the apostles.
 - First name in the lists of apostles (Mt 10, Mk. 3, Acts 1)
 - After Paul, most prominent character in Acts.
 - Walking on water with Jesus (Mt. 14:28)
 - Denial of Jesus, while following him to the high priest's home. (Lk. 22)
 - Proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah. (Mt. 16:16)
 - Rebuking Jesus privately about his death. (Mt 16:22)
 - Boldly entering the empty tomb while John hesitates. (Jn. 20)
 - First apostle to see Jesus resurrected. (Lk. 24:33, 1 Cor. 15:5)
 - Preaches the gospel before the Jews (Acts 2) and Gentiles (Cornelius, family, friends in Acts 10-11)
9. John 21:1-22
 - Peter returns to fishing.
 - Jesus tells them again to cast nets on the other side. John recognizes Jesus.
 - Peter jumps into the water.
 - Jesus provides in abundance.
 - Jesus has fish and bread ready.
 - Jesus restores Peter's loyalty by asking a third time.
 - Jesus has appointed Peter as a shepherd of his people.
 - (John 10:11) "The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep."
 - (John 13:37) "Lord, I will lay down my life for you."

- V. 19 – Peter’s boast will come true, and his death will glorify God, as Jesus’ death also glorified God.

Chapters 1 – 3

Faith, Hope, Suffering

- Gentiles, Christians are God’s chosen people, and now a part of Abraham’s family.
- Peter uses Old Testament language to illustrate God’s new family, which includes all Christians.
 - How? As Noah prefigured - Saved from sin by baptism, and through Jesus’ resurrection.
- Freed from earthly kingdoms, but still accept/respect the social, political authority in your life.
- Unjust persecution and suffering to be used as a witness to Jesus.
 - Love in the face of suffering brings God glory, saves unbelievers.
 - Why? Because our hope is in heaven – beyond here and now.

Chapter 4

- Since Christ suffered, expect/intend to do the same!
- Rid yourself of sin, live by God’s will instead of human desires.
- Be serious and disciplined and pray.
- Practice love. Practice hospitality. Be servants.
- Rejoice in your sufferings since you share them with Jesus.
- Suffering will prepare you to shout for joy when God’s glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:19 – 5:5

Elder - *presbuteros*

- Literally “the older” or “older person”
- Term taken from the Jewish “elders” of the Sanhedrin
- Bishop, Overseer (*episkopos*)
- Shepherd (*poimen*)
- Spiritual shepherd to oversee God’s flock.
- Peter most likely an elder in Rome (Babylon).

Notice Peter’s appeal in humility, “as a fellow elder,” no mention of apostolic authority, but reminding them that he can testify as a witness to Jesus’ sufferings.

A Shepherd:

1. Protect the flock from those who would destroy or scatter it.
 - John 10:11 - “The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.”
 - 1 Samuel 17:34 – “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it.”
2. Go before the sheep, lead them, guide them safely.

- a. Psalm 23 –
 - “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 - He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 - he leads me beside still waters;
 - he restores my soul.
 - He leads me in right paths
 - for his name’s sake.”
- 3. Keep careful watch. If one goes astray, bring it back into the fold.
 - Luke 15:4 – “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?
 - When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’
 - Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”
 - Not *lording it over* others, but examples - Serving the sheep. Live as a pattern.
 - o Matthew 20:20 - Then the mother of *the sons of Zebedee* came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. 21 And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” 22 But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” 23 He said to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”
 - 24 When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 26 It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
- v. 5 – “clothe yourselves with humility.” Echoing 3:8-9 –
“Finally... have unity of spirit”

1 Peter 5:12 – 5:14

- Silvanus (Silas) seems to be the same man who traveled with Paul in Acts, and is mentioned in letters to Corinth and Thessalonica.
- Babylon most likely Rome. Babylon became a pattern representing any oppressive nation to God’s people. Revelation 17 refers to Rome as “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes”
 - o Some scholars hold that this is the church in actual Babylon in Mesopotamia, but the city was hardly inhabited at the time of the letter.
- Stand Fast In It.

1 Peter 5:6 – 5:11

The meat of the conclusion.

- Peter makes callbacks to themes throughout this letter:
 - Humility, so God can exalt you in due time. This is our hope. (3:15)
 - Be Disciplined, cast anxieties on God in prayer (1:13, 4:7)
 - Remain steadfast through suffering. After a little while, God will restore...

- 3:14 – “But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.”

- 4:1-2 – “Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God.”

- Hebrews 4:14 – “Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.
Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

As For Me

1. Are you considering the flock?
 2. Where do you cast your anxiety?
 3. Do you trust God through suffering?
- Looking back in gratitude.
 - All blessings and good things come from God.