

A Study of the General Epistles

(NT Survey Lesson 196--Introduction to 1 & 2 Peter)

Introduction: The epistles of Peter fulfill in part Jesus' commissions to Peter: 1) "Feed my sheep" (Jn. 21:15-17); 2) "Strengthen your brethren" (Lk. 22:32). Each epistle in its own rite prepares God's people for the challenges of their times. In his first epistle Peter prepares God's people to endure suffering for Christ's sake. In his second epistles Peter warns of the dangers of false teachers and how to avoid them. Both epistles are full of practical exhortations for Christians today.

Lesson aim: To become more familiar with Peter and the main theme of 1 & 2 Peter.

A brief survey of Peter's preaching life

1. What role did Peter have in the establishment of the church on Pentecost? (Ac. 2:14, 37)
2. What mighty miracle did Peter perform in Jerusalem? (Ac. 3:1-10)
What results are recorded in Ac. 4-5?
3. Who spoke for the apostles when Ananias and Sapphira sinned? (Ac. 5:3,8)
4. What did Peter say when ordered not to preach in Jesus' name again (Ac. 5:29).
5. What did Peter and John travel to Samaria to do? (Ac. 8:14-15)
6. Where else did Peter travel and what notable events happened in these places? (Ac. 9:32-35; 36-43)
7. To whom for the first time was the gospel preached in Ac. 10? Who did God choose to preach the gospel? (Ac. 10:5-6) Did Peter defend the right of the Gentiles to hear the gospel? (Ac. 11:1-18)
8. What happened to Peter in Ac. 12?

9. Where was Peter in Ac. 15? What role did he play in the Jerusalem meeting? (Ac. 15:7-11)
10. What did Peter later do that was inconsistent with his teaching in Jerusalem? (Gal. 2:11-13)
11. Do the Scriptures tell us anything specific about the travels of Peter after this event? Could we infer that Peter continued to travel and preach? (Cf. 1 Cor. 9:5)
12. Is it possible that Peter preached in Corinth? (1 Cor. 1:12)? Is it likely that Peter traveled and preached in the places where the Christians to whom he wrote lived?
13. From where did Paul write his first letter? (1 Pet. 5:13) Do you think this was "Rome"? Why or why not?
14. (Thought question) What might a study of Peter's life make clear about him as a person? How would this help us in the study of his two epistles?