

# **Unit 1: An Introduction to First Peter and the Opening Verses (1 Pet 1:1-12)**

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Unit 1 is introductory to the whole course. We begin with a biblical and theological probing about the issues of evil, tribulation and suffering. This is appropriate, since the epistle of 1 Peter is very much concerned with these matters and how believers in Christ face them while living the Christian life. Many times in history, Christians have had to suffer for their faith. At times, this has even meant persecution and martyrdom. Of course, the intensity of persecution varies from one century to another and from one country to another. But by and large, the church has suffered at the hands of a hostile society in which she has been called to live as “salt and light” in its midst.

Following a probe into the causes and reasons for evil and suffering, Lesson 2 will explore the essential background matters of 1 Peter, including the original audience to whom Peter wrote. Then, in Lesson 3, we will examine the opening paragraph of the epistle (1 Pet 1:3-12) that sets the stage for the study of the remainder of Peter’s epistle.

## **Unit Outline**

Lesson 1: A Biblical Introduction to Evil, Tribulation, and Suffering

Lesson 2: Background and Overview of 1 Peter (incl. 1 Pet 1:1-2)

Lesson 3: Three Perspectives to Guide Our Lives on Earth While Awaiting Christ’s Return and Future Salvation (1 Pet 1:3-12)

## **Unit Objectives**

By the end of this unit, you will be able to do the following:

- Understand the reasons for the existence of evil and Satan’s role in propagating evil in this world.
- Deepen your commitment to facing suffering and persecution as a committed disciple of Christ.
- Explain the essential background information of 1 Peter.
- Develop an overview chart of 1 Peter, and identify the theme and purpose of the epistle.
- Appreciate the positive value that trials can have for your life, and why faithfully enduring them will prove to be important when Christ returns.