

2 Peter 3:15-18

Hope in the Fight

A Heartfelt Summation



Peter is winding up his letter now. Writing letters was a laborious task in those day, written on a early type of paper called “papyrus”.

Papyrus was named after the **papyrus reed** which grew in the marshes of the Nile River in Egypt. It required a laborious process to manufacture so it was expensive and not easily acquired. These letter became scripture to the early church - being based on the teachings of Christ! They were often dictated from the apostles to an aid acting as a scribe, who would scribble it down as quickly as he could.



Features of the script:

~No punctuation

~No spacing between words

~No page numbers, chapters numbers, or verse numbers.

~a very different sentence structure

The work of the modern day translator is tedious and very difficult!

There was no room on these expensive, imported, sheets of papyrus for much frivolous information. Everything was kept succinct and to the point to save room. I can imagine that Peter (or his scribe) was not wanting to begin another expensive page, thus a quick summary and an abrupt close.



1] ”*Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation.*”

Be patient even in your hardship!

~Christians wanted the justice of God against their persecutors and they longed for *a new and much better world!*

2] But, it is not about Christians! It’s about non-Christians! If God is being patient with this world, then we are expected to suck it up and be patient too!

~Paul was held in esteem by the 12 apostles! He was truly one of them! Paul was considered a qualified apostle because

A] he had seen the risen *and glorified* Lord Jesus. Jesus had crossed through the veil between heaven and earth to call Saul into His service – **[Acts 9:1-19]**.

B] It was then that Christ's bitterest enemy became His most faithful and energetic follower and servant

C] Again the Lord appeared to Paul in **[Acts 22:17-21]**. In a trance, he was warned of immediate danger and to leave the city *and country* immediately! He was to be a missionary to the gentiles!

D] Paul was also, by far, the most prolific writer of the 12 apostles, writing 13 of the 31 books of the New Testament - 14 if you include **Hebrews**.



~Paul is acclaimed as a writer of scripture by the acknowledged head of the 12 apostles, Peter.

~Striking that all 12 apostles, plus Paul, were in agreement - plus James, the brother of Jesus and the reputed writer of the epistle of James, and actually, Luke, and Mark too!



~They all wrote scripture that did not conflict. Only the Holy Spirit could have accomplished that. Such a feat could never be duplicated with 16 strong individuals, men OR women, anywhere else!

~They also were in agreement with the Old Testament authors, dovetailing beautifully with them!

~God working with messy, chaotic human beings over the course of 15 centuries to create a perfect document to reveal Himself, the way He thought, and what He wanted!

Takeaways from this summation:

~ Trust scripture.

~ Beware of false teachers/scammers. To ID them, we must know the scriptures.

~ Your eternal life (or 2nd death) is at stake!

~ If you fall for their teachings, you **never** knew the real Jesus and He does not know you!

~ Stick to the basics of growing “***in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ***”. It is a wonderful, fulfilling ambition to have!

~ God’s grace saves us. Our resulting grace - His grace in us, is essentially a verb – the application of what we have learned! We **give** grace and in doing so are “grace-full”

~ Grace in us gives off the beauty and the character of Christ, brings glory to Him, and is an effective means to accomplish His purposes to win the world to Himself!

