

1 PETER 1:1-14

Faith Refined by Fire

Bill Wagner



Date	Scripture	Topic	Teacher
June 6		Life of Peter and Background of 1 Peter	David White
June 13	1 Peter 1:1-14	Faith Refined by Fire	Bill Wagner
June 20	1 Peter 1:15-21	Be Holy; Live as Strangers	Tom Steed
June 27	1 Peter 2:1-8	Our Spiritual House	David White
July 4		Singing / Devotional	
July 11	1 Peter 2:9-25	God's People, Relationships, Suffering	Bill Wagner
July 18	1 Peter 3:1-12	Wives, Women's Roles	Tom Steed
July 25	1 Peter 3:13-22	Ready to Give an Answer	
August 1	1 Peter 4:1-19	Pagans and Suffering	
August 8	1 Peter 5:1-14	Eldership, Young Men	
August 15	2 Peter 1	Prophetic Message about Jesus	
August 22	2 Peter 2	False Teachers	
August 29	2 Peter 3	Second Coming of Christ, New Earth	

PETER'S HISTORY

- A fisherman
- First chosen apostle
- Walked on water
- Denied the Lord
- Witnessed the transfiguration
- First to preach to the Jews and Gentiles
- He had been with Jesus

“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. “

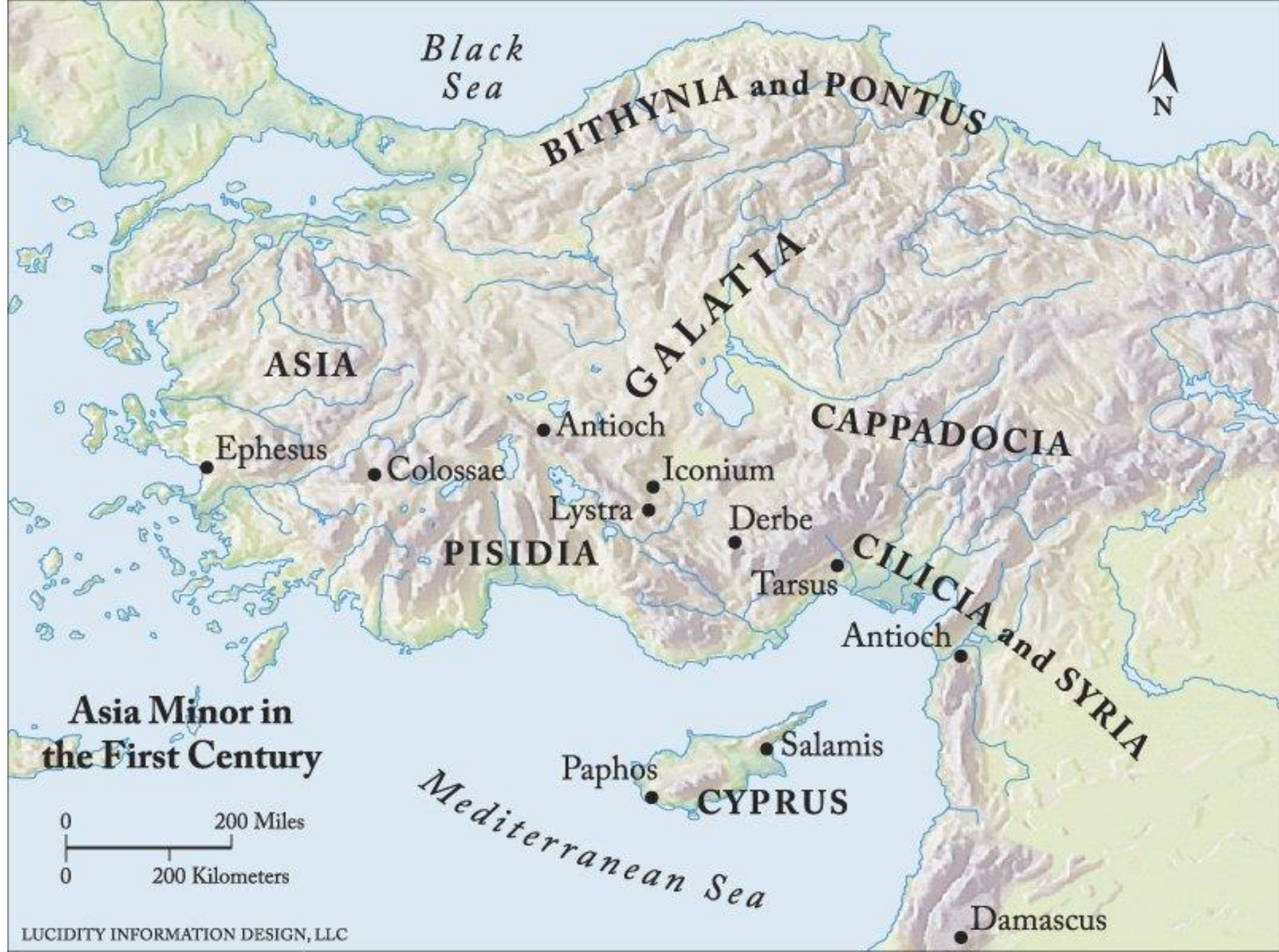
- Acts 8:1-4

JEW'S BEGIN PERSECUTING CHRISTIAN JEW'S

Stephen is
stoned to death

Saul approves
of it

Saul does more
damage



Asia Minor in the First Century

0 200 Miles
0 200 Kilometers



WHO THEY ARE

- God's elect
- Strangers in the world
- scattered

- Chosen by God
- Sanctified by the Spirit
- Obedient to Jesus



PROMISES AND SUFFERING

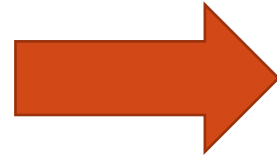
1 Peter 1:3-9

PROMISES

Grace and Peace
be yours in
abundance

New birth
Living hope
An inheritance
Shielded by God

PROMISE



SUFFERING

**Greatly
rejoice in their
salvation**

**Grief
In all
Kinds of
Trials**

an inexpressible and glorious

JOY!

Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the Lord, and
rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all
you upright in heart!

QUESTIONS

- Aren't all these promises and descriptions also true for us?
- Why and how are they (and we) to bear grief in all kinds of trials?
- How can they (and we) greatly rejoice in grief and trials?
- Yes!
- Peter by the Spirit has the answer
- We shall see

Malachi 3:3



He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness...

Your faith is greater than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire

■ “They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them.”

~ Hebrews 11:32-38

**Question: Is
this suffering
new?**



WHAT IS SUFFERING?

Here we are looking at persecution

- Adam and Eve
- Deuteronomy 28:15-ff curses for disobedience
- Deuteronomy 29:24-25
- Joshua and Achan
- Deuteronomistic history from 1 Samuel to 2 Kings

OLD TESTAMENT SUFFERING

Direct
connection
between
suffering and
sin

SUFFERING FOR A PURPOSE

testing

- Abraham in Genesis 22
- Israelites wander in the wilderness for forty years
- Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 5
- To humble and test you

discipline

- Proverbs 3:11-12
- Do not resent His rebuke
- The Lord disciplines those He loves

- Jesus was sinless
- Jesus heals a man born blind ~ John 9
- The scattered in 1 Peter are innocent

PERSECUTION IS A UNIQUE SUFFERING

Not sin
leading to
suffering, but
suffering of
the innocent

DIGGING DEEPER

- They suffer grief “for a little while”
- They will suffer trials
- Why?
 - To prove their faith is genuine
 - So their faith will result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus is revealed
- Prove to whom?

- For our **light and momentary troubles** are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.
 - ~ 2 Corinthians 4:17
- In fact, **everyone** who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted
 - ~ 2 Timothy 3:12

Hardest to Follow Jesus:

1. North Korea
2. Afghanistan
3. Somalia
4. Libya
5. Pakistan
6. Eritrea
7. Sudan
8. Yemen
9. Iran
10. India

Source: OpenDoorsUSA.org

More people died for their faith in the 1900s than in all the previous years since the beginning of the church

More Christians have been martyred than died in all the major wars last century



After her husband was killed by an angry mob, Bindi asks us to pray that she and her daughters, ages 3 and 5, will grow in Christ and that God will continue to provide for them. She also asks for prayer that her husband's killer will be brought to justice and come to know the Lord.

The Prophets

- Trying to find out the time and circumstances
- They were not serving themselves but you
- Even angels long to look into these things

A CALL TO ACTION

Prepare your minds Set your hope fully
Be self-controlled Be obedient
Do not conform

TAKEAWAYS

- “GRACE AND PEACE BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE” (v 2)
- Shielded by God’s power (v 5)
- Greatly rejoice (v 6)
- Trials to prove our genuine faith (v 6,7)
- Filled with inexpressible and glorious joy (v 8) ← NOW!
- Receiving the salvation of your souls (v 9)
- Prepare your minds (v 13)
- Set your hope (v 13)
- Obey (v 14)
- Do not conform to the world (v 14)

A CHALLENGE

See yourself as God sees you

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