

1 Peter 1:1

*“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,
Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen” NASB*

We can gather much information about the book of 1 Peter from this one verse. We learn who the author is, who he is writing to and a glimpse of what is possibly coming later in the letter. Here is what we know so far:

Author: Peter an apostle of Jesus Christ

Audience: Chosen aliens

Where are they: scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia

These are all located in modern day Turkey (see map below)



Through research, we find that the most likely date of authorship is 62-63AD.

Here are a few things I'd like to bring to your attention and questions to consider.

- Peter, the author of this book as well as its sequel 2 Peter, is the same Peter who denied Christ three times.
- As mentioned above, the audience for this letter is the “chosen aliens”. Have we taken the time to really think what this means? We can look throughout the Bible and find many verses that mention “God’s chosen” or “God’s chosen people”. If we start in the

Old Testament, we find this to mean the Jewish people, the nation of Israel. All these references before Christ refer to the same thing. Things change however when Christ enters the scene, things change a bit. Looking at *Romans 11:11-31* (v.17 in particular), we find that Gentiles have been grafted in, or “became partakers”. As non-Jewish people, we had no way to salvation save the work of Christ. Based on this, we can infer that this letter was written for both Jew and Gentile.

We must also consider what it means to be aliens. Was Peter saying as believers we are all little green beings from outer space? Of course not! But we must ask, what DOES it mean to be an “alien”? As aliens, we are a people that are living in a place that is not our home. Have you ever been in a place where you felt like you “just don’t belong”? This is how it is with believers who remain on earth. This is not our home. We are bound for a heavenly home.

This passage also describes the aliens as “scattered”. Why were these Christians scattered? (Hint, look at the date this letter was written)

Some Questions to Consider

- If God chose to use Peter (who denied Christ) to teach at Pentacost and to write these books, how can He use you if you would just willingly follow His calling?
What is God calling you to do for Him? Is your answer “Hear I am Lord. Send me”?
- What is your foreign land that God has called you to serve Him in?
Have you been serving Him well?
- What do you think is to come as we continue through 1 Peter?