

a. Structure of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter

- i. The Holy People of God (1:1-2:10)
- ii. Living in a Non-Christian world (2:11-3:12)
- iii. The role of suffering (3:13-4:19)
- iv. Shepherding the Flock of God (5:1-14)

b. Major Themes of the Letter

- i. Suffering is a major part of being Christian
  - 1. Christ suffered and he is the one we follow
  - 2. God is not punishing Christians with this suffering; God cares for you
  - 3. The time of suffering will be short; stand firm
  - 4. God will be victorious and you will be rewarded for your suffering.
  - 5. The church must be the new home of those who have been ostracized.
- ii. Christians are the New Israel
  - 1. You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people.
  - 2. You are a living Temple
- iii. Baptism is the beginning of a new life
- iv. You must grow and become more Christ-like
- v. Submit to the Authorities where possible
  - 1. Slaves obey masters
  - 2. Wives submit to husbands
  - 3. Husbands live considerately with your wives, honor them.

4. Show by your behavior that you are not rebellious and destructive of the social order.