

## *Our last discussion on CEPHAS AND JESUS*

**CEPHAS** or Simon Peter was a fisherman in Bethsaida.



Why was 1 Peter written?

To encourage the church members undergoing undeserved trials and suffering and to provide advice on how to deal with governmental officials society and families

When was 1 Peter written?

They say about A.D. 64

Anyone know what happened in AD 64?

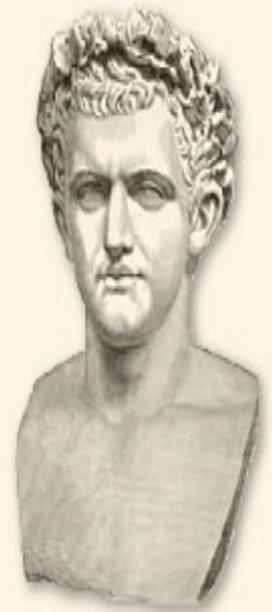
## The Burning of Rome, 64 AD

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**D**uring the night of July 18, 64 AD, fire broke out in the merchant area of the city of Rome. Fanned by summer winds, the flames quickly spread through the dry, wooden structures of the Imperial City. Soon the fire took on a life of its own consuming all in its path for six days and seven nights. When the conflagration finally ran its course it left seventy percent of the city in smoldering ruins.

Rumors soon arose accusing the Emperor Nero of ordering the torching of the city and standing on the summit of the Palatine playing his lyre as flames devoured the world around him. These rumors have never been confirmed. In fact, Nero rushed to Rome from his palace in Antium (Anzio) and ran about the city all that first night without his guards directing efforts to quell the blaze. But the rumors persisted and the Emperor looked for a scapegoat. He found it in the Christians, at that time a rather obscure religious sect with a small following in the city. To appease the masses, Nero literally had his victims fed to the lions during giant spectacles held in the city's remaining amphitheater.

From the ashes of the fire rose a more spectacular Rome. A city made of marble and stone with wide streets, pedestrian arcades and ample supplies of water to quell any future blaze. The debris from the fire was used to fill the malaria-ridden marshes that had plagued the city for generations.



Emperor Nero

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/rome.htm>

Tacitus was there...and he wrote about it

# NERO

- Nero was educated by philosopher [Lucius Annaeus Seneca](#).
- AD 50 Agrippina persuaded Claudius to adopt Nero
- AD 51 he was named heir-apparent by Claudius
- AD 54 Claudius died, most likely poisoned by his wife. Agrippa Younger was regent
- It is said that Nero was
  - fair-haired, with weak blue eyes, a fat neck, a pot belly and a body which smelt and was covered with spots.
  - he was a strange mix of paradoxes; artistic, sporting, brutal, weak, sensual, erratic, extravagant, sadistic, bisexual - and later in life almost certainly deranged.
- Nero's inherent lust and lack of self-control, for he took, as his mistress the beautiful Poppaea Sabina. She was the wife of his partner in frequent exploits, Marcus Salvius Otho.
- AD 58 Otho was dispatched to be governor of Lusitania, no doubt to move him out of the way
- He made various attempts on his mother's life, three of which were by poison and one by rigging the ceiling over her bed to collapse while she would lay in bed. Thereafter even a collapsible boat was built, which was meant to sink in the Bay of Naples. But the plot only succeeded in sinking the boat, as Agrippina managed to swim ashore. Exasperated, Nero sent an assassin who clubbed and stabbed her to death (AD 59).

# NERO

- AD 64, the Great Fire ravaged Rome for six days
- Historian Suetonius describes him singing from the tower of Maecenas, watching as the fire consumed Rome
- To Nero's credit, it does indeed appear that he had done his best to control the fire.
- Nero used a vast area between the Palatine and the Equiline hills, which had been utterly destroyed by the fire to build his 'Golden Palace'
- Nero did rebuild large residential areas of Rome at his own expense, but people were suspicious.
- Nero, always a man desperate to be popular, therefore looked for scapegoats on whom the fire could be blamed
- Many Christians were arrested and thrown to the wild beasts in the circus, or they were crucified.
- Many of them were also burned to death at night, serving as 'lighting' in Nero's gardens, while Nero mingled among the watching crowds.
- AD 65 there was a serious plot against Nero. Known as the 'Pisonian Conspiracy' it was led by Gaius Calpurnius Piso.
- The plot was uncovered and nineteen executions and suicides followed, and thirteen banishments, without trials.
- Nero commit suicide, with the assistance of a secretary (9 June AD 68)
- His last words... "Qualis artifex pereo." ("What an artist the world loses in me.")
- The Christian church in many ways considered him an incarnation of the antichrist.

This was the environment around Peter around the time he dictated 1 Peter

I consider Silas to be a faithful brother. With his help I have written you this short letter. I have written it to cheer you up. And I have written to give witness about the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

1 Peter 5

Silas probably helped with writing it.

# 1 Peter 1

I, Peter, am writing this letter. I am an apostle of Jesus Christ.

I am sending this letter to you, God's chosen people. You are strangers in the world. You are scattered all over Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia. 2 You have been chosen in keeping with what God the Father had planned. That happened through the Spirit's work to make you pure and holy. God chose you so that you might obey Jesus Christ. He wanted you to be made clean by the blood of Christ.

May more and more grace and peace be given to you.

12 Apostle – they were chosen  
Let's get a little background form this  
video snippet

[You tube Snippet](#)

# You are strangers in the world.

In what way are we strangers in the world?

In what way were the Apostles strangers in the world as well?

*Some Ideas:*

- 1. Christians longing for their home in heaven,*
- 2. literal “strangers”,*
- 3. Old Testament adaptation applied to Christian believers,*

# Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

## 1 ■ Rome

Apostle Peter writes his First Letter, to the Christian Jews of much of Asia Minor, probably from Rome c AD64



# Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

These are Roman provinces in Asia Minor. Probably listed according to the route to be taken by the messenger who delivered the letter.

You have been chosen<sup>?</sup> in keeping  
with what God the Father had  
planned.

## THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD

<http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Basics/predestination.htm>

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

Foreknowledge means to have knowledge of things to be.  
Foreknowledge ***is an attribute of God.***

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## THE PREDESTINATION OF GOD

<http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Basics/predestination.htm>

Predestination is never for the lost man, to be saved or to be lost; but rather, predestination ***is for the saved***. God knows who is going to be saved, and thus He has predestinated certain blessings for those who are going to get saved by faith. In other words, God draws a circle, figuratively speaking, and says that whosoever believes in the Lord Jesus Christ will get in that circle. So the believer, upon his faith in Jesus Christ, steps into the circle. Then God says, figuratively speaking, "Whosoever is in that circle by faith, I have predestinated that they shall receive these blessings," and here they are

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## **ELECTION/CHOOSING**

<http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Basics/predestination.htm>

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

(Eph. 1:4)

The New Testament words "chosen, choose, and election" are the same.

Election (choosing) has nothing to do with the lost, but ***is for the saved.***

What has God elected or chosen us for? Not salvation; but He has chosen us even before the foundation of the world (He knew that we would believe on His Son) for service.

# That happened through the Spirit's work to make you pure and holy.

- Are we involved in this work?
  - Spirit convinces us of God's love and forgiveness, of dependence on God
  - The power of the Holy Spirit to lead us from the error of our sinful ways
  - Holy Spirit to both convict us of wrongdoing and convinces us of God's truth
- How?
  - Holy Spirit gives us the inner and unshakable conviction that we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God
  - [When the Counselor comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment John 16:5-11](#)
- Can we make ourselves pure and holy?
- What is purity?

**pu·ri·ty**  [pyoo r-i-tee]  [Show IPA](#)

**noun**

1. the condition or quality of being pure; freedom from anything that debases, contaminates, pollutes, etc.: *the purity of drinking water.*
2. freedom from any admixture or modifying addition.
3. ceremonial or ritual cleanness.
4. freedom from guilt or evil; innocence.
5. physical chastity; virginity.

*Dictionary.com*

Do we have a holy and pure ambition to follow Jesus?

God chose you so that you might  
obey Jesus Christ.

*Do we?*

He wanted you to be made clean by  
the blood of Christ.

*Holy and pure ambition*

**May more and more grace and  
peace be given to you.**