

1 & 2 Peter

Breakdown

- The epistles of 1 & 2 Peter were both written by the apostle Peter. Through the gospels, we saw Peter as an unruly disciple of Jesus who made a lot of mistakes, but Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom and told him that his name meant “rock” and the church would be built on that rock (Matt 16:18-19). That prophecy came true when Peter first preached after receiving the Holy Spirit (Acts 2) and when he led the people at Cornelius’ house to be the first Gentiles to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 10).
- Most Bible scholars believe Peter wrote his first letter between 62-63 A.D., and his second letter was written just a few years after that not long before he was martyred.

Main Points

- No suffering is enjoyable, but Peter actually calls it a blessing. When we do what is right no matter what the circumstances, God is pleased. Throughout Peter’s first letter, he gives many reasons why suffering should be considered a blessing, and if anyone was an expert on suffering, it would be Peter. He saw first-hand how Jesus suffered, but he also saw a glimpse of the glory that follows suffering when Jesus arose and ascended to heaven.
- We will experience that same glory when Jesus returns. That is the living hope that Peter tells us to watch for. He also mentioned that same hope in his second letter as he reminded the believers to stand firm on the truth no matter what other people might say because God always keeps His promises.

Did you know?

- Peter told his readers that their faith was being tested to show its strength. What does he compare the testing of their faith to?
- Peter described believers as temporary residents and foreigners in the world. What did he say would happen if we keep our conduct honorable?
- Peter also described believers in Jesus as living stones. What did he say that these living stones were being built into?
- What question did Peter say believers should always be ready to answer?
- Peter proved he was an eyewitness to Jesus’ earthly ministry by describing an event that only he, James, and John saw. What event was Peter talking about?

Further Thought

- The foundation for our faith is and always will be the same Word of God that Peter preached. What can we do to be sure we always stand firm on the Word of God so that we are ready for Jesus’ return?
- Peter reminds us that the hardships we face are just temporary bumps in the road that we will not even remember when Jesus returns for us. How can we remind ourselves of this fact when we face hardships in our lives?
- God has given us everything we need to live a godly life, sharing in His divine nature, and Peter said it all comes through getting to know God personally. What do we need to do to get to know God better so we can enjoy the life He has planned for us?