

NOTES AND QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP STUDY IN THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER –

INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER ONE

When the writer of a Bible book is clearly identified it is usually worthwhile to consider what we know about him before looking in detail at his book. This is certainly so with the letters of Peter. Let us first review what we are told about Peter in the gospels and Acts.

Q.1 When and how did Peter first meet Jesus?(Jn.1:40-42) What important change took place in his life at this point?

Q.2 How did Peter become a follower of Jesus?(Matt.4:18-22) What had been Peter's previous occupation? How did Jesus tell Peter his life's work would change? Did Peter immediately give up his job?(Lk.5:1-11; Jn.21:3)

Q.3 Was Peter married?(Matt.8:14) Did Peter's wife also become a follower of Jesus?(I Cor.9:5) Did she support him in his future ministry?

Q.4 What special events in Jesus' life and ministry did Peter witness? (Matt.17:1-8; Mark 5:37; Matt.26:37-46) How would these memories affect his letter writing?

Q.5 When did Peter stand out from the other disciples?(Matt.14:28-33; 16:16-23; 26:33-35, Jn.18:10,11; Matt.26:69-75) How did he so often follow success with failure? What do you suppose he learned from these experiences? What kind of leader did this make him?

Q.6 Who was Mary Magdalene urged she should particularly tell about the resurrection? How did he respond and with what effect?(Mark 16:7; Lk.24:12)

Q.7 Once Jesus had ascended to heaven, who took charge of the believers? How did he deal with the vacuum following the death of Judas?(Acts 1:15-26) Was he right?

Q.8 On the day of Pentecost who was the spokesman for the group of Christians? What was the special emphasis of his message?(Acts 2:14,24) What did he continue to highlight in his teaching over the coming days?(Acts 3:15; 4:10)

Q.9 How did Peter deal with compromise in the early church?(Acts 5:1-11) What effect did this have upon the church of those days?

Q.10 What special miracles did God use Peter to perform?(Acts 3:6; 9:32-43)

Q.11 What important lesson did Peter still have to learn before he could be any help to Cornelius, the Roman centurion?(Acts 10:9-16) How did he handle those who subsequently criticised him for the same reason?(Acts 11:4-18)

Q.12 What was Peter's experience of prison?(Acts 5 and 12) What did he learn about how God works at such times?

Q.13 Did Peter ever make any mistakes once the Spirit lived in him?(Gal.2:11-14) How did he benefit from Paul's rebuke?(Acts 15:14)

Sum up in a few words what you have seen of Peter's character, his strengths and weaknesses, and the changes that the Lord made once He came to live in him. What can we learn from this about the way the Lord uses all our background and life experience in bringing about His purpose for us?

CHAPTER ONE

1:1:1,2 Q.14 To whom is Peter writing? Are 'aliens' visitors from Mars?(I Pet.2:11; Phil.3:20) What does this greeting tell us about how we became Christians? Does the order of the steps described surprise you?

1:3-5 Q.15 Why did we become Christians? How can we be sure that all this will work out if we have really trusted Christ? How could you use this passage to help a Christian who was struggling with doubt about his salvation?

1:6-9 Q.16 Many of those to whom Peter was writing would soon be burned alive or face lions in the arena. How would his words here help them? How do they help us when someone gives us a roasting or roars at us?(I Pet.5:8)

1:10-12 Q.17 What was the purpose of the Old Testament?(Jn.5:46; Lk.24:27,44) How did the Old Testament writers understand their own books? How can this apply to us today particularly when we are teaching the Bible to others?

1:13-16 Q.18 Having outlined what God has done for us and promised to us, Peter discusses what our response should be. He deals first with our attitudes to God and His word. Why? He set out 5 steps to being holy. What are they? What does each step mean? How does each step follow from the one before?

1:17-19 Q.19 Peter talks next about how a new attitude of mind will affect our conduct. How can understanding Jesus' death on the cross affect our behaviour? What does it mean to be redeemed?

1:20-21 Q.20 How can understanding who Jesus was before His incarnation, and His resurrection affect our faith and hope and therefore our conduct in the face of difficult times?

1:22-25 Q.21 What will Christian conduct look like? What does it mean to love fervently? How can our knowledge of the word of God help us to love those who are hard to love? What have dead grass and flowers got to do with love?

1:1-25 Q.22 Summarise what the whole chapter teaches about the value of regular Bible study.