

THE FIRST LETTER OF SAINT PETER

Author

How did early Christianity view the authorship of this Letter? How does this view contrast with that of modern scholarship?

Could Peter be capable of writing elegant Greek during the first century in Galilee?

Origin

Where was the letter written? What archaeological evidence substantiates this?

Themes

What kind of a letter is this and why was it written?

What are the theological and ethical themes presented in this Letter?

Read 1:1-2 What is the significance of “sprinkling with blood”? How does the Old Testament priesthood prefigure the New Testament priesthood? What is the Royal Priesthood? (Note 1;2)

Read 1:3 What is a *berakah*? How does Peter’s benediction involve the Trinity? (Note 1:3)

Read 1:4-7 How does suffering affect our faith? (Note 1:6)

Read 1:13 What does the phrase “gird up your minds” mean? (Note 1:13)

Read 1:14-16 As a Christian, is the call to holiness an arbitrary choice or a command? (Note 1:16)

Read 2:1-8 What are the three OT references to a “stone” that Peter interprets as an image of the Messiah? (Note 2:6-8)

Read 2:9 How does the Royal Priesthood differ from the Ministerial priesthood? (Note 2:9)

Read 2:11-17 How should Christians view the necessity for obedience to civil authority? (Note 2:13-17)

Read 3:1-2 Can submission be dignified as opposed to servile? (Note 3:1)

Read 3:3-4 Is preoccupation with physical appearance a virtue or a vice? (Note 3:3)

Read 3:7 What is the mandate for Christian husbands? Are men and women equal in dignity but different in function? (Note 3:7)

Read 3:15 What is the meaning of the following passage “Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence.”? (Note 3:15)

Read 3:16-21 Does baptism save you? (Note 3:21)

Read 5:1 Who are the Elders? (Note 5:1)

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Themes and Characteristics

Why was this letter written? How does Peter respond to this problem offensively and defensively?

Read 1:1-2 Can you love what you don't know? (Note 1:2)

Read 1:3-4 What is the relationship between faith and virtues? (Note 1:3-11)
Why do we need to escape from this world? How do we partake of the divine nature? How do we participate in the divine life? (Note 1:4)

Read 1:16-21 What is the meaning of the following “First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation” (Note 1:20)

Read 2:1 What are heresies? (Note 2:1)

Read 2:4-16 What is “the way of Balaam”? (Note 2:15)

Read 2:17-22 What is meant by the Proverb “a dog turns back to his own vomit” and “the sow is washed only to wallow in the mire”? (Note 2:22)

Read 3:1-7 How are the scoffers and skeptics mistaken when they view the world as stable from the dawn of creation? (Note 3:4)

Read 3:8 What is the meaning of the passage “that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years”? (Note 3:8)

The First Letter of Saint John

Author

Who does early Christian tradition claim to be the author of this letter?

Purpose

What is the purpose of this letter?

Read 1:1-5 What is the contrast between light and darkness? (Note 1:5)

Read 1:6-10 What is the meaning of the following verses “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”? (Note 1:8, 1:9)

Read 2:1-2 What does it mean that Jesus Christ is the expiation for our sins and those of the whole world? (Note 2:2)

Read 2:15-17 Why should we not love the world? Does fallen man love the world in selfish and disordered ways? (Note 2:15-17)

Read 3:1 How do we become children of God? (Note 3:1)

Read 3:11-16 Are all Christians called to martyrdom? What is the difference between dying martyrdom and living martyrdom? (Note 3:16)

Read 4:7-12 How does God as a Trinity of persons manifest love? (Note 4:8)

How is God’s love made visible? (Note 4:12)

Read 5:6-9 How did Jesus come by water and blood? (Note 5:6)

What are the three witnesses to the Incarnation? (Note 5:8)

Read 5:13-17 What is the difference between deadly sin and sin that is not deadly? (Note 5:16-17)

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Destination and Purpose

Who is the letter written to and why?

Read #5 Is love an emotion or a feeling? What is the relationship between love and truth? (Note 5)

Read #7 Who is the antichrist? (Note 7)

THE THIRD LETTER OF SAINT JOHN

Purpose

What were the three reasons Third John was written?

Read Entire Letter -- What are the character flaws of Diotrephes (Note 9-10)