

Bible Snapshots



First Peter – Spiritual Disciplined Author – 65, A.D., Peter

- Peter, or more properly, Simon, which is Cephas in Hebrews, is one of the main characters of the New Testament. He was the son of a man named Jonas and a resident of Capernaum. He was married, though we don't know anything about his wife (Mark 1:21, 29, 30). By trade he was a fisherman with James and John (Mt. 4:18 and Luke 5:10). He had a brother named Andrew (John 1:40, 41). Peter, it seems, was naturally impetuous and impulsive – asks to walk on the water (Mt. 14:28); cut off the ear of Malchus (John 18:10); asked Christ to wash his hands and head (John 13:9); etc. He was also very presumptuous (Mt. 16:22; John 13:8). He was fainthearted and cowardly at times (Mt. 26:69-74). However, he was also profoundly self-sacrificing (Mt. 15:15-20); tenderhearted and affectionate (Mt. 26:75); and after Pentecost he was courageous and immovable (Acts 4:19, 20). He was one of the three in Christ's inner circle. He heads the list of the apostles in every gospel account. Until Paul comes along, he is the prominent character in the book of Acts.
- By tradition Peter was martyred in Rome by Nero in A.D. 67, being crucified upside-down, feeling he was unworthy to die the same way that Christ died. Christ had foretold his death (John 21:18, 19).
- This first letter is written in a time of great dispersion. The church in general was undergoing a "fiery trial," and the Devil (whom some belief is actually a reference to Nero and his persecution) was roaring and devouring (4:12; 5:8, 9). Peter wrote this general letter to encourage them in the sufferings, to remind them of the important truths of the gospel – sanctification, redemption, and obedience. There are 5 chapters and 105 verses.

Themes

- Christ's death and resurrection, redemption by His blood, the new birth, the resurrection and second coming of Christ and overcoming trial.

Key chapter / verse – 1 – assurances and promises for believers / 1:6, 7 and 4:12, 13

Key words / phrase – Suffer (x15); Pilgrims and strangers

Outline

- I. Introduction (1:1,2)
- II. The Life of Faith (1:3-25)
- III. The Life of Holiness (2:1-3:9)
- IV. The Life of Victory (3:10-4:19)
- V. The Life of Service (5:1-8)
- VI. The Life of Conflict (5:8-11)
- VII. The Conclusion (5:12-14)

Unique names for Christ – Living stone (2:4); Chief Cornerstone (2:6); Head of the Corner (2:7); Shepherd and Bishop of our Souls (2:25); and Chief Shepherd (5:4)

Peter's Bs – Grace, peace, mercy and love Be multiplied to you (1:2); Be sober (1:13); Be holy in character (1:15, 16); Be hungry for the word (2:2, 3); Be subject to masters (2:18); Be pitiful in spirit (3:8); Be courteous (3:8); Be followers of good (3:13); Be ready in testimony (3:15); Be watchful in prayer (4:7); Be clothed with humility (5:5)

Christian (4:16) – The Jews referred to believers as "Nazarenes" (Acts 24:5). Christ called them Brethren, Disciples, and Friends (Mt. 12:48-50; Luke 14:27; John 15:15). The name Christian was given by the citizens of Antioch who were making fun of those who patterned their lives after Jesus (Acts 11:26). It was given more out of mockery than respect. In the Latin language, spoken by Romans in New Testament times, *ianos* often joined a slave's name to his masters to show that the slave belonged to his master. It was used of soldier's as well to show that they would follow orders of their leader. Christian meant "a slave belonging to Christ." It is used 3 times (Acts 26:28; 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16).