



# 1 Peter

**New  
Testament**

β 60th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 0.34% of the verses in the Bible

β Written by Peter

The Church began explosively. Jesus had risen from the dead and had ascended into heaven. Now the Holy Spirit had come to dwell within those who followed God. Multitudes of people were realising the condition of their lives and accepting Jesus as their Saviour. Suddenly persecution broke out against those who followed The Way. Several Roman Emperors, as well as the Jewish authorities, ensured that oppression against Christians was widespread, vicious and continuous.

It is in this time of hostility and suffering that Peter wrote to several groups of Christians in northern Turkey in c.65AD. It is thought that one letter would have been taken via a 'courier' to these different churches. Their ordeal was real. Their anguish wasn't going to go away quickly. Peter wrote to encourage them to persevere in following Jesus.

**Facts:** Peter saw much of what Jesus did during the three years he followed Him around Galilee and Jerusalem. After Pentecost he was a changed man. He had become 'a rock.'

He was telling them to be revolutionary - to turn the other cheek and to go the extra mile in spite of the persecution they were facing.

We too are called to act the same way.

Christ's own suffering is a pattern for us to live by and His resurrection gives us hope for the future. Followers of Jesus (both then and now) are pilgrims. We should live the life of heaven whilst here on earth.

Silas (a friend and companion of Paul) helped Peter to write the letter (Greek is 'epistle'). It was perhaps written in Rome.

**Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.**