

1 Peter



The Author

Pre crucifixion

Impulsive

Self Righteous

Coward

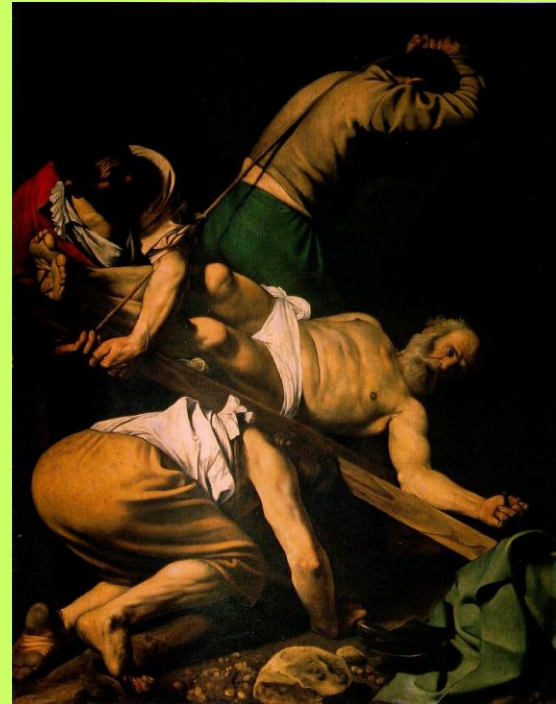
Post crucifixion

Leader

Humble

Willing to suffer





Place of writing

- 1Peter :13 ‘She who is at Babylon...sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark’. Babylon refers to Rome. Peter was carrying through the imagery of the church. Just as in the Old Testament Babylon was the center of worldly power and opposition to God’s people, so in the New Testament Rome was the earthly center of a worldwide system of government and life which was set in opposition to the gospel.



Date of writing and Context

- Between – 62-64 AD
- At first Christianity was tolerated in Rome as a sect of Judaism. But under Nero's reign 54-68 AD, he authorised capturing, torturing and killing of Christians. In 64 AD a large part of Rome was destroyed by fire, believed to be at the instigation of Nero himself who blamed the Christians for this.



Purpose of Letter

• To encourage readers to grow

Destination and readers

in their trust in God and

obedience to Him in their

lives, but especially when they

- 1 Peter 1: 'To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.'

God has done for them in

- These places are part of a circular route around Asia Minor - this letter would reach all major centres of Christian influence in Asia Minor,

where copies would be made and circulated at

each stop. The audience included mainly Gentiles,

but also converted Jews. It is a misconception that

Peter was practically only to the Jews.

example. Our aim should be to

think, desire, value and

believe that



Destination and readers



Galatia

Cappadocia

Bithynia
and Potus

Asia



Purpose of Letter

- To encourage readers to grow in their trust in God and obedience to Him in their lives, but especially when they suffer. Peter accomplishes his purpose by pointing out what God has done for them in Christ, then applying that to reader's lives. St Peter teaches us here how to read the Bible: look at Jesus, the Apostles, the Prophets and the Faithful, and apply the Word to our lives by practically imitating their example. Our aim should be to think, desire, value and behave as they.



St. Peter the Encourager

- Peter was not writing from a secure location, removed from the hardships of human life. In fact, Peter lived at the center of persecution (Rome). Despite personal hardships, Peter, like Paul, wrote to encourage others, to build them up in their faith, and to give direction and guidance. In your struggles, do you look inward or outward? Do you tend to feel sorry for yourself or encourage others?



Content of 1 Peter: Are you prepared to hear what God wants for you?

- “Today, IF you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Hebrews 3:7)
- “But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word WITH JOY; and these have no root, who believe for a while and IN TIME OF TEMPTATION FALL AWAY” (Luke 8:13)



So what ‘word’ does God want me to receive ‘with joy’ so that in time of temptation I will not ‘fall

- St Peter appreciated ~~that~~ **away?** the new converts were rejoicing in their new found salvation in Christ, but he had this to say:
- “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, **if need be**, you have been grieved by various trials.” (1 Peter 1:6) These early Christians were taught that the various trials they were enduring were ‘necessary’!




Necessary Trials? For what?

To prove the genuineness of our faith.

- “ that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is **tested** by fire, may be found to **praise, honour and glory** at the revelation of Jesus Christ”(1 Peter 1:7)



So what you're saying is... We are being TESTED by TRIALS?

- Well of course! The Trials are worth a significant portion of your HSC school assessment and will inadvertently determine your ranking within your school cohort 😊
- Not quite...it is the **genuineness** of **our faith** that is being tested. In other words, at the end of our lives, if we **STILL** love (praise, honour and glory) God, then we were and are genuine (True/ real) Christians that really want to spend eternity with HIM. However, if these trials lead us to deny our faith, blaspheme God and lose our love for Him,  then we and our faith are phoney and fakes.

‘Tribulation’

- In Ancient Roman times, grain was threshed manually. One man stirred the sheaves, and another rode over them in a crude vehicle equipped with rollers instead of wheels. Attached to the rolling cylinders were sharp stones and rough bits of iron. As they grind over the recently tossed sheaves, the iron and stones help separate the husks from the grain. This simple vehicle that separated the ‘good/useful stuff’ from the ‘bad/useless stuff’ was called a ‘tribulum’.



- Do you ever feel like you are under such an inescapable force?
- Remember, no thresher ever operated his tribulum for the purpose of tearing up his sheaves, but only to extract the precious grain.



So what is it that God wants me to hear?

- More important than understanding the purpose of trials is **OUR RESPONSE** to them! This is what this epistle focuses on.
- The temptation has, is and will always be there to **RUN AWAY** from trials. St Paul the hermit is quoted as having said: ‘The one who flees from trials, flees **FROM GOD**’!



How does God suggest I prepare for these trials?

- A Healthy Mind: (1 Peter 1:13)
- Holy Living: (1 Peter 1:14-15)



In other words, whenever we find ourselves trapped by sin, grasping for the pleasures of the world, we reveal **TO THE WORLD, TO GOD and TO OURSELVES** that we place little value, if no real value at all, on the love and salvation of God. In so doing, we **PRACTICALLY** despise the hope that we profess to have in Heaven.



The greatest obstacle to facing trials in a holy way...the passions of the flesh!

- In short, it is IMPOSSIBLE to possess a healthy mind and to practise holy living if a person gives themselves over to these.
- Consider these 3 reasons for abstaining from these
- 1 Peter 2:11
- 1 Peter 1:14
- 1 Peter 4:2-3



- Glory be to God. Amen





