

# The Book of First Peter

**Author:** Peter

> Peter was selected by Christ to be one of His twelve apostles. He, along with his brother Andrew, left his fishing business to follow the Lord. Acts 1-12 emphasize Peter's extensive missionary work and leadership in the early church. He was martyred in A.D. 67-68 by way of crucifixion during Emperor Nero's persecution of Christians. Feeling unworthy to be crucified in the same manner that Christ was, tradition says he requested to be crucified upside down.

**Date letter was written:** A.D. 63 or 64

**People letter was written to:** Believing Jews and Gentiles scattered throughout the Roman provinces of Asia Minor.

**Place of writing:** Babylon

> Some believe that Peter may have written the letter from Rome and used the term Babylon (5:13) as a descriptive term of the evils within the city of Rome and the Roman Empire at the time. However, there is good reason to believe the letter was written from the actual Mesopotamian city of Babylon, located on the Euphrates River.

**Reason for writing:** This letter was to encourage believers to stand firm in their faith despite persecution.

> The believers were facing persecution within their culture, and there was an anticipation of greater persecution coming at the hand of Emperor Nero. In fact, shortly after the letter was written, a fire burned most of the city of Rome. Many held Nero responsible, but he passed the blame onto the Christians, even ordering many to be tortured and killed.

> Handling suffering, living honorably, and focusing on Christ highlight this book on living for Christ in a hostile culture.