



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Second Catholic Epistle of St. Peter

Chapter 1

Bishop Youssef



Introduction

Author

- St. Peter, as stated in the salutation (1:1)
- St. Peter mentioned that he had special revelation from the Lord concerning his demise (1:14; Jn 21:18-19), and to have been present when the Lord was transfigured (1:16-18; Mt 17:1-9)
- He alludes to the first epistle (3:1), and acknowledges acquaintance with St. Paul (3:15)



Introduction

Recipients

- St. Peter notes this is the second epistle he has written to them (3:1)
- If it is indeed the second epistle written to the same audience as First Peter, then the recipients were those Christian "pilgrims" (1 Pet 1:1, 2:11) who were living in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, provinces in what is now Turkey



Introduction

Time And Place Of Writing

- St. Peter makes reference to his imminent death (1:14)
- St. Peter was martyred during the reign of Nero
- Since Nero committed suicide in 68 A.D., the epistle must be dated before then, probably written sometime during 67 A.D.
- If written while imprisoned shortly before his death, it would have been from Rome



Introduction

Purpose Of The Epistle

- To stir up his brethren by way of reminder (1:12-15; 3:1)

Theme Of The Epistle

- The theme of 2nd Peter can be gleaned from its last two verses (3:17-18): "Beware, but grow"

Outline

- Introduction (1:1-2)



Introduction

- Grow in grace and knowledge (1:3-21)
- Beware of false teachers (2:1-22)
- Look for the Lord's return (3:1-18)

Outline of chapter 1

- After the introduction, St. Peter encouraged them to grow with precious gifts from God (3-4)
- Abounding in the knowledge of Christ (5-11)
- Paying attention to the prophetic word (12-21)



Greeting the Faithful (1:1-4)

- Simon Peter. Here he calls himself by both names
- A bondservant of Jesus as the Lord
- And an apostle of as the Messiah
- The faith of those who have not seen, is equally precious with that of those who saw the Lord
- It is only through the righteousness of the Lord Christ the justice of God is satisfied, and for the sake of which He gives this precious faith to us



Greeting the Faithful (1:1-4)

- Grace and peace are the most needed gifts
- These come through the knowledge of God, and of His Son through our fellowship with Christ
- His Divine power has granted us all things needful to live godly lives through the knowledge of God
- God called us to eternal glory, as the end; by Christian virtue as the means
- By which: glory and virtue



Greeting the Faithful (1:1-4)

- The marvelous promises of the gospel were given to us through the glory of Christ and His moral excellence
- Through these: The promises of the gospel
- Partakers: Being renewed in the image of God, and having communion with Him, so as to dwell in God and God in you (John 14: 23)
- All who come to Christ and are in Him have escaped from sin and corruption

Fruitful Growth in the Faith (1:5-11)



- Since God has called us with precious promises
- Giving all diligence: No exertion must be spared. There must be the fullest co-operation with God
- Faith is the basis of the Christian life and all should have it, but out of it must grow virtues
- Virtue: Morals are the fruit of faith in God
- Virtues must be guided by knowledge or it will run into a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge (Rom 10:2)

Fruitful Growth in the Faith (1:5-11)



- The more knowledge you have, the more renounce your own will
- Christian self control implies the voluntary abstaining from all inward and outward pleasure which does not lead to God
- This self control requires perseverance, to bear and forbear; sustain and abstain; deny yourself and take up your cross daily
- Godliness is the proper support to perseverance

Fruitful Growth in the Faith (1:5-11)



- Godliness is continual sense of God's presence, and a filial fear of, and confidence in Him
- Godliness should be manifested in our affection to the brethren and our natural affection and kindness are to be sanctified by godliness
- The love is the heart element which gives brotherly kindness its power and sweetness
- Brotherly kindness is to the brethren but love for everybody including the enemies

Fruitful Growth in the Faith (1:5-11)



- If these qualities abound in you, you will be fruitful, showing that you have knowledge of Christ in reality
- He who does not add these things to his faith is blind, cannot see God, or His pardoning love
- He has lost sight of the precious promises, also he cannot now see what himself once enjoyed
- He forgot his purification from sins, otherwise he would show diligence lest he fall again into sin

Fruitful Growth in the Faith (1:5-11)



- Diligence to the end is needful for salvation
- The calling is first in order; the election comes when we accept the call
- Our own efforts are needed to make them sure
- If we add to our faith, we shall never fail
- We will be richly (we shall go in full triumph to glory, not so as by fire) prepared for entrance into the heavenly kingdom

St. Peter's Approaching Death (1:12-15)



- Since these graces are so necessary to your abundant entrance into Christ's kingdom, I will not neglect always to remind you of these things
- Though you are established in the truth of the gospel which is a reality now in the NT
- Tent: In the body, the present home of his spirit
- I know that I must die very soon (Jn 21:18,19)
- He admonishes them that after his death they will remember his words by having this epistle

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word (1:16-21)



- There was no mistake or doubt about the gospel, no such fables as the myths of the Gentiles
- When we preached the coming into the world and the divine power of Christ
- Since the apostles were personal witnesses of Christ's glory, they knew whereof they spoke
- He is referring to the transfiguration where Christ revealed part of His glory and this is a prophecy of the glory that will be revealed when Christ comes

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word (1:16-21)



- God honored the Son by the Divine declaration
- This voice happened twice in baptism Mt 3 and transfiguration Mt 17:5
- Peter and James and John, his companions on the holy mount (Mt 17:1-6). James was now dead (Acts 12:2), but John was still alive
- Prophecy was a sure word, but when fulfilled in Christ and the gospel it seemed more sure
- Heed its predictions concerning Christ

The Trustworthy Prophetic Word (1:16-21)



- It was a lamp shining in the darkness of the past and giving some light before the day star arose
- Until the day dawn. The full light of the NT
- The morning-star arise. Christ Rev 22:16
- Rises in your hearts - Be revealed in you
- There is no prophecy is an interpretation of the knowledge and feelings of the prophet
- The prophecies came by the will of God not man, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit



Conclusion

- In what way are grace and peace multiplied for the Christian?
- What has God's divine power given to us? How?
- What else has been given to us? Why?
- What spiritual graces are we to diligently add to our faith?
- What will be our condition if we abound in these graces?
- What will be our condition if we lack these graces?
- What benefit will there be in doing these things?
- What was St. Peter careful to ensure concerning these things?



Conclusion

- What did St. Peter hope to accomplish?
- In making known the power and coming of the Lord Jesus, what did St. Peter claim?
- What experience in Jesus' life does St. Peter refer to as an example of witnessing the Lord's honor?
- In addition to apostolic testimony, what else do we have to which we should give careful heed?
- What should be remembered regarding the prophetic word?