

# INTRODUCTION TO FIRST PETER

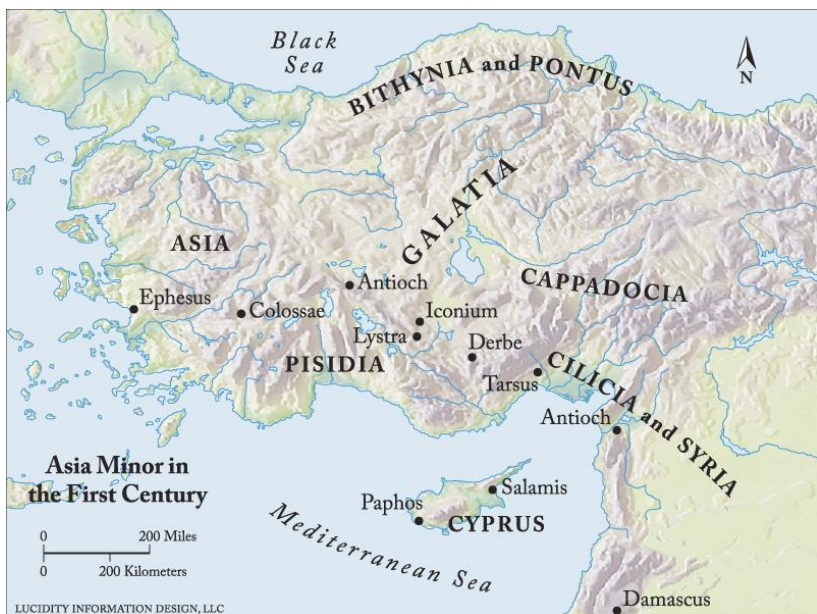
Key Verses: 1:3-4

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ...*

After Jesus ascended into heaven, Peter became a chief caretaker of God's flock. First-generation Christians were happy in Jesus and believed that their happiness would last forever. But soon they came under attack by Jewish authorities and the Roman government. Because of persecution, they were scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and

Bithynia, becoming immigrants and missionaries. In this letter, Peter does not offer them pity or sympathy. He reminds them that their true home is heaven, not this world. He challenges them to overcome the unfortunate situation, to live exemplary lives among unbelievers, and to be ready to preach the gospel at all times with a clear personal testimony about God's grace. Some practical teachings repeated

throughout this letter include: rejoice in suffering (1:6, 2:19, 3:14, 4:13-16); submit to authorities (2:13-14, 2:18, 3:1, 5:5), and exercise self-control (1:13, 4:7, 5:8). Today, many believe that one must demonstrate for his rights, fight injustice, challenge authority. Peter says nothing of the sort. Rather, he tells us to imitate Jesus, who endured unjust suffering with courage and faith (2:23). Peter tells us to live such good lives among unbelievers that, even if they persecute us, they will see our good deeds and eventually confess that we belong to God (2:12).



## Outline

1. New birth into a living hope (1:1-12)
2. Be holy (1:13-2:3)
3. Chosen to be a holy nation (2:4-25)
4. Revere Christ as Lord (3:1-22)
5. Participating in the sufferings of Christ (4:1-19)
6. Be shepherds of God's flock (5:1-14)