



Inspiring quotes



About the Author

nothing of the author

1 Peter 1.1 states that the author of the epistle was Peter an apostle of Jesus Christ, which has been taken to mean 'the' Peter of the Gospels. There are many scholars, however, who do not believe that the author was, in fact, Peter. Some make the argument on the grounds that the author was well versed in Greek philosophy and rhetoric (and Peter couldn't have been); others argue that the persecution referred to in the epistle was probably from a later date (maybe as late as ad 80s-90s); others again that 1 Peter shares many themes with Ephesians and so may have been written after that epistle (and therefore after Peter had been martyred in Rome).

Other scholars find themselves unconvinced by these arguments and continue to attribute it to Peter.

What do we know about him?

Peter is the best known of all of Jesus' original 12 disciples. Although the other gospels say nothing of his ancestry or place of birth, John's

Gospel identified him as the son of John and from Bethsaida (John 1. 40-44). By the time he met Jesus in Mark's Gospel he appears to be living in Capernaum – or at least his mother-in-law was (Mark 1.30). He had a brother called Andrew (see Matthew 4.18 and John 1.40, 44). The gospels all identify Peter as a fisherman (hence the assumption by some that he would not have been trained in Greek philosophy or rhetoric).

Peter is presented in all four gospels as being very close to Jesus – even though he regularly got things wrong, a tendency that led in the end to him denying Jesus three times just before his trial. Christian tradition states that Peter was the first Bishop of Rome and was crucified there during the reign of the Emperor Nero (in the mid-60s ad). It is also held by some that the Gospel of Mark contains Peter's eyewitness testimony of the life and death of Jesus.

If the epistle was not written by Peter we know nothing of the author at all.

