1 Peter – Introduction – 1:2 April 29, 2025

Luther’s Works: Volume 30 (Concordia Publishing House – 1967)

1 Peter: A Commentary on 1 Peter - Paul J Achtemeier (Fortress Press – 1996)

Lutheran Study Bible

# An Introduction

* Authorship
  + As the letter itself is attributed to the apostle Peter, Achtermeier takes great care to acknowledge the controversy which has arisen over the authorship of this letter much in part due to the historical-critical method.
    - The major concerns are as follows:
      * There is too great a dependence on the Greek OT (the Septuagint)
        + Considering Peter was a Hebrew fisherman.
      * There is a lack of “insider information” about Jesus for one who was a major player in the Gospel accounts.
      * It is too Pauline in style.
      * The composition and Greek is too good for an “uneducated” Jewish fisherman.
    - Therefore, if these concerns are true and Peter is NOT the author, the letter would be considered pseudonymous…
      * Meaning that the author desired to write a letter either attributed to Peter’s teachings or what the author *wanted* Peter to teach.
        + Such a practice was also common at the time in terms of false Gospels, written with the intent to sway Christians from the truth (both at the time of their writing and still today). For example, the Gospels of Peter and Thomas.
  + Yet, from early on, the church defended the authorship of the apostle Peter.
    - He did have assistance in writing the letter.
      * In 5:12, he attributes this brief letter to be penned by Silvanus (Silas), who was also a colleague of Paul.
        + Acts 18:5
        + 2 Corinthians 1:19
        + 1 Thessalonians 1:1
    - One must also consider Peter’s target audience of recently converted Gentiles.
* Dating
  + The dating of such a letter is difficult as there are vague connections to very broad, recorded historical events.
  + The Lutheran Study Bible, attributes the dating to before the year AD 67, yet prior to his martyrdom in AD 68.[[1]](#footnote-1)

# 1 Peter 1:1-2 – Greeting

* Pe,troj( avpo,stoloj VIhsou/ cristou/
  + “Peter” (Pe,troj), was the name given to Simon by Jesus.
    - Matthew 16:18
    - Mark 3:16
    - Luke 6:14
    - John 1:42
      * “Cephas” is the Aramaic word for “rock.”
    - Pe,troj is unknown as a personal name prior to its Christian use for the disciple Simon. [[2]](#footnote-2)
  + “An Apostle”
    - Commonly known as one of the twelve specifically called by Jesus, and later eyewitnesses of Jesus life, death, and resurrection.
    - As Luther points out, the word denotes a messenger “Not one who bears letters, but an emissary who puts forth and takes care of a matter by word of mouth.”[[3]](#footnote-3)
    - Therefore, the driving force is the one who sends this apostle… Jesus Christ.
* Who is Peter writing to?
  + Those who have been dispersed… exiles away from home.
    - Which home?
    - Luther recognizes the audience as foreigners or proselytes (converts to Judaism)[[4]](#footnote-4), but also should be noted that many of these locations are recognized on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:8-11.
    - As Peter will point out, as Christians, we are strangers in a strange land.
      * The ways of the LORD are not the ways of the world.
      * Like the exiled Israelites, Christians are living as strangers in their surrounding culture.[[5]](#footnote-5)
        + Not conforming to the culture, but conformed in Christ.

Ephesians 2:12, 19

Hebrews 11:13

* + Those who are God’s elect
    - Those chosen by God’s grace to belong to Him.
      * Ephesians 1:4
      * Colossians 3:12
      * 2 Thessalonians 2:13
  + It is a Trinitarian work:
    - The Father’ foreknowledge
      * 1 Timothy 2:4
      * 2 Timothy 1:9
      * Romans 8:29
      * Achtemeier points to the divine initiative to assure the readers that their peril is not the result of accident or divine oversight, but is a part of God’s plan for them. [[6]](#footnote-6)
    - The Spirit’s sanctification
      * Romans 15:16
      * 2 Thessalonians 2:13
      * Ephesians 4:24
      * To be sanctified is the process of being made holy.
        + “You must be holy because you have the Word of God, because heaven is yours, and because you have become truly pious and holy though Christ.” – Luther[[7]](#footnote-7)
    - The Son’s blood.
      * Sprinkled upon us for obedience.
        + Psalm 51:7
        + 2 Corinthians 3:14
        + Exodus 24:6, 8
        + Hebrews 9:13-14
        + “The Jews sprinkled themselves externally with eh blood of goats. We however, are sprinkled inwardly in our conscience, so that the heart becomes clean and glad… Now the situation is reversed. There must be a sprinkling which converts us and makes us spiritual. But to sprinkle means to preach that Christ shed His blood, intercedes for us before His Father.”[[8]](#footnote-8)
    - From these Three:
      * Grace and peace be multiplied
        + Grace is the undeserved and unmerited goodness of God… forgiveness of sins… and from it comes…
        + Peace.

John 14:27

John 20:19

* + - * + Isaiah 55:7
      * Why should it be desired to be multiplied?
        + Not yet perfect on this side of heaven.
        + “Therefore you must grow constantly until the old Adam dies completely. Grace is God’s goodwill. It begins in us now, but it must continue to be active and grow until we die. And he who realizes and believes that he has a gracious God, he has Him. Then his heart gains peace, and he fears neither the world V 30, p 9 nor the devil. For he knows that God, who is omnipotent, is his friend and will rescue him from death, hell, and all adversity.” [[9]](#footnote-9)

1. LSB, 2146, 2148. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Achtemeier, 80. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Luther’s Works V. 30, 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Luther’s Works v.30, 6. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Achtemeier, 82. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Achtemeier, 86. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Luther’s Works V. 30, 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Luther’s Works V. 30, 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 30: The Catholic Epistles*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw30?ref=Bible.1Pe1.2&off=8346&ctx=in+perfect+measure.+~Therefore+you+must+g), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 30 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 8–9. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)