

**THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES**  
**1 PETER 1:1 / 5-22-19 / P.M.**

**I. WHO WROTE THIS LETTER?**

- A. The internal evidence says Peter is its author—1:1a.
- B. Another piece of internal evidence for Peter’s authorship is that whoever wrote it personally witnessed the sufferings of Christ—1 Peter 5:1.
- C. The external evidence suggests Peter may have had some help writing his letter.
  - 1. For one thing, it’s said that the Greek used in this letter is very polished.
  - 2. Acts 4:13 tells us that Peter had little formal education—Acts 4:13.
  - 3. The answer to who may have helped Peter write his letter is found in 1 Peter 5:12.
  - 4. It’s thought that Peter was in Rome when he wrote this letter and Silvanus then delivered it to the churches in Asia Minor.
  - 5. Further external evidence for Peter’s authorship is found in 2 Peter where he says this was the second letter he wrote to them—2 Peter 3:1.
- D. He identifies himself in verse one as Peter but his given name was Simon. Jesus changed his name to Peter, meaning a “rock”—John 1:42.
- E. Peter further identifies himself as an apostle in verse 1.

**II. TO WHOM WAS THIS LETTER WRITTEN?**

- A. Geographically the letter was written to five regions collectively known as Asia Minor. Today this area is known as Turkey—1:1b
- B. Spiritually it was written to Gentile Christians because of the description of their former lives---1:18, 2:10, 4:3.
- C. Also of importance is that Peter calls these Gentiles “**God’s elect**” in verse one. Also in 2:10 Peter said of these Gentile Christians “**now you are the people of God.**”

**III. WHEN WAS THIS LETTER WRITTEN?**

- A. It’s not known for sure, but probably in the 60’s.
- B. If it was written in the early 60’s then it was before Nero set Rome on fire and blamed the Christians launching fierce persecution from 62-64 A.D.
- C. If written later in the 60’s (64 A.D.) then Nero’s persecution of Christians was still in process.

D. Peter probably wrote his letter from Rome calling it “Babylon”, a wicked city of old, in 5:13.

#### IV. WHY WAS PETER’S LETTER WRITTEN?

A. We find the answer in 1:6.

B. This means the Roman persecution of Christians was beginning to spread to other regions held by Rome, including Asia Minor.

C. Why was Christianity persecuted in that day and now in our own day?

1. What people do not understand they fear.

2. What people fear they oppose.

3. What people oppose they attack.

D. We’re seeing this play out before our very eyes today.