

# INTRO: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> PETER

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Peter's Letters 1 and 2 are great Gospel Messages... that have been the subject of debate – mostly by non-Protestant, non-Reformation and non-Evangelical voices for years.

BOTH letters of Peter are in the Alexandrine, Sinaiticus and Vaticanus. So, until the debaters take them out of the purported oldest bibles AND definitely stop publishing BOTH letters of Peter in their alleged better versions... **after** they do that... **then** I might listen to what their higher critical... always monotonous, dull and lifeless fussy experts have to say... but for now... I'm following the \$\$\$... and that speaks volumes, doesn't it?

In **2 Peter**, chapter 3, Peter writes: **This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you.**

And for some reason, some historians have asked: did Peter have a secretarial assistant such as Silvanus, Mark or Glaucias? Probably; no big deal.

A.B. Simms has shown that **1 Peter** and **2 Peter** stand as close on the score of words used as 1 Timothy and Titus, where nobody is inclined to doubt the unity of authorship.

Michael Green has expressed that the subject-matter of **1 Peter** and **2 Peter** is quite different, for these Epistles are written to two entirely different situations. He points out:

**1 Peter** envisages students of the Lord facing persecution,

**2 Peter** pictures students of the Lord facing false teaching of a Gnostic flavor.

The keynote of **1 Peter** is hope; of **2 Peter** is true knowledge.

**1 Peter** directs [our] thoughts to great events of the life of Christ, the Messiah;

**2 Peter** dwells on the great hope of the return of Christ, the Messiah.

The writer's mind is full of the dangers of false teaching. The full knowledge of Jesus Christ is the best safeguard against these dangers. The apostles had no doubt that their written words were as authoritative as their spoken utterances. And they were no less clear that the Holy Spirit of God, who inspired the prophets, was at work through them.



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The similarities between **1 Peter** and **2 Peter** both in diction and doctrine are impressive. The absence of interest in church organization (one of the main preoccupations of the second-century works); and the underdeveloped nature of the heresy... against which the epistle is directed is equally impressive... in contrast to the spurious documents produced by pseudepigraphers of later centuries.

Although no evidence exists, roman tradition makes the bold statement that Peter died in Rome. Give them time, they'll come up with something to prove it, until now, none exists.

**1 Peter** acknowledges **Jesus the good Pastor** and Bishop / or Overseer... and had Peter had time, he probably would have added about 10,000 more titles to Jesus the good Pastor... whom Peter writes: who bare our own sins in his body on the tree... by whose stripes you were healed, for you were as sheep going astray... but now are returned to the good Pastor; which certainly aligns with what John wrote Jesus said to the envious religious leaders who sought to destroy him: Jesus, the good Pastor said: My sheep hear My voice, and they follow me; and a stranger, they will not follow, but will flee from him, for they know not the voice of strangers. His sheep hear His voice and follow Him

**2 Peter** is closely associated with the letter of Jude.

Naturally, it is roman "scholars" who seem to most frequently discredit these books... casting over them a shadow of uncertainty and doubt – they regularly sound like the modern fake news crowd.

Other bible scholars confidently attribute a date as early as **64AD**;

**Iraeneus** -- the disciple of Matthew, **Barnabas**, **Polycarp**, and **Hermas**... they all allude to **2 Peter**. **Clement** of Alexander (95 AD) had it in his Bible and wrote a commentary on it. So where is the uncertainty?

Michael Green writes: There is nothing in the doctrine of Scripture found in the **2 Peter** Epistle that could not have been written by the author of the **1 Peter**.

Interesting to note: of all the apostles and disciples who wrote the New Testament, only Peter never speaks of the church that Jesus said, He is building: Jesus said, I will build My church; in Greek **ekklesia**... a word only used by Jesus in the Gospel.

Yet, Peter is the one who will tell us in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, no scripture is of private interpretation, but people - men and women of God were moved, they were inspired to write... by the Holy Spirit.

In **1 Peter** he is writing to those who are strangers... a holy, royal priesthood; a chosen generation... scattered in many places... whose faith is being tried as by fire.

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In **2 Peter** he tells us he is writing to the same people Paul was given wisdom to write to... even the 2 or 3 who gather in Jesus' Name.

And can we humor ourselves? Where is the eternal God in this mix? Obviously, He has allowed this little letter to make it through the last 2,000 years. Perhaps, it says those things He would have us know.

Make it your goal: even where 2 or 3 gather in Jesus' Name... memorize **1 Peter** and **2 Peter**.

When you finish, you'll be glad you did! **Then go... and do what He said!**