

Introduction to I Peter

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 3-7-18

Introduction

- Primary resources
 - NASB bible
 - *The Message of I Peter* (The Bible Speaks Today), Edmund Clowney
- **What is the goal of Bible study?**
 - To _____, to _____, and to _____
 - “Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,” – Jeremiah 31:10
 - “Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.” – 1 Sam 3:9
 - Jesus said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” – Luke 11:28.
- **See Appendix I - I Peter Schedule (tentative)**

Character of the Letter

- _____ - seeks to encourage and reassure Christian churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) during a season of persecution.
- _____ - proclamation of hope in Jesus Christ
- _____ - Peter’s witness is reflected in Mark’s gospel
 - Peter’s relationship to Mark
 - Acts 12:12-14 - Jerusalem house church
 - 1 Peter 5:13 - “My son, Mark.”
 - Mark/Peter seems parallel to Luke/Paul
 - Testimony of the early church (Papias, Irenaeus, Justin, Clement, Tertullian, etc.)
 - Papias: “Mark became Peter’s interpreter and wrote accurately all that he remembered, not, indeed, in order, of the things said and done by the Lord.”
 - I Peter shows us what the story in Mark means for us as Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him.

Audience

- Provinces in Asia Minor
 - V. 1 - “Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia”
 - Smaller regions or official provinces?
- Areas not reached by Paul?
 - Cf. Acts 16:7
- Widely _____ people geographical regions and people groups represented
 - Geographical: Coastal regions, mountain ranges, lakes, river systems
 - People group: different origins, ethnic roots, languages, customs, religions, political histories
 - Cf. Paul/Barnabas at Lystra in Acts 14:8-18



- Audience is _____ as the new people of God, the brotherhood, the chosen people scattered throughout the world (2:9-10, 17; 5:9)
- Predominantly _____
 - Despite OT usage (cf. Paul)
 - 1:18 + 4:3 = not likely the way handed down by Jewish fathers

Writer of the Letter

- Peter is the _____ (1:1)
- Writer is _____
- Perhaps Silas?
 - Paul's travel companion in Asia Minor and Greece
 - A representative of the apostles/elders in Jerusalem (Acts 15:22, 27), even named as a prophet (Acts 15:32)
- 5:12 - More than a letter bearer?

Location and Timing of Composition

- 5:13 - Peter sends his greetings from "Babylon"
 - Not the desolate and ruined city of Mesopotamia, but symbolically _____
 - In the OT, Babylon = great city/empire of _____ for God's people. Strangers in a foreign land.
- According to tradition, Peter was only in Rome at the end of his life
 - Likely *after* Paul had left after his first imprisonment (AD 62) but *before* Nero's persecution (AD 64)
 - ~AD 63

Message

- Being the _____ of God in a fallen world
 - The life of grace conflicts with the prevailing norms and customs of society
 - Inherently results in suffering
 - Not necessarily state-organized campaign of persecution
 - That which results from the societal tensions created by a distinct, holy lifestyle.
 - Their way of life inspired discrimination, slander, ostracism, and reproach from the world around them (1:6; 2:12, 19-20; 3:9, 13-17; 4:3-4; 5:8-10)
- Peter understood this, but they _____
 - Suffering was strange (4:12)
 - Grace accounts for suffering AND also casts it into a new light. Submitting to the way of grace leads to glory (5:10)
 - Should stimulate confidence, faithfulness, and joy as we anticipate the glory of when Christ returns

Purpose: To offer _____ to suffering Christians.

Appendix I - I Peter Schedule (tentative)

Date	Text	Title	Notes
3-7		Introduction to I Peter	
3-14	1:1-2	From Peter, an Apostle of Jesus Christ	
3-21	1:3-12	Bless God for Our Hope in Christ - Part 1	
3-28	1:3-12	Bless God for Our Hope in Christ - Part 2	
4-4	1:13-2:3	Live Obediently in Hope - Part 1	
4-11	1:13-2:3	Live Obediently in Hope - Part 2	P. Aaron sub (vacation)
4-18	TBD (General Conference)		
4-25	2:4-10	Life of the Spiritual Temple - Part 1	
5-2	Spring revival		
5-9	Potato Festival prep		
5-16	Potato Festival prep		
5-23	2:4-10	Life of the Spiritual Temple - Part 2	
5-30	2:11-20	The New Lifestyle - Part 1	
6-6	2:11-20	The New Lifestyle - Part 2	
6-13	2:21-3:7	The New Lifestyle (continued) - Part 1	
6-20	2:21-3:7	The New Lifestyle (continued) - Part 2	
6-27	3:8-22	The Blessing of Living With Christian Suffering - Part 1	
7-4	3:8-22	The Blessing of Living With Christian Suffering - Part 2	
7-11	4:1-11	The Blessing of Living as Stewards of Grace - Part 1	
7-18	VBS		
7-25	4:1-11	The Blessing of Living as Stewards of Grace - Part 2	
8-1	4:12-19	The Blessing of Suffering for Christ's Sake - Part 1	
8-8	4:12-19	The Blessing of Suffering for Christ's Sake - Part 2	
8-15	5:1-11	Living in the Suffering Church of God - Part 1	
8-22	5:1-11	Living in the Suffering Church of God - Part 2	
8-29	5:12-14	Final Greetings	