

The two Epistles of Peter

An Overview

Sunday 2nd July 2017

Progressed Bible-Reading Plan for Peter
Nuneaton Christian Fellowship July and August 2017

Date	Scripture	Golden Verses (What's God saying today?)
1st July	1 Peter 1:1-12	
2nd July	1 Peter 2:1-10	
3rd July	1 Peter 3:1-7	
4th July	1 Peter 4:1-11	
5th July	1 Peter 5:1-10	
6th July	2 Peter 1:1-11	
7th July	2 Peter 2:1-18	
8th July	2 Peter 3:1-13	
9th July	1 Peter 1:1-12	
10th July	1 Peter 2:1-10	
11th July	1 Peter 3:1-7	
12th July	1 Peter 4:1-11	
13th July	1 Peter 5:1-10	
14th July	2 Peter 1:1-11	
15th July	2 Peter 2:1-18	
16th July	2 Peter 3:1-13	
17th July	1 Peter 1:1-12	
18th July	1 Peter 2:1-10	
19th July	1 Peter 3:1-7	
20th July	1 Peter 4:1-11	
21st July	1 Peter 5:1-10	
22nd July	2 Peter 1:1-11	
23rd July	2 Peter 2:1-18	
24th July	2 Peter 3:1-13	
25th July	1 Peter 1:1-12	
26th July	1 Peter 2:1-10	
27th July	1 Peter 3:1-7	
28th July	1 Peter 4:1-11	
29th July	1 Peter 5:1-10	
30th July	2 Peter 1:1-11	
31st July	2 Peter 2:1-18	
1st August	2 Peter 3:1-13	
2nd August	1 Peter 1:1-12	
3rd August	1 Peter 2:1-10	
4th August	1 Peter 3:1-7	
5th August	1 Peter 4:1-11	
6th August	1 Peter 5:1-10	
7th August	2 Peter 1:1-11	
8th August	2 Peter 2:1-18	
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27th August	1 Peter 2:1-10	
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31st August	2 Peter 1:1-11	

Take a copy from the foyer or print it off from our website.

Peter's Two Epistles
Day 02 of 47 Sunday 2nd July 2017

Matt. 8:14-17, Mark 1:29-34, Luke 4:38-44

"He touched her hand and the fever left her."

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A good idea to follow the Bible-Reading Plan – can use the sheet or use the Facebook postings.

Jesus called His 12 disciples. They didn't volunteer. In all the Biblical lists of the disciples, Peter is always named first (and Judas is always named last). He was in Jesus' inner circle of disciples: Peter, Andrew, James and John.

The Person:



What was Peter like?
What can we learn from his life?

Join us to discover what makes this man so interesting.

Disciple Fisherman Denier
Leader Go-getter Writer
Orator Follower Saint

Sunday mornings at 11.00am during July and August.

nuneatonchristianfellowship.org.uk

Adjectives on Peter poster:

Disciple Fisherman Denier
Leader Go-getter Writer
Orator Follower Saint

The Person: he saw these things first hand

- ❑ Cana: the first miracle (John 2:1-12)
- ❑ On a mountain: scary teachings (Matt.5-7)
- ❑ A solitary place: 12 basketfuls left (Matt.14:13-21)
- ❑ Coming down: a mat not now needed (Luke 5: 17f)
- ❑ Youngsters: clear off! (Matt.19:13-15)
- ❑ A daft question?: not to Jesus (Mark 5:24b-34)
- ❑ Stroll at night: "Come." (Matt. 14:25-33)
- ❑ Too late: different time scale (John 11:1-44)
- ❑ Washing: ok, go for it (John 13:5-9)
- ❑ Another mountain: dazzling sight (Mark 9:2-10)
- ❑ "You cannot be serious!": 3 times (Mark 14:66-72)
- ❑ Doing my head in: 'wow' again (Luke 24:1-12)
- ❑ A changed man: speaking with Divine help (Acts 2:37-41)
- ❑ Released: the doors opened (Acts 12:1-17)

These are a selection of events involving Peter.. Using the Bible-Reading Plan to find out more

Imagine what you can see, hear and smell during these occasions.

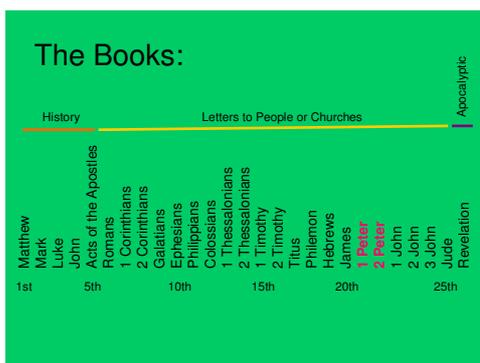
What was it like seeing the first miracle? We're looking at Peter, but if he was still alive, he'd be saying "Look at Jesus, not me!"

Mark 15:72

A big burly fisherman who wasn't afraid of much and often put his size 12 feet into action "wept"! Collapsed in tears; And thinking of this, he began weeping [in anguish]; And having put his thought upon it [and remembering], he broke down *and* wept aloud *and* lamented; And throwing himself down, he burst into tears; And he broke down and wept; Then Peter began to cry very hard; Then Peter was very sad and began to cry; Then Peter lost control of himself and began to cry.

Does head in – to confuse or disturb

God changed an enthusiastic Galilean fisherman into a leader who would defy the Jewish and Roman authorities.



The Books:

	1 Peter	2 Peter	Total
Books	1	1	2
Chapters	5	3	8
Verses	105	61	166

The Books:



Codex Sinaiticus

In 4th century the first proper bound Bibles were produced. The Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Alexandrinus and Codex Vaticanus contain Septuagint, the NT and some other books! Codex means book. A hundred years earlier and before, works of literature were written on rolls of paper. The CS (discovered in the library of a monastery in 1844) and CA are in the British Library.

When did the New Testament get to its present form? In 367AD Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria distributed a letter containing a list of the Gospels, Acts, 21 Letters and Revelation. He said that these were the Canon of Scripture.

1 Peter

The author describes himself as Peter in 1:1. 5:1 – he witnessed Christ’s sufferings.

Clement, Polycarp, Irenaeus and Tertullian



Clement of Rome, Clement of Alexandria, Polycarp of Smyrna, Irenaeus of Lyons and Tertullian of Carthage all agree that Peter wrote it. They were some of the “Early Church Fathers” and lived in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. In 5:12 we’re told that the Letter came with the help of Silas. Silas is famous! He was a Roman citizen and more importantly a travelling companion of Paul who was Tarsus. A big event happened in Philippi (Acts 16). Silas may have written what Peter said and written in a polished Greek style. It might have happened that Peter spoke his thoughts, but Silas actually constructed the letter, rather than Peter purely dictating what to write. Some scholars think that Peter didn’t write 2 Peter, but that one of his disciples did when he had just died. It may be that Peter *did* write it himself and so the language is rougher than the first Letter.

Scholars suggest it was written between 60AD and 68AD when Peter was martyred by Emperor Nero. 5:13 says it was written in Babylon. This could be a figurative name for Rome as a place of exile (he certainly died there) or he may have been in Mesopotamia – it was a small town on the River Euphrates (Mes.: “the land between

the Rivers” – Euphrates and Tigris). So likely to be in present day Turkey or Syria. If it was Rome, then he would have spent time with Paul.

1:1 says it was written to a large group of Christians who were in different areas in northern Turkey. It would have been sent via a ‘courier’ from one group and then on to the next one. Some of these might have been converted on the Day of Pentecost when Peter preached in Jerusalem. 30 years later he is still in contact with them It was common for a letter to be read by more than one church: Colossians 4:16.

5:12 – Peter wrote to encourage the Christians. Christians were in danger of persecution and Peter felt they weren’t ready for it 4:12. It’s a very practical book which shows Peter’s pastoral heart. He talks about God, Scripture, the Church and the Last Days. He wants to strengthen and encourage them. cp Sunday mornings – just the same. Peter wanted his readers to respond christianly to their persecutors and urged them to live lives worthy of their calling.

Suffering for the sake of righteousness should not surprise us. Christ suffered unjustly. We should submit to it too. When there is hostility against us, we should still live righteously. Our hope for the future is based on Jesus’ resurrection.

There are a lot of quotes from the Psalms and Isaiah in this Letter. Some of the phrases he uses are reminders of some of what happened in the Gospels.

Main themes?

1 Peter:

Being Christ-like during times of suffering and hostility.

1 Peter:

We are pilgrim people
- strangers and foreigners here.

We’re “only visiting this planet.”

We should live the life of heaven
during our sojourn on earth.

Being Christ-like during times of hostility and suffering.

“Turn the other cheek, go the extra mile.” Easy to say, but much harder to do. In Jesus’ time this was revolutionary behaviour. Today it is revolutionary too. Jesus’ resurrection is celebrated as it gives believers hope whilst they are experiencing suffering.

We are to be a blessing to the nations. The nation of Israel in the OT was meant to do this but didn’t really get it right.

1 Peter:

- Opening Thanksgiving: 1:1 – 1:12
- Part One: 1:13 – 2:10
Call to holy living
- Part Two: 2:11 – 4:11
Be Christ-like
- Part Three: 4:12 – 5:11
Advice to elders
- Closing Greetings: 5:12 – 5:14

1:3-12 (the opening thanksgiving) sets forth the main themes of salvation, hope for the future, suffering and genuine faith.

It's in three main parts with "dear friends" being the easy to spot separator.

Part 1 is a call to holy living – an emphasis on their life together as the people of God.. Images from OT emphasise that the believers are God's children.

Part 2 is a reminder to be Christ-like even when suffering for doing good.

Part 3 is good advice for elders.

2 Peter

Many think Peter wrote it. In 3:1, the author says that it his second letter. Different themes and not having Silas could be the reason why the writing is different. It may have been written between 65 and 68AD.

- Chap 1: to stimulate Christian growth
- Chap 2: to combat false teaching
- Chap 3: to encourage watchfulness as Jesus will certainly return

He knows he is about to die (1:13,14), was on the Mount of Transfiguration (1:16-18) only Peter, James and John were with Jesus there (Mark 9:2-12) and he describes Paul as "our dear brother" in 3:15.

Some people think that 2 Peter is a pseudepigraph. A writing put out after the death of a great person, published under their name and containing the sort of things they'd say. It would do that person honour as people would remember him. The book of Jude is quite similar to 2 Peter. If 1 Peter was written in Rome then the second letter written just a few years later was probably written there too.

Like the first letter, a pastoral concern is shown with Christian growth being a main theme, together with talking about Jesus' return. False teaching is a new theme.

2 Peter:

God's people should grow in
and exhibit godliness.

False teachers will be judged
for their ungodly living.

It is certain that
Jesus is coming again.

People are taking the words of others (like Paul's letters) and twisting them to suit their own ends. Peter says that God's timetable is not like our own – Jesus is definitely coming again!

1 Peter was written to strengthen scattered Christians being called upon to face persecution and suffering. 2 Peter was written to encourage Christians facing seducers who spread false teachings and scoffers who used the fact that Christ had not returned yet as an excuse for immorality (3:3). We are reminded to prepare for Christ's return. In a multi-faith society we too should seek God first in all we do. Keynote of his letter: 1:10, 11.

2 Peter:

- Opening Hiya: 1:1–2
- Part One: 1:3–11
Confirm your calling
- Part Two: 1:12–21
Jesus is coming again
- Part Three: 2:1–22
False teachers + judgement
- Part Four: 3:1–18
Be ready not reckless

We can confirm our calling through growth in godliness. A rich reward awaits us – 1:11.

He mentions the Transfiguration and prophecy to support Jesus' Second Coming. False teachers will be judged by God. We reject God when we reject holy living

What is next?

- Get to know Peter;
- Read all the Gospels and Acts;
- You can use the Bible-Reading Plan;
- Aim to at least read each Chapter on the Friday or Saturday – several versions is a bonus!