

2 Peter



Dr. Andy Woods

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President – Chafer Theological Seminary

INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

- Authorship
- Biography
- Date
- Recipients
- Place of writing
- Occasion for writing
- Purpose
- Structure
- Message
- Unique characteristics



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AUTHORSHIP

- 1:1
- 1:13-14; John 21:18-19
- 1:15-18; Matt 17:1-13



ARGUMENTS FOR & AGAINST PETRINE AUTHORSHIP

CRITICISM

ANSWER

**Weak External Evidence
(Not Cited by Church Fathers
Until 3rd Century)**

Alternative reasons; Jude

**Linguistic Differences
between 1 & 2 Peter**

**Used a Secretary for 1 Peter
(5:12)**

**Different Ideas between 1 & 2
Peter**

**Different Purposes
between 1 & 2 Peter**

Lived After Paul (2 Pet 3:15-16)

**“All” Means “Known” Pauline
Documents**

Passing of the fathers (2 Pet 3:4)

Fathers = patriarchs (Rom 9:5)

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DATE (A.D. 64)

■ After

- ◆ 1 Peter (2 Pet 3:1)
- ◆ Paul wrote some of his letters (2 Pet 3:15-16)

■ Before

- ◆ A.D. 70 (destruction of Jerusalem)
- ◆ A.D. 68 (Paul's death)
- ◆ A.D. 67 (Peter's martyrdom)
- ◆ A.D. 64 (Neronian persecution)

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RECIPIENTS

- North-central portion of modern Turkey (1 Pet. 1:1)
- Regenerated (1 Pet. 1:3-4; 2 Pet. 1:1)
- Jewish
 - ◆ Diaspora (1 Pet. 1:1; Jas. 1:1; John 7:35)
 - ◆ Aliens/sojourners (1 Pet. 1:1)
 - ◆ Pilgrims (1 Pet. 2:11)
 - ◆ Distinguished from the Gentiles (1 Pet. 2:12; 4:3)
 - ◆ 1 Pet 2:9 (Exod. 19:6; Rom. 10:19)
 - ◆ To the church/churches? (1 Pet. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1)
 - ◆ Gal. 2:7-8

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1 Peter 1:1

“To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.”



Every Geographical Location in Acts/Epistles



Acts 8:3-4; 11:19

“³ But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. ⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word...¹⁹ So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.”



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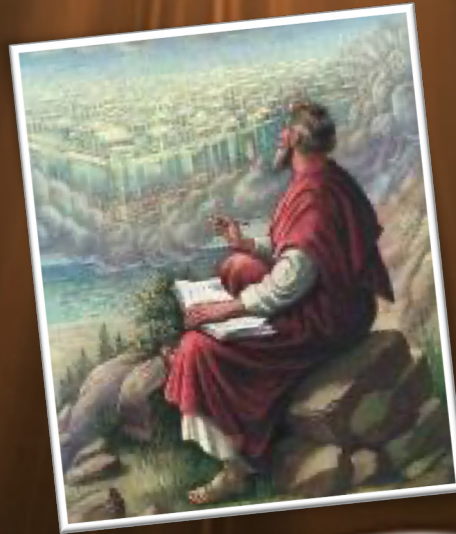
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1 Peter 5:13

“She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so *does* my son, Mark.”



MAP OF NEAR EAST







CASPIAN SEA

CYPRUS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SIDON
TYRE

DAMASCUS

SAMARIA

JERUSALEM

Jordan River

HARRAN

ASSYRIA

NINEVEH

Tigris River

Euphrates River

Chebar River

BABYLON

BABYLONIA

SUSA

ELAM

UR

CHALDEA

PERSIAN GULF

ARABIAN DESERT

THE CHEBAR RIVER
Ezekiel 1:1



Charles Ryrie

The Ryrie Study Bible

“1 Peter 5:13 (RSB:NASB1995U): 5:13 *She who is in Babylon.* The church in Rome, where Peter evidently was writing this letter. My son, Mark. John Mark, the writer of the gospel, who was not Peter’s natural son but his son in the faith.”

THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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PLACE OF WRITING (1 PET 5:13)

- 1 Peter 1:1 is literal
- Gal 4:25; Rev 11:8
- Gal 2:7-8
- Rome mentioned elsewhere in Scripture

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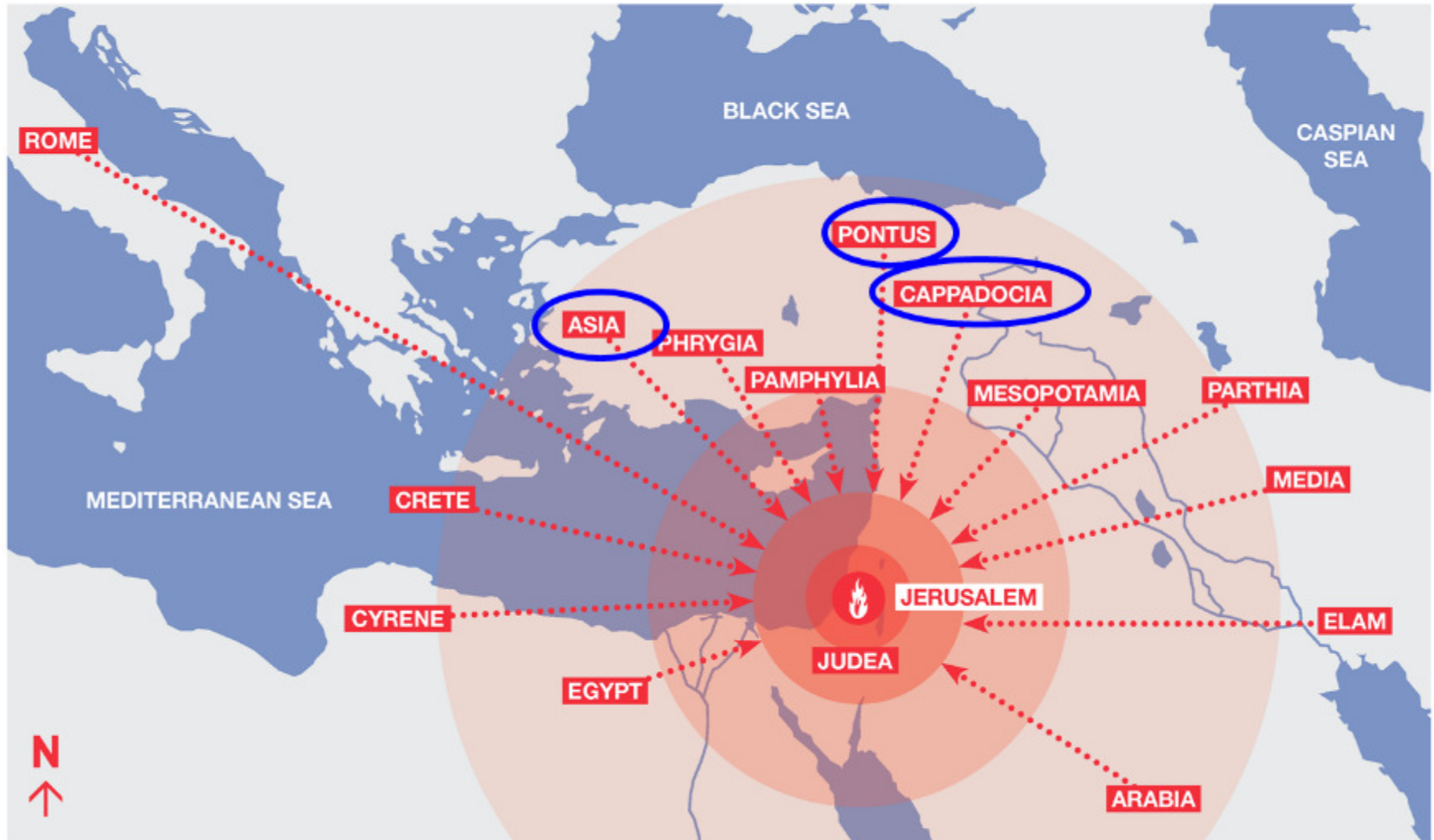
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Galatians 4:24–25

²⁴ This is allegorically speaking, for these *women* are two covenants: one *proceeding* from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar. ²⁵ Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.



Revelation 11:8

“And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.”



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Galatians 2:7-8

“7 But on the contrary, seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised⁸ (for He who effectually worked for Peter in his apostleship to the circumcised effectually worked for me also to the Gentiles).”



Babylon's History After 539 B.C.

- Herodotus gives Babylon's measurements (450 B.C.)
- Alexander the Great visits and dies in Babylon (323 B.C.)
- Seleucus seizes Babylon (312 B.C.)
- Strabo pronounces Babylon's hanging gardens as one of "seven wonders of the world" (25 B.C.)
- **Babylonians present on Pentecost (Acts 2:9)**
- Talmud promulgated from Babylon (A.D. 500)
- Haukal mentions Babylonian village (A.D. 917)
- Babylon known as "Two Mosques" and "Hilah" (A.D. 1100)

Acts 2:9-11

“⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”



THE NATIONS OF PENTECOST ACTS 2:9-11

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Josephus

Antiquities, 15.2.2

“But when Hyrcanus was brought into Parthia the king Phraates treated him after a very gentle manner, as having already learned of what an illustrious family he was; on which account he set him free from his bonds, and *gave him a habitation at Babylon, where there were Jews in great numbers. These Jews honored Hyrcanus as their high priest and king, as did all the Jewish nation that dwelt as far as Euphrates;* which respect was very much to his satisfaction...”

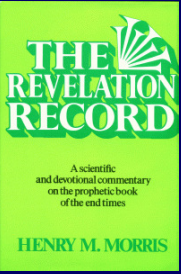
Strabo, *Geography*, 16.1.5?

“Strabo, who died in A.D. 25, is cited in proof that by this time no city was left. . . . This is an instance of how easily lax quotation or assertion may falsify both an author and an issue, which being once done, other writers too easily follow suit. What Strabo says is: ‘And now indeed [Selucia] has become greater than Babylon, which *for the most part* has become deserted’ (ἡ δ’ ἔρημος ἡ πολλή).”

G. H. Lang, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Select Studies*
(London: Paternoster, 1948), 302.

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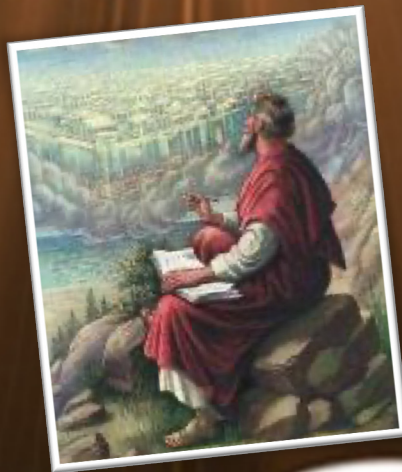
Morris

The Revelation Record, 323

“At the very least, it would be confusing to John’s first century readers, as well as to later generations, for him to write so much about Babylon when he really meant Rome (**Paul was not afraid to speak directly against Rome in his writings, so why should John be?**) or ‘the false church’ (all the apostles , including John, wrote plainly and scathingly about false teachers and false doctrines in the church and would not hide their teachings by symbols). It must be stressed that Revelation means “unveiling,” not “veiling.” In the absence of any statement in the text to the contrary, therefore, we must assume that the term Babylon applies to the real city of Babylon...”

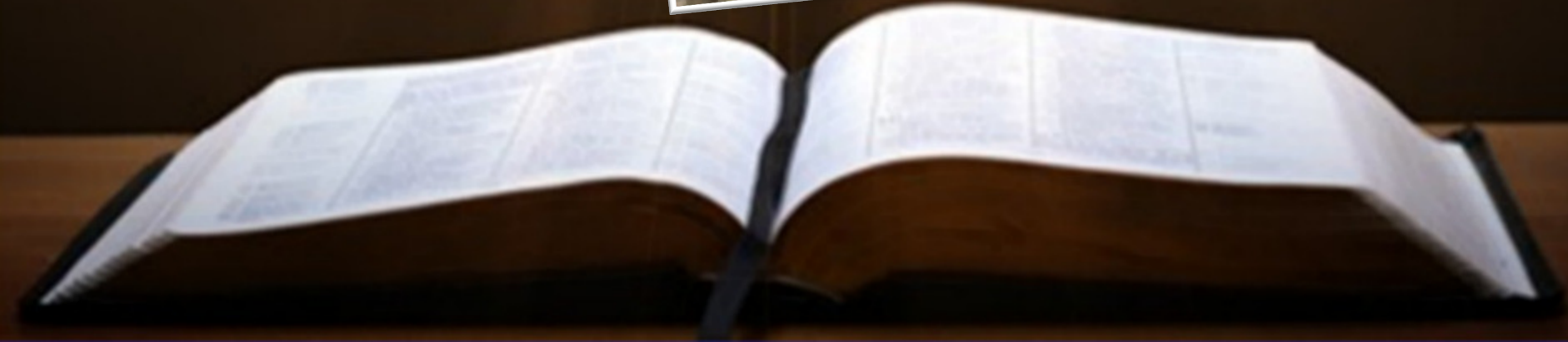
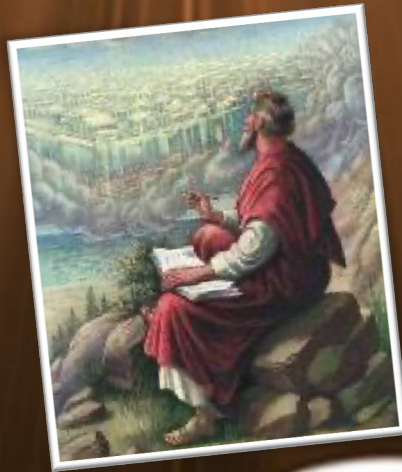
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1 Corinthians 9:5

“Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?”



Luke 4:38

“Then He got up and *left* the synagogue, and entered Simon’s home. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her.”



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FALSE TEACHERS ARE COMING!

Heresies of Gnostics:

- Salvation via special knowledge “gnosis”
- License (indulgence)



OCCASION FOR WRITING

- Incipient Gnosticism
 - ◆ Dualism
 - ★ Christology
 - Incarnation (2 Pet 2:1)
 - Second Advent (2 Pet 3:4)
 - ★ License (2 Pet 2:4-18)
 - ◆ Secret knowledge
 - ★ Scripture (2 Pet 1:20)
 - ★ Pride (2 Pet 2:10-11)

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PURPOSE

To build up his readers in the faith so that they will be insulated from the coming false teachers



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN 1 AND 2 PETER

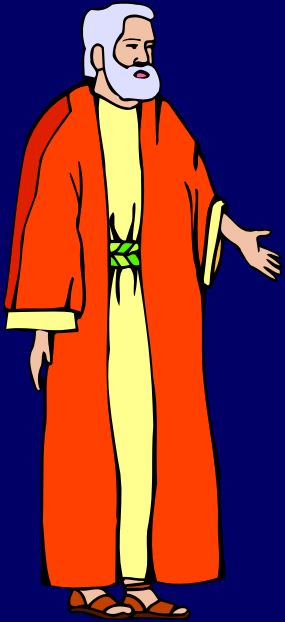
1 PETER	2 PETER
External opposition	Internal opposition
Persecution	False teaching
Suffering	Error
Hope	Knowledge
Encourage	Expose
Comfort	Caution
Holiness	Maturity
Pain with a purpose	Poison in the pew
Christ exemplified suffering	Christ's return

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STRUCTURE



- 2 Peter 1 – Call to maturity
- 2 Peter 2 – Characteristics of false teachers
- 2 Peter 3 – Doctrine of the false teachers

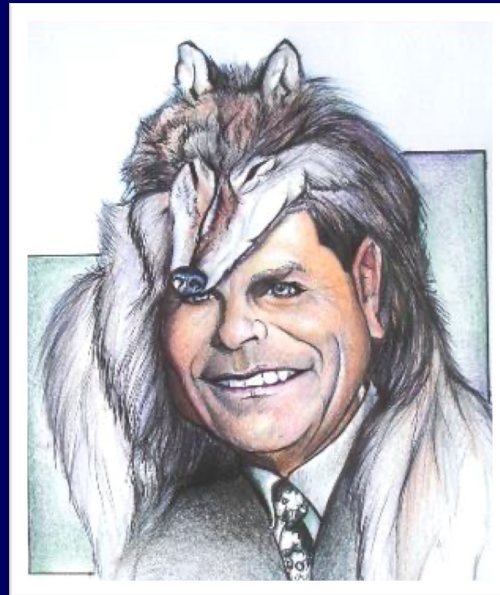
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MESSAGE

Protection from the negative influence of the coming false teachers is accomplished through exhortation toward maturity and exposing the characteristics and doctrines of these coming false teachers



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UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

- Knowledge
- Bibliology (1:19-21; 3:2; 15-16)
- Destruction of the present world (2 Pet 3:10ff)
- Polemical
- Peter's last will and testament (2 Pet 1:14-15)
- Similarities with Jude
- Remembrance



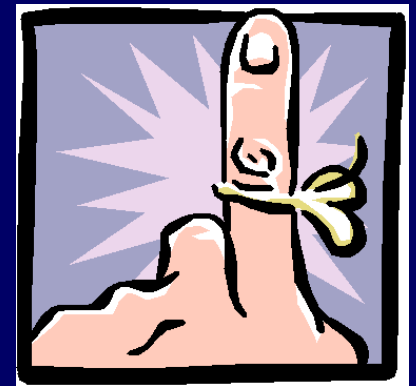
Order of Paul's Letters

1. Galatians (A.D. 49)
2. 1–2 Thessalonians (A.D. 51)
3. 1–2 Corinthians (A.D. 56)
4. Romans (A.D. 57)
5. Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians (A.D. 60–62)
6. 1 Timothy, Titus (A.D. 62–66)
7. 2 Timothy (A.D. 67)



REMEMBRANCE

- Has forgotten that he has been cleansed (1:9)
- I will always remind you of these things (1:12)
- It is right to refresh your memory (1:13)
- You will always be able to remember these things (1:15)
- I have written both of them as reminders (3:1)
- Do not forget (3:8)
- Bear in mind (3:15)



CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

- Authorship: Peter
- Biography: Gospels & Acts
- Date: A.D. 64
- Recipients: Regenerated, Asia Minor, Hebrews
- Place of writing: Babylon
- Occasion for writing: Incipient Gnosticism
- Purpose: Insulation from false teaching
- Structure: 3 parts
- Message: Protection from false teachers
- Unique characteristics: Knowledge

