

/We will begin the 18<sup>th</sup> lecture on “An Introduction to the New Testament.” /Today, we will study 1 and 2 Peter. /The author of 1 and 2 Peter is **Peter**.

/1 Peter is Peter’s letter to the churches in Asia Minor. /Peter is also the author of 2 Peter. 2 Peter 1:1 says, “Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

/2 Peter 3:1 says, “This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved,” which Peter writes 2 Peter as a follow-up letter to 1 Peter.

/Then who is Peter? /Peter was one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. /He is the first of the twelve disciples to be mentioned when the disciples are introduced. From the three disciples who were closest to Jesus, Peter always has his name mentioned first. In other words, Peter was the best disciple.

/Before meeting Jesus, Peter was a fisherman of Galilee. /His original name was Simon. /He was Jonah’s son, and he and his brother Andrew were regular fishermen of the Sea of Galilee.

/His hometown was Bethsaida, but later on, he lived as a fisherman in Capernaum. /To make Simon and Andrew his disciples, Jesus went to the two brothers who were catching fish and said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

/Peter had many flaws, and he was a human being who had a character no different than ours. /He was quick-tempered, he was a man of words, and he acted before thinking. For these reasons, Peter often failed.

/When Jesus was arrested, Peter cursed Jesus and even denied him. /Even still, the Lord held onto this Peter until the end and in his grace appointed him as Christ’s apostle.

/Peter was one of Jesus’ most beloved disciples. /He also followed Jesus, who had called him, to the very end. /Although he did deny Jesus, Peter entered into the high priest’s courtyard when Jesus was arrested.

/The other disciples ran away to far off places. Peter remained closest to Jesus. /When the rooster crowed in the early morning, Peter remembered Jesus’ words and shed tears of repentance.

/The risen Lord appeared to Peter and gave him the opportunity to repent for denying him three times. /He told Peter to take care of his sheep and feed them.

/After encountering the risen Lord, Peter, from among the apostles, became a leader in Jerusalem and was able to powerfully preach the gospel once again. /Acts 1 to 11 is mostly about Peter’s ministry.

/In Acts 1 and 2, Peter, who is the leader of the believers of the Jerusalem church, preaches the gospel to the Jews after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Here, three thousand people came to believe.

/In Acts 3, Peter, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, heals the lame man, having the man rise and walk. /In Acts chapter 4, Peter boldly says to the members of the Sanhedrin, “It is right for us to obey God over man.” Peter did not fear, but he was bold.

/In Acts 5, Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, discloses the lie told by Ananias and Sapphira and warns the church. /In Acts 6, Peter plays a leading role in appointing the first deacons of the church.

/Peter does the amazing work of healing a sick woman named Aeneas and of bringing the dead woman Dorcas back to life. Acts 9. /In Acts 10, Paul preaches the gospel to the Gentile Cornelius and his family, and this opened the door of the gospel to the Gentiles.

/Peter testified to Mark and provided him with data. This allowed Mark to record the Gospel of Mark. /Story has it that when Peter’s wife was nailed to the cross, Peter said to her, “Remember the Lord.” /Afterwards, Peter, when he himself was to be crucified, requested that they do not crucify him in the same way the Lord was crucified.

/Peter did not think he was worthy to die in the way the Lord did, so he asked the people to hang him upside down on the cross. Tradition has it that he died this way. /They say that the guards who watched Peter do this saw and came to believe in Jesus Christ.

/Peter truly was a precious apostle of Jesus Christ. /Jesus gave Simon the new name “Peter,” which means “rock” in Greek. /Peter followed the Lord with a rocklike faith, just as his name indicates.

/The Apostle Peter recorded 1 Peter and 2 Peter. /Then **when** did Peter write 1 Peter? /People generally believe that 1 Peter was **written during the time** of Emperor Nero’s full-scale persecution of Christianity.

/During the time of Emperor Nero, there was a great fire in Rome. /The Roman citizens were in despair and were enraged. Emperor Nero blamed the Christians for the fire and began a full-scale persecution of Christianity.

/If we look at the records of the time period, we learn that Emperor Nero arrested people and burned them alive, sometimes setting Christians on fire as a light for his garden parties. He also clothed people with the leather of beasts and released hunting dogs that would bite and attack them until they died.

/He threw Christians into boiling oil and water, and he hanged them as well. /The Christians could not appeal to human rights or justice. They suffered unfair, miserable persecution because they were Christians.

/Emperor Nero's persecution had already begun when Peter wrote 1 Peter. The Apostle Paul had already been martyred, and Peter himself was soon to be arrested and martyred.

/This full-scale persecution did not yet occur on a national level, but regionally, Christians were persecuted and hated.

/If we look at it with spiritual eyes, we can say that it was time for Christians to prepare to suffer more for Christ. /The Apostle Peter thought about the future of the church as he remembered the believers who had to fight persecution for survival. As Jesus Christ's apostle, Peter spent the final moments of his life encouraging people and delivering the word of God through 1 Peter.

/Then **where was 1 Peter written?** /Let us read 1 Peter 5:13. / "She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son."

/Peter wrote 1 Peter in Babylon. 1 Peter 5:13. /Babylon is a symbolic expression for Rome. /The early church fathers understood Babylon to be Rome's nickname. /Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire, was located at the center of the world.

/When he wrote 1 Peter, Peter was in the heart of the great persecution, Rome. Colossians 4:10 says that John Mark was with Peter when Peter was imprisoned in Rome. Mark was with Peter at the time. This shows us that 1 Peter was written in **Rome**.

/Professor Robert H. Gundry speaks of another piece of evidence. When the epistle lists the recipients in 1 Peter 1:1, it gives a list of places: "Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia." The order goes from the west of Rome to the east of Rome. This is the claim that Paul was hinting at the place where he was recording the book.

/Let me summarize the things we have learned. At the end of his days, Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit in Rome, proclaimed the word of God concerning the persecution Christians faced in the Roman Empire to the churches in Asia Minor.

/We will now study the **theme and content** of 1 Peter. /1 Peter was written for the believers in Asia Minor who were suffering because of hope. /Thus the suffering of Christ is one of 1 Peter's main themes.

/It tells us how Christians are to understand suffering in the name of Christ. 1 Peter instructs us about what Christians are to pursue in the midst of suffering and persecution.

/1:6 says that the churches that are the recipients of this letter have been grieved by various trials. /In 1 Peter 2:20-25, Peter tells them that if they suffer for doing good and endure, it is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

/Furthermore 2:19 says that it is a gracious thing when they are mindful of God when they endure sorrows while suffering unjustly. /In 3:8-22, Peter continues this talk. /Blessed is the one who does good and suffers for righteousness.

/3:14 says, “But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled.” /People were actually criticized and discriminated against by people of the world and the Roman government.

/However, 4:12 encourages believers to not be surprised when the fiery trial tests them, that they do not think it strange, but rejoice as they share Christ's sufferings.

/4:16 tells believers not to suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler, but that they should not be ashamed as Christians and glorify God in that name.

/Peter continues to discuss suffering. /In 4:19, he encourages those who suffer according to God's will to entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

/Chapter 5 continues to talk about suffering. /5:10 especially says, “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”

/The Lord is with the believer in the midst of suffering, and he himself restores, confirms, and strengthens him. Therefore, we must not fear, but we must firmly trust in God and hold onto him.

/The second important theme of 1 Peter is “What kind of person is a Christian?” / “Who is a Christian? What are a Christian's privileges, inheritance, and glory? And what is the true faith that a believer must keep?” What should a believer hope in as he endures? 1 Peter spends a lot of time discussing these topics.

1:3 is about the living hope believers have. 1:4-7 says that believers have an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. It says that the testing of faith is more precious than gold.

/Then what is the outcome of our faith that is more precious than gold? Verse 9 says that the outcome is the salvation of our souls. /1:9-12 concerns this amazing salvation, about which the prophets searched and inquired, about which those who preached talked about, at which the angels long to look.

/Believers have received this amazing salvation. /2:9-10 goes further into this. Believers are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

/It teaches us who we are. We are so ignorant about our calling, hope, joy, glory, and inheritance. /We don't have a sense of our salvation.

/Because of this phenomenon, we cannot endure the smallest suffering while we abandon what is true and grasp what is false. /We easily give up on heaven and try to grab onto the world.

/We need a deeper understanding of the joy and glory of this salvation that we have received. /This is the second important theme of 1 Peter. /Third, Peter gives a practical lesson on how Christians are to live, especially on how we are to have various human relationships on this earth.

/2:13-17 teaches us about our relationship with kings and people of authority. /2:18-25 is about the duties of and relationship between servants and masters. /3:1-7 teaches about the duties of wives and husbands. /3:8-9 encourages us to have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, a humble mind, that we do not repay evil for evil, but on the contrary, bless.

/Chapter 5 exhorts elders to shepherd the flock of God with humility and a joyful heart, to be an example to the flock, to receive the crown of glory from the chief Shepherd.

/We Christians must live like believers even in suffering, we need to serve one another as good stewards who are entrusted with the grace of God, and we need to give all glory to God. /This is a short summary of what 1 Peter is about.

**/What is the theme and content of 2 Peter?** /2 Peter is Peter's last letter. /Seeing that 2 Peter 3:1 says, "This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved," we can infer that the recipients of 2 Peter are the same churches of Asia Minor that received 1 Peter.

/However, 2 Peter and 1 Peter are different in their characteristics. /For this reason, some people questioned the authorship of 2 Peter as belonging to the Apostle Peter. /However, it is incorrect to think that the same author always uses the same words, writes in the same style, and deals with the same topics.

/If the situation changes, they may talk about different things. /The background of 2 Peter is different from the background of 1 Peter. 1 Peter is about the external trials and persecution that cause Christians suffering. 2 Peter focuses on more internal issues, such as false teachers and their greed.

/2 Peter is made up of a total of 3 chapters, /with chapter 1 beginning with the greeting and then giving words of admonishment on the basis of the gifts and promise God gave to him. /The Apostle Paul said that the blessings God gives to his people are spiritual blessings in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1:3.

/Peter now explains this blessing. It says in 2 Peter 1:3 that his divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. /Then 1:12-21 transitions to the body of the book. Here, Peter says that his death is near.

/Verse 14 says, “Since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me.” /Peter may already have been in a pressing situation in Rome, where he was locked up and awaiting his death.

/Peter writes this epistle to stir them up to the gospel truth, to remind them of these things even when he is gone. 1:12-15.

/Peter stresses that he himself heard and saw these teachings of Christ’s return, that the teachings came from heaven. 1:16-18. /He also warns them not to interpret in their own way the Scripture that bears witness about Christ.

/2 Peter 1:20 reads, “Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.” The fact that Peter gives this warning is evidence of the existence of false teachers in the church who interpreted Scripture in their own way.

/It means false teachers were rising up. /False teachers are always capable of inflicting damage to churches. /Incorrect doctrine, false teaching, and wrong theology are dangerous when they enter the church.

/That is why all of 2 Peter 2 warns against false teachers and false teachings. /2;1 says, “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”

/All of chapter 2 is about the characteristics of false teachers. Peter warns against these false teachers who have fallen into debauchery and greed to exploit people with their made-up words. Peter calls them accursed children.

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/Chapter 3 says that false teachers denied the Lord’s and the apostles’ teachings about Jesus’ second coming. /Peter reminds them of the Lord’s teaching.

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/Verse 10 says, “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

/Therefore, in verses 11-13, Peter reminds readers that the Lord’s return and the judgment of fire are coming. He instructs them to wait for the day of the Lord in holiness and godliness, to wait for new heavens and a new earth.

/He goes on to tell them to be without spot or blemish and to be at peace as they wait, saying they should count the patience of our Lord as salvation.

/3:18 reads, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” This is how the epistle ends.

/We also must not interpret the Bible in any way we want to, but we must humbly learn under the light of the Holy Spirit. We need to remember that false teachers are accursed children.

/And we need to wait for the Lord’s return in holiness and godliness.

/This concludes the 18<sup>th</sup> lecture on “An Introduction to the New Testament.” /Thank you.