

FIRST PETER

Page 1

THE SETTING

- A. Claudius Caesar was emperor of Rome, he slew his wife.
1. He then married Agrippna, who was the mother of one son...Nero.
 2. He adopted Nero and married him to his daughter .
 3. He died, allegedly being poisoned by his wife.
 4. She had her son, Nero declared Emperor before Claudius real son could return.
 5. Nero promptly had his step brother poisoned.
 6. Later had his own mother put to death, then his wife and other prominent people close to him.
- B. NERO:
1. Living without moral restraint, he grew worse and worse.
 2. In July of 64 a great fire swept over Rome.
 3. Public sentiment was voiced against him and to shift attention he blamed the Christians.
 4. He went out immediately to persecute the Christians.
 5. This first Roman persecution was one of the most inhuman that the saints were called upon to suffer.
- C. It was evident that Christians needed to be braced for such experiences.
1. What should be done?
 2. Peter writes this letter to “the elect who are sojourners of Dispersion.”
 3. Was designed to help them remain faithful in midst of sever trials.
 4. If able to stabilize them it will surely do the same for saints today.
 5. A suitable date for I Peter would thus be just before the out break of Nero’s persecution: AD 63, or early 64.
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Peter Give Due Warning

- A. Various warnings through the book.
1. He did not ignore these problems.
 2. Nor try to solve them with a few points of weak psychology.
- B. He worked entirely on the basis of Christians getting their lives God-centered to the extent that the events of this world would not really matter.
1. They were sojourners of the Dispersion.
 2. Idea that this world was not their home.
 3. They were friends of God & that meant enemies of the world.
 4. Christ “suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow in His steps (2:21-25).
 5. 4:1; 4:13.
- C. He frankly warned them of the storm, but told them of a relationship with God whereby they might withstand it.
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FIRST PETER

Page 2

BECAUSE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THEY COULD:

REJOICE IN SUFFERING

- A. How would it be possible for anyone to endure such persecution.
 - 1. They would have to see some good or they would break.
 - 2. 1:6.
 - B. There are blessings which comes from suffering.
 - 1. Trial of faith not necessarily an enemy.
 - 2. When one's faith is tried it enables him to know if it is genuine (1:7).
 - C. The world has been presented many examples of blessings through trials.
 - 1. To Joseph.....Israel saved from famine.
 - 2. Job....wealth was doubled.
 - 3. David was afflicted...learned to keep God's law (Psa. 119:67,71).
 - 4. Because early Christians suffered....church spread.
 - 5. Paul persecuted...the gospel was furthered.
 - 6. Because Christ was crucified.....we live!
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HOPE WHILE SUFFERING

- A. They should have hope because of the glorious salvation (1:9-12).
 - 1. Peter as example...at the death of Christ.
 - 2. Then 1:3; READ
 - B. They should have hope because of the price paid for their redemption (1:18-25).
 - 1. The value of anything can largely be determined by the price paid for it.
 - 2. READ 1:18,19).
 - C. They should have hope because of their consecration... their exalted position in Christ (2:4-10).
 - D. They should have hope because of their inheritance (1:4).
 - 1. INCORRUPTIBLE...would never perish.
 - 2. UNDEFILED...no sin can enter to ruin it as sin ruined world.
 - 3. FADETH NOT AWAY.
 - 4. RESERVED IN HEAVE FOR YOU...it is being prepared (Jn. 14:1-3).
 - E. They should hope Because they would be kept by God's Power (1:5).
 - 1. Not depending on frailty of man or merit.
 - 2. They are kept through faith.
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FIRST PETER

Page 3

Do Right Regardless Of Suffering

- A. Even though they were to be mistreated, almost unbearable so, they still should do right themselves because they belonged to God.
 - 1. “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1;16).
 - 2. “Lay aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking” (2:1).
 - B. He gave specific instruction in the following fields:
 - 1. To the world...(2:11,12).
 - 2. To the government (2:13,17)... Be law abiding.
 - 3. Servants to masters (2:18,20)_ Be obedient.
 - 4. Wives to husbands (3:1) Even non-Christian husbands.
 - 5. Husbands to wives (3:7) “Likewise”
 - 6. One to another (3*) one mind, compassion...
 - 7. To enemies (3()) do not return evil for evil.
 - 8. Elders to the flock (5:1-4)...FEED...OVERSEE...BE EXAMPLES.
 - 9. YOUNGER TO THE ELDERS...SUBMIT TO THEM.
 - C. Read test of Christianity comes in ones ability to do right when others are doing wrong (2:23) READ...
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CONCLUSION

- A. While sojourning on earth one of man’s greatest needs is encouragement.
 - B. First Peter was written to fill that need.
 - C. In the 105 verses of the letter there are 61 statements of encouragement.
 - D. God is there...God is yours...Do you need His help tonight?
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