

A Brief Review| 1 Peter 2:1-9

Author: Peter (1:1), Jesus' disciple and early leader of the Church

Date of Writing: between 62 and 65 A.D., while Nero was emperor in Rome

Place of Writing: "Babylon" (5:13), likely refers to Rome (since ancient Babylon had been captured and destroyed by this time)

Recipients: Racially and culturally mixed Christians scattered by persecution throughout the world, especially in Asia Minor (1:1)

Purpose of Writing: to encourage Christians facing trials and to assure them of the truth of the gospel (5:12) (the word "suffering" occurs at least five times in each of the five chapters of the letter)

1 Peter 2:1-3

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1. (2:2-3) What keeps people from "craving" the pure spiritual milk in God's Word? How can we help one another as Christians crave God's Word more and more?
2. (2:5) **Read Psalm 51:17** and **Romans 12:1**. What are the "spiritual sacrifices" that we offer to God as his holy priests?

1 Peter 2:6-8

6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

3. Just so we have it straight: (2:6-7) What is a cornerstone? What is a capstone? How is Jesus both the capstone and the cornerstone?

4. (2:8) Read Romans 9:30-33. What is it about Jesus that makes him one over whom some stumble and fall?

5. React to this statement: There is no middle ground in relationships with Jesus. You are either for him or against him.

6. (2:6-8) How would these verses serve to comfort persecuted readers?

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

7. (2:9) What do we naturally do because of our identity in Christ?