



# **A STUDY OF THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PETER**

SESSION ONE: INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER



# OVERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Why are We Studying 1 Peter?
- Who was Peter?
- Who Wrote 1 Peter (and When)?
- What is 1 Peter About?





# WHY ARE WE STUDYING 1 PETER?



- It's unique, one of only 2 letters attributed to Peter
- It's focused on encouragement within an increasingly trying time
- It offers valuable, relevant teaching on community and societal roles
- It's the finest sample of Greek writing in the NT, but this can make it difficult to understand
- It offers a glimpse of the apostle at the end of his life



# WHO WAS PETER?

*What are some of the most well-known stories in the Bible about Peter?*





# WHO WAS PETER?

- Is persecuted and imprisoned (w/ other apostles) for proselytizing the gospel; speaks boldly before the Sanhedrin
- Imprisoned again, and is rescued by an angel
- Travels to other cities and encounters God moving among the Gentiles
- Revered in the Jerusalem Church; clashes with Paul over the Gentile controversy
- Travels to Rome; eventually executed by Emperor Nero (according to legend)





# WHO WROTE 1 PETER (AND WHEN)?



- Some New Testament scholars believe that Peter is not the author of 1 & 2 Peter
- As we mature in our understanding of Scripture and how it came to be, it is important to consider these concerns
- Just because authorship is questioned does not necessarily mean authority is



# PSEUDONYMITY

In antiquity, a practice in which a writer (or group of writers) does so under the name of a famous individual or beloved leader in order to honor the person's life, as well as to lend the writing itself greater credence.



# REASONS SOME SCHOLARS OBJECT TO PETER BEING THE WRITER OF *1 PETER*

- The writer of 1 Peter's grasp of Greek is very high (far more than the Greek of Mark's Gospel)
- The references to persecution seem to indicate an empire-wide policy, which historical records show only came about under later emperors
- 1 Peter contains very little about Jewish regulations and customs, while the Peter of Acts appears deeply concerned about these issues
- Several passages of 1 Peter read similarly to Paul's letters



# RESPONSES TO THESE OBJECTIONS

- There is no indication that Peter did not have a decent grasp of Greek; as a Galilean businessman, this would have been rather common
- While the letter references persecution, it does not explicitly refer to executions or any widespread policy, which would certainly have been mentioned if this was indeed taking place at the time of the writing
- The letter is addressed to “the exiles in the Dispersion,” but at a time in which Jewish and Gentile Christians were meeting together
- Despite a famous clash, there is no evidence Peter rejected Paul’s teachings; they had mutual companions, and Paul expresses great respect for Peter



# WHAT IS 1 PETER ABOUT?

- Persecution & Suffering
- Holiness
- Societal/Family Roles
- Community





# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Why do you think it is important to learn  
about a book of the Bible before  
beginning a study of its actual content?



# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What is one thing you now realize about Scripture, or about the New Testament in particular, that you were not aware of before?



# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What is one thing you now realize about Peter that you were not aware of before?



# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What is one question you have always had about 1 Peter? (Or, what is one thing you are hoping to better understand throughout the course of this study?)

**\*You can share your questions and thoughts for further discussion in the Comment section of this video, both on Facebook or Realm.**