

# 1 PETER 1

Battlefield Christianity

## 1 Peter 1:1 — Sunday, February 4

Why should we do verse-by-verse studies of Scripture?

- A. We believe the Bible is true and accurate.
  
- B. We believe God is the master communicator.
  
- C. We believe the biblical data are the building blocks of theology.
  
- D. We believe there is value in every verse as well as the whole metanarrative.

How should we take special care when we do verse-by-verse studies?

A. We must not take verses or words out of their larger context.

B. We must not ignore bigger picture message.

C. We must allow the whole counsel of God's Word to illuminate each verse and word.

Purpose of 1 Peter

A. Persecution was just beginning to reach a shocking level and people needed to know how to face the fear and the suffering.

B. Christians have citizenship in another world. We are strangers and aliens in this place. It is important that we know how to live conduct ourselves honorably in this present time and place.

— **1 Peter 2:11-12** | *Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.*  
(CSB)

C. Christians should have a proper biblical attitude toward those in authority such as governments and employers especially when those authorities are hostile.

D. It is important to know and embrace the biblical roles of godly

women and wives and of godly men and husbands even in this “modern” world. These are each described in 1 Peter.

E. Christ is going to return for his church, so how should a Christian prepare and live in light of that fact?

F. The role of a church pastor is not a modern invention, and it has not changed. 1 Peter gives a biblical job description for every pastor.

G. It should be the driving ambition of all Christians to learn to better humble self and walk daily with Christ; this is the primary focus of 1 Peter.

## 1 Peter 1:1

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ...*

Who is Peter?

- A. The human author of the letter
- B. An Apostle and an apostle
- C. One of the twelve disciples of Christ
  - Spokesman for the disciples and later the Apostles. Part of the inner circle with Jesus (Peter, James, and John)

- The source of the eyewitness accounts found in the Gospel of Mark

#### D. Simon Bar-Jonah

- Literally: “Simon son of Jonah” (Matthew 16:17)
- Birth name
  - Eight other Simons mentioned in the New Testament

Simon the Zealot (Matthew 10:4)

Simon the half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55)

Simon the leper (Matthew 26:6)

Simon of Cyrene drafted to carry cross (Mt 27:32)

Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36-40)

Simon the father of Judas Iscariot (John 6:71)

Simon the magician (Acts 8:9-24)

Simon the tanner (Acts 9:43)

#### E. Cephas or Peter

- At their first meeting, Jesus named him Cephas.
  - **John 1:42** | *and he brought Simon to Jesus. When Jesus saw him, he said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated “Peter”).* (CSB)
- Cephas is Aramaic for “rock.”
- Translating from Aramaic into Greek, the name becomes “Peter.”
- Why was Peter sometimes called Simon and other times called Cephas or Peter?

- Jesus used a play on words to describe the foundation of the Kingdom.

**Matthew 16:17-18** | *Jesus responded, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter (πέτρος), and on this rock (πέτρῃ) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (CSB)*

- Peter was sometimes called “Simon” in secular or neutral settings.

In reference to his house (Mark 1:29; Luke 4:38)

In reference to his mother-in-law (Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38)

In reference to his business (Luke 5:3, 10)

- Otherwise “Simon” was used to mark key spiritual failures.

When he told the tax collectors that Jesus would pay the temple tax (Matthew 17:24-25).

When he couldn't (didn't) stay awake and pray when Jesus asked him to (Mark 14:37).

When he was skeptical of Jesus' command to fish in deep water (Luke 5:4-11).

After Peter participated in a dispute about who was the greatest disciple (Luke 22:31).

When Jesus questioned Peter's love for him (John 21:15-19).

#### F. The rock of the early church

- He took the lead in finding a replacement for Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:15–26).
- He fearlessly preached the gospel (Acts 2:14–40; 3:12–26).
- He performed miraculous healings (Acts 3:1–9; 5:12–16).
- He boldly confronted the Jewish authorities (4:8–20).
- He unhesitatingly disciplined sinning church members (5:1–11).
- He Simon the magician, bluntly telling him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!” (Acts 8:20).
- It was through Peter's ministry that the doors of the church were thrown open to the Gentiles (Acts 10:1–11:18).
- He traveled and ministered in Antioch, Corinth, Asia Minor, and Rome.

*... To those chosen...*

When was this letter written?

- Nero, who had Peter executed, died in A.D. 68.
- Rome burned in A.D. 64.
- Paul likely released from prison (first imprisonment) in Rome around A.D. 61.
- Therefore, 1 Peter likely written A. D. 62-63.

*... living as exiles dispersed abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...*

Exiles dispersed abroad...

Provinces in Asia Minor (modern Turkey)

- Pontus
  - Sent Jewish pilgrims to Pentecost (Acts 2:9).
  - Home of Aquila (Acts 18:2)
  
- Galatia
  - Towns of Derbe, Lystra, and Iconium (where Paul often ministered)
  
- Cappadocia
  - Sent Jewish pilgrims to Pentecost (Acts 2:9).
  
- Asia
  - Not the Orient.
  - Towns of the seven churches in **Revelation**.
  - Focus of Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 19:10).

