

1 Peter

Chapter 5

XVII. A Charge To The Elders - 1 Peter 5:1-6

A. Their Identity - 1 Peter 5:1

1 Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

The church that Peter wrote to was a suffering church. This letter was written in the waning years of the sixth decade of first century when the first of ten great persecutions was starting to break out against the church. Whenever there is a time of great persecution, there is a need for great leadership. It is this issue to which Peter now turns his attention.

The first question to ask is "What does Peter mean when he refers to the elders?" In the NT we have given to us three groups of officers in the church, the elders, deacons, and deaconesses (1 Timothy 3). The first of these is elder. The term elder (*presbuteroi*) refers to age, maturity, and in the early church came to refer to those who were spiritually mature. It is the title which denotes a persons maturity in spiritual matters and their readiness to lead and feed the flock. Peter is talking to the spiritual leaders of the church.

Another great truth is the humility by which Peter refers to himself. Peter does not throw his weight around as an Apostle, or as the first Pope, but as a fellow elder. He identifies humbly with the task that all elders are called to, and does not elevate himself as the "first among equals."

However, Peter does not just identify with the elders, but he moves on to his position as an apostle to lend support to his exhortation to the elders. Two of the primary prerequisites of an Apostle was that he be a witness of the life of Christ and that he be an eyewitness of the risen Lord.

Bishop, Elder, Pastor

Bishop, elder, and pastor are used interchangeably in the NT to refer to the same person. Elder denotes the person spiritual maturity, bishop refers to the office, and pastor (shepherd) refers to what the person does.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Note furthermore that Peter addresses the elders (plural) not elder (singular). Throughout the NT the pattern in the church has always been that of a plurality of leadership. The only time the word elder is used in the singular is when it refers to one particular elder. When used in reference to the leadership of the church, it is always plural.

Why a plurality of elders?

1. It preserves the church against error - 1 Corinthians 14:29.

- 2. It preserves against imbalance.**
- 3. It preserves against undue elevation of one man.**
- 4. It preserves against and evil dominance (Diotrophes).**
- 5. It preserves against discontinuity.**

B. Their Duties

1. Feed the flock - 1 Peter 5:2a

1 Peter 5:2a Feed the flock of God which is among you...

The primary ministry and duty of the shepherd is the feeding of the flock. Their main function is not administrative or managerial, but the feeding of the Word of God to the flock.

In 1 Timothy 3 the character qualifications of the elders and deacons are identical with the sole exception being that the elder is "apt to teach." In other words, both elders and deacons serve the church, but it is the duty of the elder to minister the Word to the church.

Note that it is not the elder's flock, but it is God's flock. God has apportioned his flock among his undershepherds who then assist him in leading and feeding the flock. Several points come out of this idea:

- a. It is God's flock, not ours.
- b. We are to shepherd the flock that God has given to us, not to someone else.
- c. We need to know who our flock is.

Some interesting facts about sheep:

- **The sheep is the only animal in the world that can be totally lost within a few miles of its home. When a sheep is lost, it usually walks around in circles baaing in fear and panic. It has no ability to find food and water when lost.**
- **Sheep are especially vulnerable when purposely led astray. They are innate followers and very easily led astray.**
- **Sheep need to be protected, guided, and provided for. They are extremely vulnerable to harm.**
- **Sheep need clean, pure, non-stagnant water which is at just the right temperature and not moving too rapidly or else they will be afraid of the noise.**
- **Sheep cannot smell water. It must be led to the water. A sheep can die of thirst only a few hundred yards from water.**
- **If they eat their own grazing range, they will eat the stubble and even the dirt before moving on. They also lack the ability to distinguish between good and bad food.**

- **Sheep are very dirty creatures. They secrete a tremendous amount of lanolin which makes them very greasy. Everything in their environment sticks to them, dirt, leaves, grass, etc. They have absolutely no capacity to clean themselves.**
- **Sheep need good food, but cannot be in a place where the ground is wet. Otherwise they will get foot-rot. If they feed on moist, wet, grass they get severe diarrhea, and because they are so dirty, the droppings coagulate and kill the sheep because the normal elimination process is stopped.**
- **Flies also lay eggs in their hides. If left unattended, the maggots will kill the sheep when hatched.**
- **Sheep are completely defenseless. They cannot kick, bite, scratch, jump, or run. They have no defense mechanism. When attacked, they run together thus making them easy targets.**
- **Sheep are very vulnerable to injury. They are so meek that when hurt they will give up and die. They lack a self-preservation instinct. If they fall on their back, they cannot roll to their feet and will die.**
- **Of all the animals in the world, they are the most useful. Every part can be used.**

2. Lead the flock - 1 Peter 5:2b

1 Peter 5:2 ...taking the oversight thereof..

The second duty of the shepherd is to lead the flock. The word “oversight” (*episkopeo*) means “to have the big picture” or to “look over.” An elder is to look over his flock, protecting them, leading them, and feeding them.

Note furthermore that this leading is always in reference to leading them into truth, not running their lives as a demigod. Many abusive situations occur when a pastor takes control of the sheep with no regard for the sheep. Leading the flock is a solemn responsibility. Peter lists several components of this oversight.

a. Willingly - 1 Peter 5:2c

1 Peter 5:2c ...not by constraint, but willingly...

Leading and feeding the flock of God is an arduous task at times. One of the great perils of shepherding is falling into the trap of compulsion, feeling that one has to shepherd. Leading and feeding the flock should be a task entered into willingly because we know that it is God's will.

This also has the idea of diligence. It is easy for a pastor to get lazy and not do the task, after all, he is accountable only to God. An elder should not have to be forced to shepherd, it should be done willingly on his part.

b. Accountably - 1 Peter 5:2d

1 Peter 5:2d ...not for filthy lucre...

A second great peril is to shepherd in order to gain the rewards and plaudits of others. Many men today have prostituted the calling of elder into something that gets them rich.

1 Timothy 3:3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

2 Timothy 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Not only is a shepherd not to serve for money, but he is not to steal in order to increase his wealth. One scandal after another today illustrates this tragic reality of those who run after money and are in the ministry only for their own financial gain.

2 Peter 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

c. With readiness of mind - 1 Peter 5:2e

1 Peter 5:2e ...but of a ready mind;

The idea here is one of eagerness. An elder should be eager to serve God by shepherding the flock.

d. As servants - 1 Peter 5:3

1 Peter 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage...

Lord over (*katakuriountes*) means to "dominate." An elder is not to dominate the flock, ruling over every aspect of their life. One of the great dangers of spiritual leadership is to allow that leadership to go to one's head. It is easy to enjoy the power and prestige of the position, and forget the solemn call to leadership.

e. As examples - 1 Peter 5:3b

1 Peter 5:3 ...but being ensamples to the flock.

The greatest leader is the one who leads by example. The qualifications for elder that Paul lists in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 are qualifications that make the elder an example to others. One whose life is not an example has no business being a shepherd over God's flock.

C. Their Reward

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

The greatest motivation for an elder to perform his duties is that there is coming a day in which he must give an account of himself to the Chief Shepherd. His actions will be called into scrutiny, and those that pass will receive an unfading crown which is eternal glory.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

XVIII. Spiritual Maturity - 1 Peter 5:5-14

A. Submission - 1 Peter 5:5a

1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another...

The first fundamental attitude for those who want to be spiritually mature is that of submission. One of the most difficult vices faced on the road to godly character is that of pride, thinking that one has arrived and is ready for greater spiritual challenges.

Why does Peter use “younger men” in this command? It may be because Peter is talking to the younger, headstrong men who aspire to spiritual leadership even though they may not be ready. In any case, the injunction to be in submission (*hupotasso*) to the elders is one that is applicable to all, although primarily applied to the younger men in this passage.

Nothing is more distressing for a spiritual leader than a congregation that does not respect and refuses to submit to his God-given authority. Members of a congregation who will not submit to the spiritual authority that God has placed all of them will stifle their spiritual growth and exhibit their own immaturity.

Titus 3:1-2 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men.

Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

B. Humility - 1 Peter 5:5b-6

1 Peter 5:5-6 ...and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

A second fundamental attitude for spiritual maturity is that of humility. The word “clothed” (*egkombosasthe*) means to “tie up in a bow.” It is the idea of putting on an apron, or some other garment, which prepared the wearer for humble service.

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Philippians 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

It is easy to play the power game in the church, where we think of ourselves as being better or greater than others. In the body of Christ there is no room for spiritual pride. All of us need to see ourselves as humble servants to one another and towards God. To lend support to this statement Peter quotes Proverbs 3:34.

Proverbs 3:34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 66:2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

In verse 6 we find an axiomatic truth. Those who desire to exalt themselves spiritually will be humbled by God, those who voluntarily humble themselves will be exalted by God.

Micah 6:8 He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

The Mighty Hand of God.

The mighty hand of God is a reference to God's sovereign power and control.

Exodus 3:19-20 And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand. And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.

Job 30:21 Thou art become cruel to me: with thy strong hand thou opposest thyself against me.

Ezekiel 20:33 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you:

C. Trust in God - 1 Peter 5:7

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

The way to humble ourselves under God's mighty hand is to have a trust in God. We can entrust our situation and our trials to God because we know that God

cares for us. The word “cast” (*epirripsantes*) refers to throwing something on something else, like a blanket on a bed or a saddle on a horse.

Psalms 55:22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

D. Self Control - 1 Peter 5:8a

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober...

A fourth attitude required for spiritual maturity is that of sober-mindedness or self-control. Sober (*naphate*) refers to being in the right mind, being in control of oneself.

1 Timothy 2:15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

Titus 2:2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

There is a great premium placed on an ordered mind in the NT. Without a renewed mind and self control one will never be spiritually mature. It is easy to be uncontrolled, very hard to be self controlled.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

E. An Attitude of Vigilance - 1 Peter 5:8b

1 Peter 5:8 ...be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Satan is a liar and deceiver. We always need to be on alert, spiritually speaking, because of the enemies we have to face. Every believer has to be on the lookout for the enemy of the world, the flesh, and the devil. In this verse, Peter talks about Satan. Peter uses the word *diabolos*, which means slanderer. Satan is the slanderer and accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12).

This reference to Satan extends beyond Satan himself. Oftentimes the Bible talks about our battle with Satan while viewing Satan as the head of the demonic hosts and the head of the world system. Satan busily orchestrates his hosts of demons and the world system in order to bring persecution and trouble into the lives of believers.

How do we become vigilant in our spiritual lives?

- 1. Learning about Satan.**
- 2. Know your weaknesses.**
- 3. Learn spiritual truth.**

4. Learn about the armor of God.

5. Learn Scripture that enables you to deal with temptations.

How does Satan do this? He roams about seeking someone to devour. This reminds us of Job 1:7 and 2:2 where Satan tells God that he has come from walking to and fro on the earth. Why? In order to find someone to devour. The use of the imagery of a lion is very descriptive. Note that his prey is not unbelievers, he already has them, but it is believers, whom he hopes to tear to shreds in order to discredit God.

Psalms 22:13 They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

Psalms 104:21 The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

Ezekiel 22:25 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

Why does God allow Satan into the lives of believers?

1. **Sometimes God allows Satan to attack a believer. An example of this would be Job, whom God allowed Satan to attack in order to prove the faithfulness of Job.**
2. **Sometimes God allows Satan to attack the believer in order to humble us (2 Corinthians 12:7).**
3. **Sometimes God allows Satan to attack the believer in order to allow us to help others after we have gone through the trial.**
4. **Sometimes God allows Satan to attack us in order to bring us future blessing - Revelation 2:10.**
5. **Sometimes God allows Satan to attack believers in order to chasten them - Acts 5:3ff, 1 Corinthians 5:1ff.**
6. **Sometimes God turns believers over to Satan for judgment - 1 Timothy 1:19-20.**

There is a tremendous amount of speculation today as to spiritual warfare. It seems that the latest craze in the Church is that of spiritual warfare training. Some have even taken this upon themselves as a full-time ministry.

1. **Satan is the major cause of all physical disease and lack of blessings for believers. In many circles the path to healing is taught to be the process of identifying and casting out the demons of disease (although many would just say that one of the major causes of disease is demonic oppression).**

The Hunters [Charles and Frances] provides a case in point: "When a doctor says there is no cure, our spiritual antennas pick up the fact that it is a spirit." They have concluded that all incurable diseases are caused by evil spirits. Demons inhabit not only people, but also homes, cars, and other mechanical devices. This produces great consternation for the believer who wants to experience blessings promised to him (Ken L. Sarles, "A Theological Evaluation of the Prosperity Gospel" *Bibliotheca Sacra* 143 [Oct.-Dec. 1986]:336, 344-45).

2. **The world is under the control of territorial demons. Each nation, region, city, and town has its own demon in charge of demonic activity in that area. It is not possible to successfully fight these demons unless one knows of their existence and name (Dean Sherman, *Spiritual Warfare for Every Christian*, pp. 87ff). Note the following quote taken from the *Los Angeles Times*:**

Under the militant banner of "spiritual warfare," growing numbers of evangelical and charismatic Christian leaders are preparing broad assaults on what they call the cosmic powers of darkness. Fascinated with the notion that Satan commands a hierarchy of territorial demons, some mission agencies and big-church pastors are devising strategies for "breaking the strongholds" of those evil spirits alleged to be controlling cities and countries.

Some proponents in the fledgling movement already maintain that focused prayer meetings have ended the curse of the Bermuda triangle, led to the 1987 downfall in Oregon of the free-love guru Baghwan Shree Rahjneesh,

and for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, produced a two-week drop in the crime rate, a friendly atmosphere and unclogged freeways. This is not the cinematic story line for a religious sequel to "Ghostbusters II," yet the developing scenario does have a fictional influence: interest in spiritual warfare has been heightened by two best-selling novels in Christian bookstores. "This Present Darkness" by Frank Peretti, describes the religious fight against "territorial spirits mobilized to dominate a small town." A second Peretti novel has a similar premise.

Fuller Seminary Prof. C. Peter Wagner, who has written extensively on the subject, led a "summit" meeting on cosmic-level spiritual warfare Monday in Pasadena with two dozen men and women, including a Texas couple heading a group called the "Generals of Intercession" and an Oregon man who conducts "spiritual warfare bootcamps" (John Dart, "Evangelicals, Charismatics Prepare for Spiritual Warfare," 17 February 1990, F16).

3. **The way to overcome Satan is by power encounters. These are miraculous and often spectacular encounters between good and evil, God and Satan. Some say that without these power encounters the gospel message itself is ineffective in leading men to salvation. Mark Bubeck, an evangelical writer relates this experience:**

I often found myself crying out to God for revival during extended sessions of prayer. In the midst of one such prayer session an unusual, strong spiritual awareness suddenly overwhelmed me. I don't know how else to describe it. Although I did not hear a voice, there was a powerful communication to my spirit: *Before a revival like the one for which you are praying can come, there will have to be a strong encounter with Satan* (Mark Bubeck, *The Satanic Revival* [San Bernardino, Calif.: Here's Life, 1991], p. 11).

4. **Christians are to take the offensive against Satan. We should seek out and engage the enemy face to face. Just as Christ delivered men from the power of Satan, so should we deliver men from demonic oppression. (James Robison, *Winning The Real War*, pp. 115ff).**
5. **Homes that we move into may be infested with demons because of some occult activity years and years before. The sensitive believer can recognize and exorcise these demons through the power of the Word and Christ (Thomas B. White, *The Believers Guide to Spiritual Warfare*, pp. 90ff).**
6. **We may be the victims of generational curses. Sins that our forefathers engaged in may be specifically energized by Satan. This means that it is possible for us to be victimized by demonic forces in many areas of our lives without our knowledge or permission (Thomas B. White, *The Believers Guide to Spiritual Warfare*, pp. 81ff).**

7. **Christians can be “forced” to sin by demonic oppression. Jimmy Swaggart was exorcised of the demons of lust by Oral Roberts over the phone. This removes the responsibility for sin from us and places it on demons.**
8. **Specific sins are energized by demons who specialize in that area. For example, we are introduced to the demons of lust, greed, homosexuality, hate, murder, stealing, and every other vice that victimizes men by many leaders in the spiritual warfare movement.**

Who needs deliverance? Anyone in the lineage of Adam has inherited the iniquity (ungodly desire) of his father (Ex. 20:5, 6). Without deliverance by Truth this person is in bondage, unreality, deception, negativity, foolishness, sickness, and evil, and he doesn't even know it...

In deliverance we are released from the spirits and desires that twist our heart and deceive our mind. What is a “spirit?” Anger is a spirit. Irritation and self-pity are spirits. Hatred, jealousy, illness, worry, deception, arrogance, fear, rebellion, resentment, phobia, shyness, conceit, confusion, smugness, sadness, accusation, addiction, pride, cruelty, legalism, homosexuality, religiosity, complaining, lying are all names of spirits.

Every word in the dictionary that describes any kind of evil, wicked intent, or sin against God is the name of a demon or evil spirit...If at any time in your life you have ever expressed any such spirit or desire, then you still have it hidden inside, unless you have been delivered from it (The Truth In Deliverance [Austin, Texas: Alpha-Omega Energies, n.d.], pp. 3-4).
9. **Believers have the power to bind Satan and pray hedges of protection about themselves and loved ones. In many places this has become a common method of dealing with sins. Instead of repenting of fornication we are told to bind the demon of lust. Again, this removes the responsibility of sin from us and pins it on a demon.**
10. **We are encouraged to learn prayers of deliverance specifically designed to combat Satan and demons. In fact, there are whole books given over to specific prayers that one can “fill in the blanks” and use (Thomas B. White, *The Believers Guide to Spiritual Warfare*, pp. 113ff).**

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of His blood, I pull down all levels of the stronghold of _____. [Choose items from the following list of areas of Satan's strongholds that you desire to pull down and smash. You may think of other things—the list is suggestive, not exhaustive.] (Mark Bubeck, *The Satanic Revival* [San Bernardino: Here's Life Publishers, 1991], pp. 182-84).*

How are we to deal with Satan?

1. Be Alert - 1 Peter 5:8
2. Resist Him - 1 Peter 5:9a

1 Peter 5:9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith...

“Resist” (*antistate*) means “to stand against.” We stand against Satan “firm in the faith.” The faith is both subjective, our faith in God, and objective, the faith as revealed by God in his word.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

2 Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

3. Realize that you are not alone in the battle - 1 Peter 5:9b

1 Peter 5:9 ...knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Satan would like us to believe we are all alone. We need to remember that we are not alone in the battle, but we are engaged in this warfare with all believers who find themselves suffering under the attacks of Satan.

F. Hope - 1 Peter 5:10

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Another attitude of spiritual maturity is that of hope. When all else fails and we feel abandoned, there is always the hope of eternal glory. Again, the path to glory is through suffering. Peter refers to God as “the God of all grace.” This is not saving grace, but sustaining grace. This is the grace we need to live each day of our lives as believers. Furthermore, the “God of all grace” has himself chosen us and will himself bring us to eternal glory and perfection.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

G. Worship - 1 Peter 5:11

1 Peter 5:11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

A final attitude for spiritual maturity is that of a worshipful heart. The end and chief purpose of man is to worship God, which brings glory to his name. A worshiping heart keeps us from questioning the sovereign care of God as we face the trails of life.

XIX. Conclusion - 1 Peter 5:12-14

1 Peter 5:12-14 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand. The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Silvanus is another name for Silas. It is likely that this is the same Silas that accompanied Paul on his missionary journeys. Silas was probably the one who wrote down the words of this epistle. Silas is one of those men who are faithful to the gospel. First with Paul, then Peter, then who knows where. Throughout his life he has stayed with the truth, unlike Demas.

Whether this was written from the real Babylon or Rome (spiritual Babylon) has been highly debated. We can't be dogmatic about this, but it is likely that this was written from Rome. Church tradition places Peter in Rome at this time. We also read of Marcus (Mark) who wrote the gospel of Mark with the help of Peter.