

# THE QUEENS MINISTRY BIBLE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP ‘The Ministry of the Apostle Peter’

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*“Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, ... Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”  
1Peter 1:1*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter

### Overview

1<sup>st</sup> Peter is considered one of the General Epistles in the New Testament sections of the Bible. It was written by the Apostle Peter – around AD 64-65 from the city of Rome. (This location is identified in the final verses of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter: “Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings...” 5:13) As many scholars point out - Babylon was probably symbolic for Rome.

Peter wrote this letter to Christians living throughout the Roman territories as a source of encouragement and instruction. Many of the early believers had scattered to different regions of Rome to perhaps escape harassment and persecution by the Roman government; some of the locations where these believers were found were – Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia – regions that we now know as modern-day Turkey.

Of note – the believers Peter was also addressing were of Gentile cultures – remember Christianity had begun to spread beyond the borders of the Jewish nation, and here we find the Apostle reassuring and supporting these Gentile and Jewish believers to remain strong in the faith.

The backdrop to 1<sup>st</sup> Peter is like so many other letters we have in the Bible – to encourage Christians in their faith as they dwelt with the persecution and suffering, they faced under Rome rule. One commentator points out that “By about AD 65 the Christian faith had grown so dramatically that it was becoming a threat to the Roman Empire. Believers were feeling the first wave of persecution for their faith, and this seemed destined to grow stronger in the decades ahead.

The first epistle of Peter was written to encourage Christians in these trying times.” (\*Bible Handbook – George W. Knight)

Peter would write in his letter to these believers that they were not suffering alone, and that there was the example of Jesus Christ who endured suffering that they could follow.

He encouraged the readers by telling them that Jesus’ persecution, death, and eventual resurrection provided assurance and hope for the future. “For the basis of the believer’s hope is Jesus Christ and His resurrection – for He alone provides salvation and the promise of eternal life.” \*

As we read this letter of Peter, we get a sense that he is fulfilling the commands of Jesus – issued before the Ascension of Jesus, such as:

- a) Feeding and caring for the flock (the sheep and lambs)
- b) Go into all the world and teach all nations
- c) To preach salvation to Gentile’s nations – that God shows no partiality  
(Acts 10)

### **A brief outline of the letter of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter by chapters:**

Chapter 1 – 2	Holiness and submission
Chapter 3 -4	Suffering
Chapter 3 -4	Instructions for Christian Living
Chapter 5	Advice for Elders, Members (young and old) in the church

### **Points to consider:**

- 1) Jesus is the living \_\_\_\_\_ who serves as the \_\_\_\_\_ for the faith of believers.
- 2) Those who place their faith in Him are \_\_\_\_\_ from their sins.
- 3) Peter uses the example of Jesus and His suffering to \_\_\_\_\_ believers.

- 4) He reminds them that Jesus' suffering was an example of the \_\_\_\_\_ suffering for the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Peter encourages those who are Christians to live in \_\_\_\_\_ to the commands of Christ.
- 6) He appeals to the readers of his letter to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.
- 7) He urges the believers to guard against the \_\_\_\_\_ that seeks to destroy them.
- 8) First Peter teaches that God can use \_\_\_\_\_ to strengthen Christians and their witness. Knowing this can bring \_\_\_\_\_.

**Key verse:**

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation" 1:3

1<sup>st</sup> Peter is not the only letter attributed to the Apostle Peter that we will take a look at in our study of the Apostle Peter.

What did you gain from our overview of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter

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