

4 days through 1 Peter

About:

Who wrote the letter? The author is identified in the letter as 'Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ'.

Who was it for? It was written to churches in North and East Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Probably established by Jewish believers who had been in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

When & where was it written? The latest possible date would be around 67–68 AD, just before Peter's death. References to suffering and persecution suggest a date around 64 AD, around the beginning of persecution from Rome. In 1 Pet 5:13 Peter refers to being in Babylon. In Revelation, Babylon is used as a code for Rome and most scholars believe that Peter was in Rome at the time of writing.

Why was it written? Peter is seeking to encourage his readers in living out the Christian life; he does this by repeating a pattern: reminding his readers of their salvation and then spelling out what that means. Following this, there is an extended passage relating to handling opposition and persecution. It is likely that Peter was preparing the recipients for the imminent spread of the persecution experienced in Rome.

Reading plan:

Day One

1:1–2:3 ☐

Day Two

2:4–3:7 ☐

Day Three

3:8–4:11 ☐

Day Four

4:12–5:14 ☐

Four days through Philippians

About:

This short letter found in the new testament was written by the apostle Paul.

It is generally accepted that that he wrote the letter whilst imprisoned and although some scholars disagree on where he was imprisoned at the time of writing, most believe he was in Rome and that the date was around 61CE. This fits with the account of Pauls house arrest in Acts 28 (14-31). Despite this it is often referred to as a letter of joy. As usual Paul multi-tasks in writing this letter. Primarily its purpose is to thank the Church in Philippi for the gift it sent in order to ease his imprisonment but he also takes the time to fill them in on his news, to encourage them through the difficulties of persecution and to exhort them to remain humble and stay in unity. The city of Philippi, named after the father of Alexander the Great, was a prosperous Roman colony. This meant its citizens were citizens of Rome itself and it is possible this fact was the background for Pauls emphasis on "heavenly citizenship". It was a very Roman city despite being in Macedonia (modern Greece) and many of its populace were ex-soldiers who here given land in retirement. The fact that Philippi was a Roman colony suggests there were very few Jews present and this could explain why there was no synagogue in the city and Pauls lack of O.T. references.

Reading plan:

Day One

1:1-30

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Day Two

2:1-30

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Day Three

3:1-4:1

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Day Four

4:2-23

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