

The First Epistle of St Peter

Living HOPE

An ancient Roman saying is still quoted today and, like most adages (proverbs), it has an element of truth but no guarantee of certainty. It is not the *fact* of life that determines hope, but the *faith* of life. A Christian has a "living hope" رجاء حي (1 Peter 1:3, NASB)

because his faith and hope are in God ان ایمانکم و رجاءکم هما فی الله (1 Peter 1:21). This "living hope" is the major theme of **St Peter's first Epistle.** He is saying to all believers, "Be hopeful!"

The Writer (1 Peter 1:1)

He identified himself as "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:1). Some liberals have questioned whether a common fisherman could have penned this Epistle, especially since St Peter and St John were both called "unlearned and ignorant men" (Acts 4:13).

His given name was **Simon**, but our Lord Jesus changed it to **Peter**, which means "a stone" (John 1:35-42). The Aramaic equivalent of "Peter" is "Cephas," so Peter was a man with three names. Nearly fifty times in the New Testament, he is called "Simon"; and often he is called "Simon Peter."



Saint Peter's Square in Rome with the Basilica in the background

St Peter wrote from experience

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." اصحوا و اسهروا لان ابلیس خصمکم کاسد زائر یجول ملتمسا من یبتلعه هو (1 Pet. 5:8)

"Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously."

الذي اذ شتم لم يكن يشتم عوضا و اذ تألم لم يكن يهدد بل كان يسلم لمن يقضي بعدل (1 Pet. 2:23).

"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters." فلا يتألم احدكم كقاتل او سارق او فاعل شر او متداخل في امور غيره (1 Pet. 4:15).

"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty." لأننا لم نتبع خرافات مصنعة اذ عرفناكم بقوة ربنا يسوع المسيح و مجيئه بل قد كنا معاينين عظمته (2 Pet. 1:16).

This Epistle is also associated with **Silas** (**Silvanus**, 1 Peter 5:12). He was one of the "chief men" in the early church يهوذا الملقب برسابا وسيلا رجلين متقدمين في الاخوة (Acts 15:22) and a prophet يهوذا وسيلا اذكانا هما ايضا نبيين وعظا الاخوة بكلام کثیر و شدداهم (Acts 15:32).

Date

After A.D. 63 **Pontus**, located in northern Asia Minor, ceased to exist as a client kingdom of Rome. Yet St Peter lists Pontus first in the letter's address (1:1). Furthermore, the element of persecution, which pervades the letter, suggests that St Peter wrote it in A.D. 63 or a little earlier, that is, shortly before his martyrdom in Rome under Nero about A.D. 65 (67).

The Recipients (1 Peter 1:1)

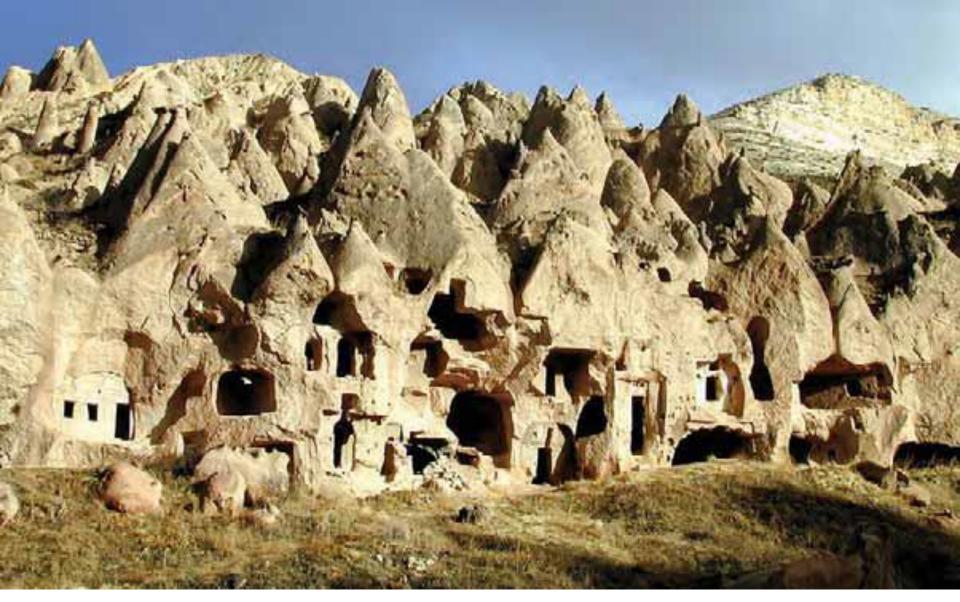
St Peter called them "strangers" المتغربين (1 Peter 1:1), which means "resident aliens, sojourners." They are called "strangers and pilgrims" in 1 Peter 2:11. كغرياء ونزلاء

These people were **citizens of heaven** through faith in Christ (Phil. 3:20).

- It is possible that **Silas was the bearer** of this Epistle to the believers in the provinces,
- and also the secretary who wrote the epistle.

Location of Recipients





Cappadocia, one of the provinces named in the address of 1 Peter

The First Epistle of St Peter

Pain from outward Persecution

The Second Epistle of St Peter

Pain from inward False Teachers

The Message (1 Peter 5:12)

First Peter is an Epistle of encouragement (1 Peter 5:12). We have noted that the theme of suffering runs throughout the Epistle, but so also does the theme of *glory* توجد للمدح و الكرامة و المجد عند استعلان يسوع المسيح... روح المسيح الذي فيهم اذ سبق فشهد بالآلام التى للمسيح و الامجاد التي بعدها.... انتم الذين به تؤمنون بالله الذي اقامه من الاموات و اعطاه مجدا

و ان تكون سيرتكم بين الامم حسنة لكي يكونوا في ما يفترون عليكم كفاعلي شريمجدون الله في يوم الافتقاد لكي يتمجد الله في كل شيء بيسوع المسيح الذي له المجد و السلطان الى ابد الابدين امين.... لكى تفرحوا في استعلان مجده ايضا مبتهجين... فطوبي لكم لان روح المجد و الله يحل عليكم اما من جهتهم فيجدف عليه و اما من جهتكم فيمجد... اطلب الى الشيوخ الذين بينكم انا الشيخ رفيقهم و الشاهد لآلام المسيح و شريك المجد العتيد ان يعن.... و متى ظهر رئيس الرعاة تنالون اكليل المجد الذي لا يبلى... و اله كل نعمة الذي دعانا الى مجده الابدي في المسيح يسوع بعدما تألمتم يسيرا هو يكملكم و يثبتكم و يقويكم و يمكنكم

11 له المجد و السلطان الى ابد الابدين امين.... (see 1 Peter 1:7-8, 11, 21; 2:12; 4:11-16; 5:1, 4, 10-11).

Ch. 1 Salvation And Sufferings

Ch. 2 Our Relation With Christ Our Rock

Ch. 2 Our Social Relations In The Lord Jesus

Ch. 3 Our Family Relations In The Lord Jesus

Ch. 3	Our Relations With Those Suffering In The
	Lord Jesus

Ch. 4 Tribulations And The Life Of Holiness

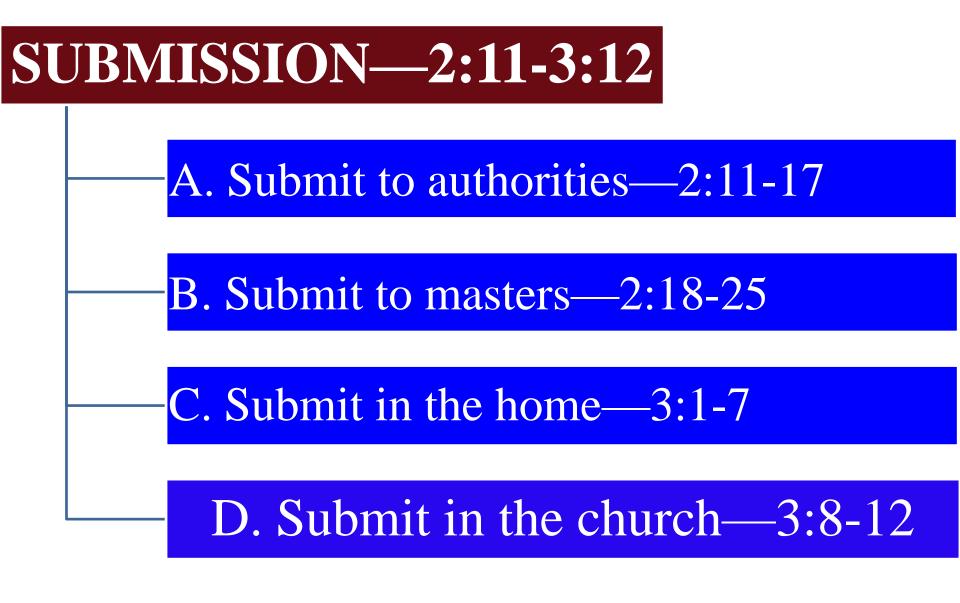
Ch. 5 Our Church Relations In The Lord Jesus



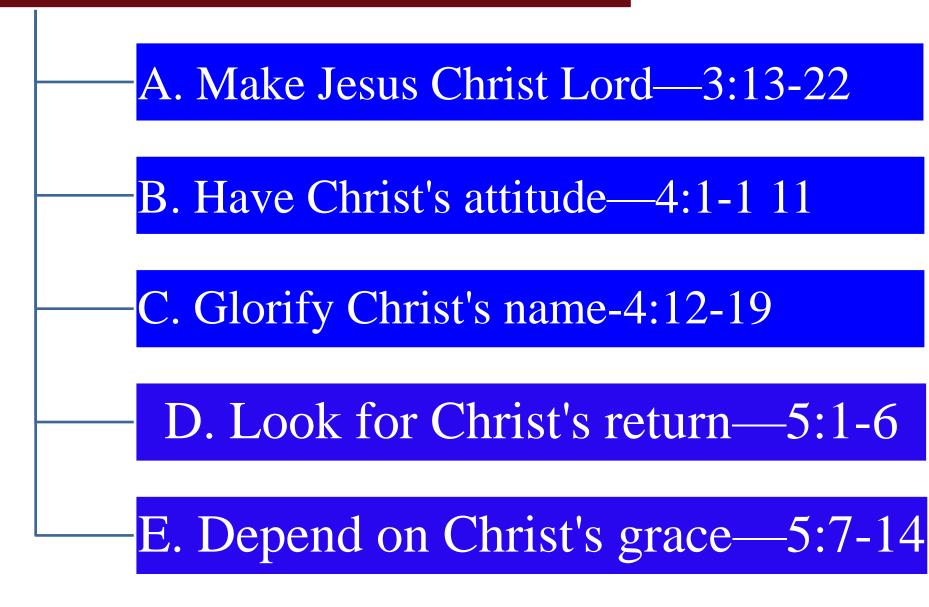


B. Live in holiness—1:13-21

C. Live in harmony—1:22-2:10



SUFFERING-3:13-5:11





Woman with braided hair

•The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone." (Ps. 118:22).



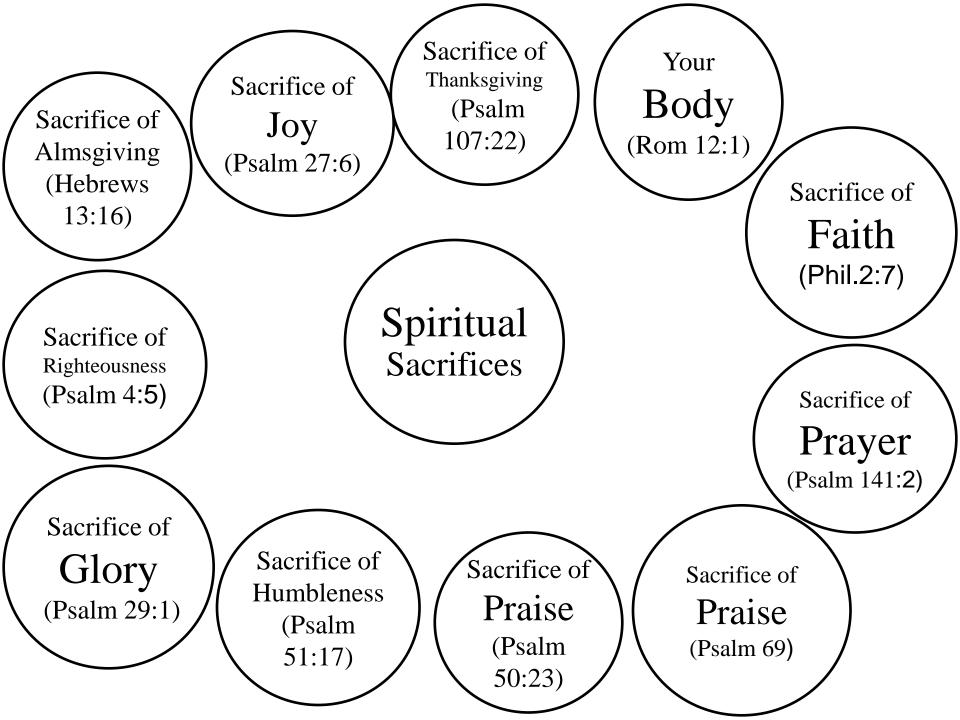
"A Royal Priesthood" (2:9)**"A Chosen Generation"** (2:9)**"A Holy Nation"** (2:9)"His Own Special People" (2:9)**"The People Of God"** (2:10)

"Sojourners And Pilgrims" (2:11)"Christian" (4:16)**"The Flock Of God"** (5:2)









Praise God 2 Cor. 1:3 Eph. 1:3 1 Pet. 1:3



مبارك الله ابو ربنا يسوع المسيح الذي باركنا بكل بركة روحية في السماويات في المسيح (Eph. 1:3).

مبارك الله ابو ربنا يسوع المسيح الذي حسب رحمته الكثيرة ولدنا ثانية لرجاء حي بقيامة يسوع المسيح من الاموات (1 Pet. 1:3).



•"A living hope" (1:3) •"The genuineness of your faith" (1:7)

•"Whom having not seen you love." (1:8)

• "You rejoice with **jOy** inexpressible and full of glory." (1:8)

Of this salvation (1:10-12) The Prophets have inquired and searched carefully. The Apostles have preached the gospel to you. **The angels** desire to look into.



(2:9-10)



A. Submit to authorities (2:11-17)B. Submit to masters(2:18-25)

C. Submit in the home (3:1-7) D. Submit in the Church (3:8-12)

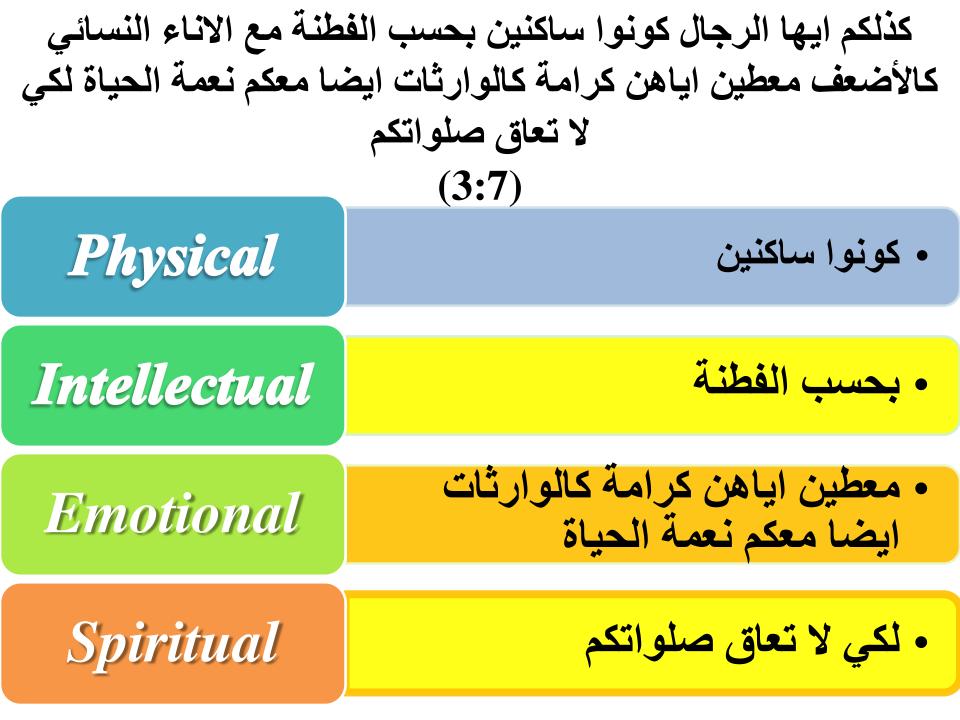
Ch. 3 Our family relations in the Lord Jesus

Submission is an obligation (v. l)

Submission is an opportunity (vv. 1-2)

Submission is an ornament (vv. 3-6) "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." (3:7)





Ch. 4 Tribulations And The Life Of Holiness

(v. 7) **1. Be serious** (v. 7) 2. Watchful in your prayers (v. 8) **3. Have fervent love** (v. 9) 4. Be hospitable (vv. 10-11) 5. Minister your gifts 6. Do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you (v. 12) 7. Rejoice (v. 13)
8. Do not be ashamed (vv. 15-16)
9. Glorify God (vv. 16-18)
10. Commit yourself to God (v. 19)

Ch. 4 Tribulations And The Life Of Holiness

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- اصحوا للصلوات
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- لتكن محبتكم بعضكم لبعض شديدة لإن المحبة تستر كثرة من
 الخطايا
 - کونوا مضیفین بعضکم بعضا بلا دمدمة
- ليكن كل واحد بحسب ما اخذ مو هبة يخدم بها بعضكم بعضا كوكلاء صالحين على نعمة الله المتنوعة
 - الاحباء لا تستغربوا البلوى المحرقة التي بينكم حادثة لاجل امتحانكم كانه اصابكم امر غريب

Our suffering means fellowship with Christ

• (v. 13)

Our suffering means glory in the future

•(v. 13)

Our suffering brings to us the ministry of the Holy Spirit

• (v. 14)

Our suffering enables us to glorify His name

•(v. 14)

Our suffering means fellowship with Christ

بل كما اشتركتم في الام المسيح افرحوا

Our suffering means glory in the future

•لكي تفرحوا في استعلان مجده ايضا مبتهجين

Our suffering brings to us the ministry of the Holy Spirit

• ان عيرتم باسم المسيح فطوبى لكم لان روح المجد و الله يحل عليكم

Our suffering enables us to glorify His name

•اما من جهتهم فيجدف عليه و اما من جهتكم فيمجد

Ch. 5 Our Church Relations In The Lord Jesus

How to be a good shepherd 1 Peter 5:1-4

Be Humble

(1 Peter 5:5-7)

Spiritual Warfare

Farewell Greetings



(5:8-11)

"But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you." (5:10)







The Second Epistle of St Peter

The First Epistle of St Peter

Pain from outward Persecution

The Second Epistle of St Peter

Pain from inward False Teachers

Categories of Canonization

Eusebius used three categories to describe Christian writings:

- 1. accepted
- 2. disputed
- 3. spurious

Example

Eusebius included II Peter along with James, Jude, II John, and III John in category 2 (i.e. disputed). **Eusebius accepted I Peter;** had doubts about II Peter, and rejected as **spurious** other supposed writings of Peter (1) the Acts of Peter; (2) the Gospel of Peter; (3) the Preaching of Peter; And (4) the Apocalypse of Peter.

AUTHORSHIP

A. This is the most disputed NT Book as to traditional authorship.
B. The reasons for these doubts are both internal (its style and content) and external (its late acceptance).*

INTERNAL CONCERNS

1. <u>Style</u>

a. The style is very different from I Peter. This was recognized by Origen and St Jerome.

(1) Origen acknowledged that some rejected St Peter's authorship, yet he **quoted** from II Peter six times in his writings.

(2) St Jerome attributed this to St Peter's use of a different scribe.

He also acknowledges that some in his day rejected St Peter's authorship.

(3) Eusebius addresses this concern in Eccl. His. 3:3:1: "but the so-called second Epistle we have not received as canonical,

but nevertheless it has appeared useful to many, and has been studied with other Scripture."

 b. The style of II Peter is very distinctive.
 In The Epistle of James, Peter and Jude in the Anchor Bible, pp. 146-147, B. Reicke calls it "Asianism."

"It was called 'Asian' style because its foremost representatives came from Asia Minor, and it was characterized by a loaded, verbose, high-sounding manner of expression leaning toward the novel and bizarre, and careless about violating classic ideals of simplicity... Our epistle was undoubtedly written in conformity with the rules of the Asian school which was still important during the first Christian century."

c. It is possible that St Peter attempted to write in a language (i.e. Koine Greek) in which he was not fully functional. His mother tongue was Aramaic.

2. Genre

a. Is this a typical first century letter? (1) it has a typical opening and close (2) it, however, seems to be a cyclical **Epistle to several churches, like** Galatians, Ephesians, James, and I John **b.** It may be a specialized Jewish genre called "testament," which is characterized by:

- (1) <u>a farewell discourses</u>:
- (a) Deuteronomy 31-33
- (b) Joshua 24
- (c) the Testament of the Twelve
- **Patriarchs (Apocrypha)**
- (d) John 13-17
- (e) Acts 20:17-28
- (2) a prediction of imminent death (cf. II Timothy)
- (3) an admonition of his hearers to keep on in his tradition

3. The relation between II Peter 2 and Jude

- a. There has obviously been **some literary borrowing**.
- **b.** The allusion to non-canonical sources
- has caused many to reject both Jude and
- II Peter, yet even I Peter makes allusion
- to I Enoch and St Paul even quotes
- Greek poets.

4. The book itself claims to be from Peter the Apostle

- a. He is named in 1:1. He is called
- Symeon Peter.
- Peter is the name given to him by our
- Lord Jesus (cf. Matt. 16).
- Symeon (not Simon) is **rare** and **unusual**.
- If someone were trying to write in
- Peter's name the choice of this Semitic
- spelling is very surprising and counterproductive to pseudonymity.

b. He claims to be an eye-witness to the transfiguration (cf. Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36) in 1:16-18.
c. He claims to have written a first Epistle (cf. 3:1), which implies I Peter.

5. Orthodoxy

a. There is **nothing** in this Epistle which **contradicts** NT Apostolic teaching. **b.** There are a few unique items (i.e. world destroyed by fire and Paul's writings seen as Scripture), but **nothing** gnostic or adoptionistic or obviously heretical.

DATE

Church tradition asserts that the Apostle Peter died in Rome while Nero was Caesar. Nero instituted persecution towards Christians in A.D. 64. He killed himself in A.D. 68.

RECIPIENTS

A. If I Peter is referred to in II Peter 3:1 then the recipients would be the same (i.e. northern Turkey). **B. II Peter may be a testimonial to** encourage all believers to persevere under trial, resist false teachers, and live faithfully in the gospel tradition in anticipation of the Second Coming.

OCCASION

- A. As I Peter addresses persecution and suffering, II Peter addresses false teachers.
- **B.** The exact nature of the false teaching
- is uncertain, but it may be related to
- antinomian Gnosticism (cf. 2:1-22; 3:15-
- 18).
- This book uses **technical vocabulary** employed by both incipient Gnosticism and the mystery religions.

Key Verse

²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the **Holy Spirit.** عالمين هذا اولا أن كل نبوة الكتاب ليست من تفسير خاص 21 لأنه لم تأت نبوة قط بمشيئة انسان بل تكلم اناس الله القديسون مسوقين من الروح القدس (2Pet. 1:20-21).

The Second Epistle of St Peter

The Need to	The False	The Second
Grow	Teachers	Coming
(Ch. 1)	(Ch. 2)	(Ch. 3)

The Second Epistle of St Peter

True ProphecyFalse Prophecy(Ch. 1)(Ch. 2)

Prophecy (Ch. 3)

The Second Epistle of St Peter

Holiness	Heresy	Hope
(Ch. 1)	(Ch. 2)	(Ch. 3)

"Partakers of the divine nature" شركاء الطبيعة الأبية

Cultivating of Christian Character (Ch. 1)

The "great and precious promise." وهب لذا المواعيد العظمى و الثمينة (2 Pet. 1:4).

From faith to love. Transform profession to practice.

Growing in Virtues (2 Pet. 1 : 5-7) 8 Christian Virtues

To virtue knowledge To knowledge selfcontrol

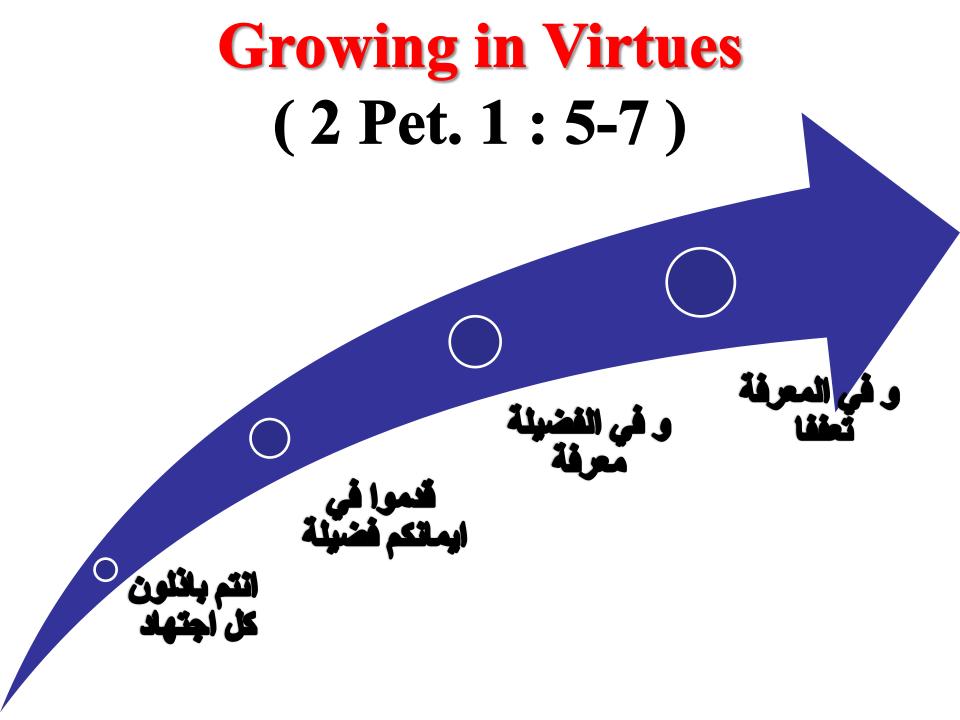
Add to your faith virtue all diligence

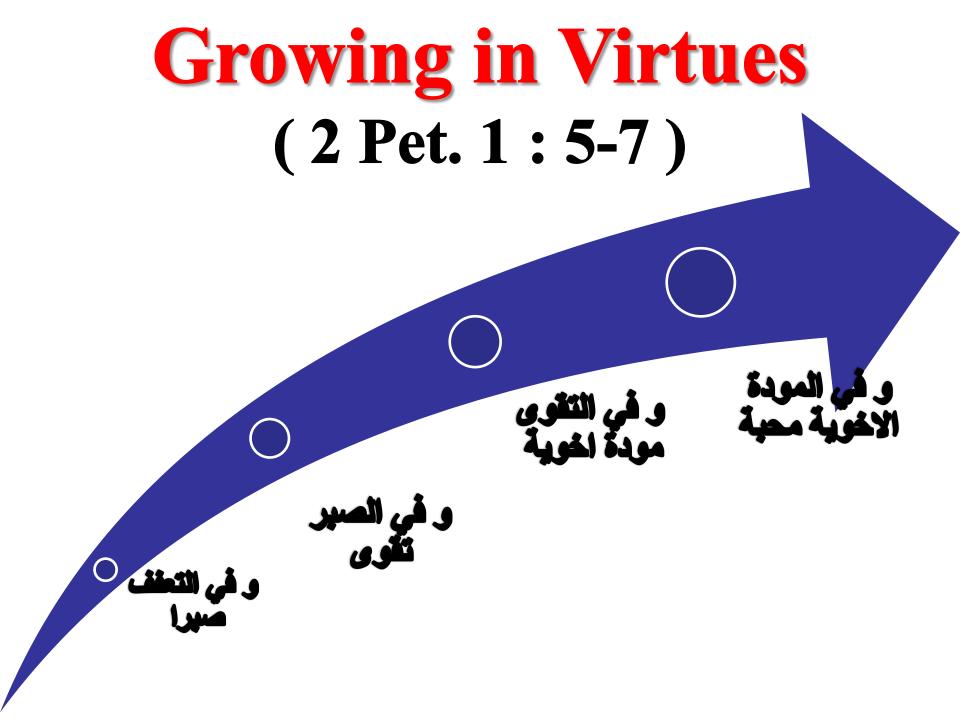
Growing in Virtues (2 Pet. 1 : 5-7)

To selfcontrol To Self-

perseverance

And to brotherly kindness love.

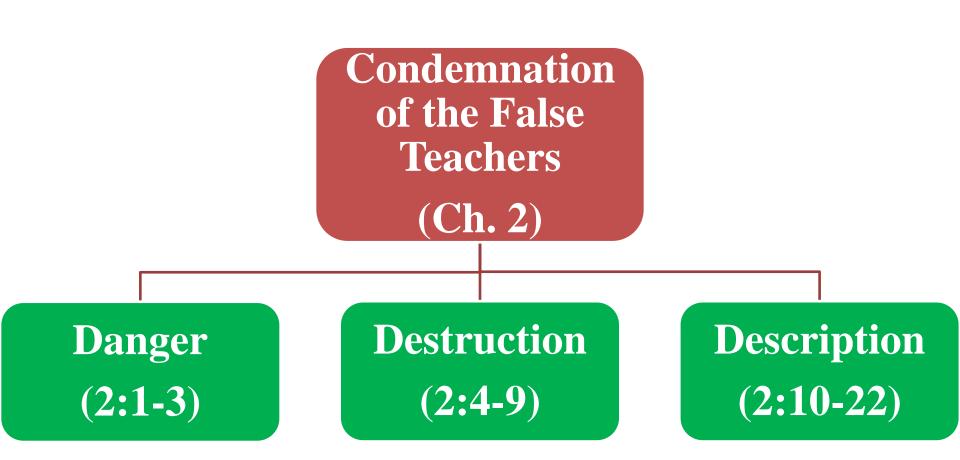




The False Teachers (Chapter 2)

They are **dangerous**. They arose **within** the church. They **undermined** the confidence of the believers.

و لكن كان ايضا في الشعب انبياء كذبة كما سيكون فيكم ايضا معلمون كذبة الذين يدسون بدع هلاك و اذ هم ينكرون الرب الذي اشتراهم يجلبون على انفسهم هلاكا سريعا 2 و سيتبع كثيرون تهلكاتهم الذين بسببهم يجدف على طريق الحق 3 و هم في الطمع يتجرون بكم بأقوال مصنعة الذين دينونتهم منذ القديم لا تتوانى و هلاكهم لا ينعس





Their Character (2:10-17)

Their Claims (2:18-20) Their Tragedy of Apostasy (2:21-22) Their Methods(2:1-3)Deception(v. 1)Denial(v. 1)Sensuality(v. 2)Greed(v. 3)





Their Reviling (2 Peter 2:10-12)

The reason for their reviling(v. 10)The seriousness of their reviling(v. 11)The judgment of their reviling(v. 12)

Their character (2:10-17)

- ******"Who walk according to the flesh in the lust*
- of uncleanness."
- *****"Despise authority."
- *"They are presumptuous."
- *"Self-willed."
- ***** "They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries."
- *****"Like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed."



- ***** "Speak evil of the things they do not understand."
- *"They are spots and blemishes."
- *****"Carousing in their own deceptions
- while they feast with you."
- *****"Having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin."
- *** "Enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices."**



- * "They are accursed children."
- ***** "They have forsaken the right way and gone astray."
- *** Following the way of Balaam the son of Beor.**"





Images:

- > These are wells without water.
- Clouds carried by a tempest.
- > For whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

A. Be mindful (3:1-7)

B. Be not ignorant (3:8-10)

The Second Coming (Ch. 3)

C. Be diligent (3:11-14)

D. Beware (3:15-18)





The Second Coming (Ch. 3)

اي اناس يجب ان تكونوا انتم في سيرة مقدسة و تقوى

احسبوا اناة ربنا خلاصا (3:15-18)

(3:11-14)

Scoffers of the Second Coming

True Knowledge vs. false knowledge

God does not delay:

He is patient: لا يتباطأ الرب عن وعده كما يحسب قوم التباطؤ لكنه يتأتى علينا و هو لا يشاء ان يهلك اناس بل ان يقبل الجميع الى التوبة 2 Pet 3:9)

To live lives of **holiness**, Steadfastness, And growth. اجتهدوا لتوجدوا عنده بلا دنس و لا عيب في سلام (2 Pet 3:14) He ended the epistle with an appeal to growth, And **doxology**. و لكن انموا في النعمة و في معرفة ربنا و مخلصنا يسوع المسيح له المجد الان و الى يوم الدهر امين (2 Pet 3:18)



Spiritual Growth Brings Practical Results (2 Peter 1:8-11)

The World Darkens, but the Word Shines (2 Peter 1:19-21)