

NT Survey – I Peter The Cup and the Crown

You are a pilgrim in a world growing increasingly hostile to Christians. Still legal, but living a godly life among unbelievers will bring mocking and persecution. Your break from the cult/religion of the masses is considered evil by the pagans. Tempted to become bitter or anxious or even fall apart spiritually because this isn't what you signed on for.

Jesus' lead apostle has a word for you!

Author: Simon Peter. The Rock. Find a far different man.

Date: A.D. 64 Peter will die as a martyr in 4 years.

Occasion: Nero is the Caesar and persecution is growing. Fire in Rome may have already happened. There is verbal reviling, mocking, maligning of Christians, plus suspicions of being subversive to the gov't. An official ban of Christianity in the Roman Empire is not far away.

These scattered Christians outside of Rome are suffering trials, afflictions, sporadic discrimination and harassment of varying degrees. Peter is made aware of this and writes to remind them that suffering must precede glory, to look to Christ as their example and to understand that purifying suffering is the true grace of God, so stand firm in it.

Place of writing: Babylon (5:13)

Two options:

- 1) Literal (J. Vernon McGee's choice); no strong arguments

- 2) Symbolic = Rome (common choice)
 - a. No tradition that Peter went to Babylon
 - b. Babylon had few inhabitants in Peter's day
 - c. Tradition does assert that Peter went to Rome and died there.
 - d. "Babylon" is appropriate figurative expression for Rome as a center of idolatry and worldliness
 - e. Peter used other figurative expressions
 - f. Mark is mentioned and Mark was in Rome during Paul's first imprisonment (Col. 4:10)
 - g. Very unlikely Peter, Mark and Silvanus would all be in Babylon at same time

Theme: Hope in midst of trials or Standing Firm or The Proper Response to Christian Suffering

Outline:

- I. Salvation of the Believer (1)
- II. Submission of the Believer (2 – 3:12)
- III. Suffering of the Believer (3:13 – 5)

General Impressions:

Both positive and realistic; full of both hope/comfort and warnings/commands; really preaches on its own; very Christ-centered and at times doctrinal, yet practical, timely. Pastoral. Heavy emphasis on suffering for righteousness, with proper godly behavior.

Chapter Titles

1. Such a Great Salvation and the Life that Follows
2. God's Will Found!
3. Proper Perspective on Persecution
4. Proper Conduct while Suffering
5. Exhorting Elders & a Call to Humility

Key Words: hope (4x), faith (5x), salvation (3x), revelation (5x) ... suffering (16x) and glory (16x).

Four Major Themes:

1. **Jesus Christ**, especially His example.
2. **Sufferings**, with believers exhorted to have a proper response of godly behavior in midst of sufferings as a way to glorify God and witness to others.
3. **Glory**. The encouragement of this letter comes from the coming glory that suffering Christians will experience at “the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
4. **Submission**, as citizens, servants, wives, persecuted Christians and younger men to their elders is a key area of behavior in midst of suffering.

Purpose: Peter writes to exhort, remind and personally testify that the very experiences these believers were going through – sufferings in the midst of a reviling world – is the true grace of God (5:12). He reminds them of their great salvation and to exhort them to holy living despite the flame of trials. One central theme of right living is submission in our various roles in this world.

Those suffering as Christians can go in one of two wrong directions: bitterness/retaliation or anxiety/apostasy. Peter wants joy, dependence on God and confidence.

Key Chapter: 4

Key Verses: 4:12, 13

Walk thru Key passages:

1:3-5

1:13-16

2:1-3

2:11, 12

2:15

2:21-23

3:8, 9

3:14-16

4:12-14, 19

5:10 and 12