

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME SEVEN
THE FINAL WORD—A SURVEY OF HEBREWS—REVELATION
1 PETER: HOPE FOR THE HURTING
A SURVEY OF 1 PETER



The Heart of the Matter

A quick glance at the first few verses of 1 Peter is enough to give us an understanding of Peter's message to his readers: "hope for the hurting." According to verse 1, the "hurting" were "those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout" vast regions of the Roman Empire. These Christians were objects of social ostracism, slander, mistreatment, and threats. They needed encouragement. Sitting on a powder keg of potential persecution, these believers were day after day "distressed by various trials" (1 Peter 1:6) and "tested by fire" (1:7). Peter wrote to help them endure suffering and, instead of facing it with grim, somber determination, face it with an attitude of joy! But how?



Discovering the Way

1. Background of the Letter

The recipients of 1 Peter were persecuted Christians scattered throughout the Roman Empire. The apostle Peter wrote to encourage and strengthen them.

2. Overall Content of the Letter

The letter of 1 Peter has a central idea: strength during times of suffering. But to understand this theme, we need to understand what the letter says, how the theme develops throughout the letter, and why the message is relevant today.



Starting Your Journey

During times of pain, four attitudes are worth remembering and emulating: rejoice rather than resent or retaliate; submit rather than fight or fume; glorify God not the pain; and humble yourself, don't defend yourself.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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FIRST PETER

	Our Living Hope and Holy Life	Our Submission and God's Honor	Our Suffering and Christ's Suffering
<i>Salutation (1:1–2)</i>	“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1:3) . . . for the hope we claim (1:3–12) . . . by our walk of holiness (1:13–25) . . . for our new identity in Christ (2:1–12)	“Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake” (2:13) . . . to the government (2:13–17) . . . at work (2:18–20) . . . like Christ (2:21–25) . . . in the home (3:1–7)	“Since Christ has suffered” (4:1) Keep a good conscience (3:16) Share the sufferings and rejoice (4:13) Commit yourselves to God (4:19) Be humble (5:6) Cast your anxiety on God (5:7)
	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:3–2:12	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 2:13–3:7	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 3:8–5:11
Emphasis	Informing	Exhorting	Encouraging
Grace	. . . to go on	. . . to live faithfully	. . . to stand firm
Hope	<i>A living</i> hope through Christ's resurrection (1:3)	<i>A righteous</i> hope through personal submission (2:15)	<i>A trusting</i> hope through faith (4:19)
Theme	Holy living in a hostile world; hope in the midst of suffering		
Key Verses	1:3–5, 13–16; 2:21; 4:12–13, 19; 5:10–11		
Christ in 1 Peter	Jesus is the living stone rejected by men, who has become the Cornerstone of the church and the Shepherd of our souls (2:4–10, 25).		

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