

“A TRIAL BY FIRE OCCURRING AMONG YOU”

The First Letter of Peter

Who wrote The First Letter of Peter?

The First Letter of Peter was written either by the Apostle Peter or one of his disciples.

How did The First Letter of Peter get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The First Letter of Peter was named for the Apostle Peter.

When did these events take place?

The First Letter of Peter was probably was circulated sometime after 60 A.D. However, if a disciple of Peter is the author, this letter may not have been written until early in the 2nd century A.D.

For more about The First Letter of Peter:

See page 1347 in the Fireside Catholic Youth Bible.

If you ever get a chance, watch a glassblower at work. These artists blend a sharp eye for design with the awesome power of fire to produce delicate masterpieces. Just like sculptors or painters, they turn a vision in their head into something real. That is not easy to do. What makes it especially difficult for them is that it is very dangerous work. One slip could not only ruin the piece being created but could result in serious burns. But experience has taught these craftsmen that the risk is not only necessary, but very much worth it. Although the red-hot fire would destroy almost any other material, it actually enhances the strength, shape and beauty of glass. Being subjected to the fire is all part of the process of creating a beautiful work of art.

Along with others, the Apostle Peter makes this point very clear in the twenty-first book of the New Testament. Written to the new Christian communities in five provinces of Asia Minor, the theme of The First Letter of Peter is the role of suffering in a Christian life. Peter witnessed first-hand how Christians were being persecuted because of their belief in Jesus. He inspires them to see this persecution not as punishment but as sharing in Christ's suffering. He encourages all Christians under attack for their beliefs to "arm yourselves also with the same attitude (for whoever suffers in the flesh has broken with sin)." Like the flame to the glassblower, Peter teaches us that our suffering persecution for demonstrating that we believe in Jesus will cleanse us, bringing us closer to Him in the process.

Are there teens around you who make fun of you because you are a Catholic? Do you sometimes hear ridiculing remarks about how you let what Jesus would do guide your decisions in life? If you do, don't despair. The First Letter of Peter is proof that you aren't the first Christian that has been "tested by fire." Check it out. This beautiful book of the Bible can be a big help to you in today's world of just how and why resisting sin actually makes you stronger.

Interesting Fact: In early Christian letters and other writing, Babylon was a code word used by Christians to designate the City of Rome.

Bonus Point: In the First Letter of Peter were women counseled not to adorn themselves with braided hair or jewelry?