

1 Peter Part 1 – From Sea To Kingdom Come – Summary & Study Guide – Feb 26, 2026

Summary

This teaching introduces a new series on the **Epistles of Peter**, focusing specifically on the **apostolic authority** and **personal background** of the writer. The speaker emphasizes that understanding **Peter's character** and his **divine calling** is essential for correctly interpreting the biblical text and applying its lessons to modern life. A central theme is the necessity of **humility and transformation**, illustrated by the narrative of Peter leaving his life as a fisherman to follow Jesus. The teaching also addresses **textual criticism**, the reliability of scripture as the **inspired word of God**, and the specific challenges of **persecution** faced by early Christian assemblies. Ultimately, the material serves as a **preamble** to encourage listeners to move beyond mere knowledge and toward **active obedience** in their spiritual walk.

Study Guide

This study guide provides a comprehensive overview of the introduction to the epistles of First and Second Peter, focusing on the character, calling, and authority of the Apostle Peter.

Definitions of Key Words

- **Apostle:** A called messenger of God tasked with delivering the Lord's message verbatim and accurately as the Lord intended.
- **Revelation:** Knowledge or truth communicated directly by God via the holy spirit, or Jesus Christ to man, rather than being learned through human instruction or tradition.
- **Textual Criticism:** An ongoing scholarly process involving the study of manuscript copies and fragments to reconstruct the original biblical text as closely as possible.
- **Humility:** The state of mind that replaces pride with lowliness; it is described as a prerequisite for entering the Kingdom of God here on earth.
- **Gospel of the Kingdom:** The specific message regarding Christ's coming **earthly kingdom** and the qualifications required for entry.
- **Inspiration:** The process by which "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God," ensuring the scriptures are the word of God rather than the word of men.

Expansion of Key Points

1. The Importance of Understanding the Author

Before diving into the text, it is essential to understand the "caliber and credentials" of the writer to ensure the message is held in the correct mindset. By establishing the **apostolic authority** of Peter, believers can lean on and trust the words he penned by revelation.

- **Peter's Assistance:** While Peter is the primary author, **1 Peter 5:12** suggests he may have been assisted in penning the first epistle by **Silvanus**.

- **Apostolic Standing:** Peter was Jesus's "right-hand man" and a called apostle whose standing before the Lord gives his writing great impetus.

2. The Nature and Authority of Scripture

The teaching emphasizes that **all scripture is inspired by God** and should be received as such.

- **Divine Inspiration:** According to **2 Timothy 3:16**, all scripture is inspired and profitable for teaching and training in righteousness. Furthermore, **2 Peter 1:20-21** clarifies that no prophecy is of one's own interpretation, as men were "moved by the Holy Spirit" to record from God, the original written texts of the holy scriptures..
- **Verbatim Delivery:** Apostles were called messengers delivering God's message accurately. As noted in **1 Thessalonians 2:13**, the word should be accepted not as the word of men, but for what it really is: the **word of God**.
- **Revelation vs. Tradition:** Per **Galatians 1:11-12**, the gospel was not received from or taught by man, but came through a **revelation of Jesus Christ**.
- **Jesus as the Standard:** **Hebrews 1:3** describes Jesus as the "exact representation" of God's nature, reinforcing the authority of the message He gave to His apostles.

3. The Character and Calling of Peter

Peter (originally Simon) was a "tough fisherman" from Galilee, a background that prepared him for the difficult assignment of reaching the nation of Israel.

- **Introduction to Christ:** Simon was brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew, as recorded in **John 1:40-41**. At their meeting, Jesus renamed him "Cephas," which means Peter (**John 1:42**).
- **Transformation over Perfection:** His journey was a process of **transformation** and change rather than immediate perfection.
- **Absolute Obedience:** His defining characteristic was his willingness to obey, even against his professional instincts. In **Luke 5:5**, during the miraculous catch of fish, he famously said, "We have worked hard all night and caught nothing, **but I will do as You say** and let down the nets".
- **Profound Humility:** Despite his outspoken nature, Peter demonstrated humility by falling at Jesus's feet and confessing his sinfulness in **Luke 5:8**.
- **Specific Assignment:** While Paul was assigned to the Gentiles, Peter was the apostle assigned to the **nation of Israel (Galatians 2:7-8)**.

4. The Core Message: The Earthly Kingdom of God.

The primary focus of Jesus's teaching, and subsequently Peter's, was the **Gospel of the coming earthly kingdom of God**.

- **The Necessity of Conversion:** In **Matthew 18:1-4**, Jesus taught that entry into the kingdom requires one to be converted and become humble like a **child**.
- **Life or Death:** The teaching links the requirement for change to the choice God offers all mankind between **life and death**, as seen in **Ezekiel 18** and **Ezekiel 33**.
- **Dangers of Pride:** Believers are warned that knowledge alone can lead to pride, citing **1 Corinthians 8:1**, which states that "knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies".

Study Questions

1. Who is mentioned in 1 Peter 5:12 as possibly assisting Peter in the penning of his first epistle?
2. According to the sources, what is the "old adage" regarding the purpose of knowledge?
3. Why is "textual criticism" necessary for modern Bible study?
4. How did Jesus illustrate the requirement for entering the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 18?
5. What was the specific apostolic assignment given to Peter compared to the Apostle Paul?
6. In the miracle of the catch of fish (Luke 5), what was Peter's immediate reaction to the miracle?
7. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 state regarding the profit of inspired scripture?

Answer Key

1. **Silvanus.**
2. "The purpose of knowledge is **action**".
3. It is necessary because we have no original manuscripts, only thousands of copies and fragments; the process helps scholars get back to the **original text**.
4. He called a **child** to him and stated that one must be converted and become like children, humbling oneself to enter the kingdom.
5. Peter was assigned to the **nation of Israel**, whereas Paul was assigned to focus on the **Gentiles**.
6. He **fell down at Jesus's feet** and said, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man".
7. It is profitable for **teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness**.

Biblical References within the Sources

- **1 Peter 5:12:** Reference to Sylvanus assisting Peter.
- **1 Peter 1:** Summary of believers being born anew to a living hope.
- **1 Peter 2:11:** Reference to trials coming from "strangers".
- **1 Peter 1:17:** Reference to persecutions and forefathers.
- **1 Corinthians 8:1:** Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.
- **2 Timothy 3:16:** All scripture is inspired by God.
- **Hebrews 1:3:** Jesus as the exact representation of God's nature.
- **2 Peter 1:20-21:** No prophecy is of one's own interpretation; men were moved by the Holy Spirit.
- **Galatians 1:11-12:** The gospel is not according to man but by revelation.
- **1 Thessalonians 2:13:** Receiving the word not as the word of men, but as the word of God.
- **Matthew 18:1-4:** Becoming like children and humbling oneself to enter the kingdom.
- **Ezekiel 18 & 33:** God giving the choice of life or death.
- **John 1:40-41:** Andrew bringing Simon Peter to Jesus.
- **John 1:42:** Jesus renaming Simon to Peter.
- **Luke 5:1-11:** The record of the miraculous catch of fish and Peter's calling.

Exhortations

- **Seek Action, Not Just Knowledge:** Do not accumulate biblical knowledge for the sake of pride. Let it impact your living and lead to direct action in your walk with Christ.
- **Embrace Transformation:** God demands change. Avoid complacency and strive for the transformation that equals life.
- **Practice Absolute Obedience:** Adopt Peter's mindset: "But I will do as You say." True success in Christ is found in following His will rather than your own.
- **Cultivate Humility:** To be great in the Kingdom, you must humble yourself like a child. Humility and repentance are the qualities that set a believer up for success.
- **Be Willing to Leave Everything:** Ask yourself what "everything" looks like in your life. Be prepared to leave what is comfortable to follow the call of the Lord.

