

## Summary of First & Second Peter

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First Peter is the first epistle in the New Testament written by the apostle Peter. Peter writes, first of all, about the great blessings that believers have by being born again in Christ, reminding them that it is through Christ's blood that they have been redeemed. Peter tells them to forsake evil behaviors and to come to Christ humbly and obediently. He tells them that they are priests, God's special people. He then encourages them to do good even though they are suffering tribulation.

Next, Peter describes how husbands and wives should work together to foster a loving, nurturing relationship that is pleasing to God. Peter tells them that, just as Christ Jesus suffered to free us from sin, we will suffer persecution, but it is to our benefit. He teaches them to all be of one mind and bless those who do them evil in order to preserve their good consciences and the presence of Jesus in their hearts. He illustrates this by recounting Noah's day when God waited with "divine longsuffering" (3:20) while the ark was being prepared, and in that day only eight people were saved. This is similar, Peter says, to how baptism saves, not by washing dirt from the body, but in clearing one's conscience by obeying God. Finally, Peter exhorts each person to examine himself in order to ensure that he walks worthy of the salvation that is in Christ and minister with the ability that God supplies.

He includes this first epistle by instructing elders not to exploit or lord it over God's people, but to willingly and eagerly shepherd them. Then the "Chief Shepherd," Jesus, will give them a "crown of glory which fadeth not away" (5:4). He instructs the younger people to submit to their elders, indeed for all of the Church to submit to one another in humility. Peter's final exhortation is to resist the devil who is like a lion stalking them as prey. He assures them that all of them will suffer, even as their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world are suffering, but prays that God will perfect and establish them all in the midst of their sufferings and, at last, settle them.

Second Peter is the second epistle in the New Testament written by the apostle Peter. In it, Peter explains that he is writing this second epistle in order to warn the churches about false teachers. Peter assures his readers that these blasphemers will be punished. He tells them how these

false teachers have forsaken the right way because of their lusts. He then points out that in the last days people will doubt and revile God's truth. He reminds them that Jesus will return in God's time and encourages them to always be ready. Finally, he informs his readers that the heavens and earth will pass away but God will restore all things anew in righteousness, just as He has promised. Peter concludes by encouraging his readers to continue steadfastly in the Scriptures, including his epistles and the writings of Paul, lest they be led astray into the errors of the wicked. Instead, he urges them to "grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (3:18).