

# A LOOK AT THE BOOK 1 PETER

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## AUTHOR AND DATE

The letter claims to have been written by the apostle Peter.

This internal claim is confirmed by tradition.

While the date is uncertain, it was probably written near the end of Peter's ministry, shortly before his death in A.D. 68. It may have been written about A.D. 65.

## BACKGROUND

The letter was directed to saints scattered through Asia Minor.

Peter's reference to the dispersion and his emphasis on ministry to Jews would seem to indicate that the letter was written to Jews.

However, the description of their former life seems to argue for Gentile origins (2:19-12; 4:3).

Neither argument is conclusive, since either view can be defended reasonably.

Perhaps the best solution is to acknowledge the obvious, that these are scattered saints, and to leave open the two interpretive alternatives.

Clearly Peter has written the letter to saints who are suffering because of their faith.

Years have passed since James wrote.

The same conditions continue.

Those who are suffering need encouragement.

## PURPOSE AND THEME

Two key sets of words, or concepts, are repeated throughout the book: "suffer" and "glory".

The repetition and interrelationship of these two ideas point to the theme of 1 Peter.

The book shows the relationship between the present suffering and the future glory in which we will participate in the future.

The main idea is that God uses suffering to prepare us for greater glory.

His purpose is to encourage us to remain faithful to God and to maintain a good testimony.

In the end, God will be glorified and we will participate in His victory.

## 1 PETER

### SUFFERING LEADS TO GLORY

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HOPE WHICH CONQUERS IN SUFFERING	1:1-2:10	CALL TO GOOD TESTIMONY IN SUFFERING	2:11-4:11	CORRECT ATTITUDE AND CONDUCT IN SUFFERING	4:12-5:14
Introduction	1:1-2	Importance of good deeds	2:11-12	Proper attitude	4:12-19
Presentation of our hope	1:3-5	Importance of submission	2:13-3:7	Proper conduct in the church	5:1-9
Purpose of our suffering	1:6-9	To government	2:13-17	For elders	1-4
		At work	2:18-25	For young men	5-9
		At home	3:1-7		
Problem of the prophets	1:10-12	Suffering for doing good	3:8-22	Concluding wish	5:10-11
Practice of our hope	1:13-2:10	Specific application	4:1-11	Personal matters	5:12-14
Proper attitudes	1:13	Christ's example for us	1-2		
Proper actions	1:14-2:10	Our example before the world	3-11		