

# Shepherd the flock

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Winding down the letter, so final exhortations, the things you want people to take away with them.

Entering a period of persecution. James has been thrown off the Temple roof and in a few years Nero will go totally mad in AD 67 ###

Exhort elders of churches and those who aren't elders - youngers!

What is an elder?

Exhortation on three basis'

- i) fellow elder
- ii) witness of Christ's suffering, one of the 12
- iii) partakers of glory

Elders - Shepherd the flock

Peter who denied Jesus 3 times when He was arrested and restored after the resurrection in John 21:15-17

Chief Shepherd appointing Peter as shepherd over the flock.

Gather together

Feed - lead to good pasture

Guide

Find lost sheep and bring them in

Guard from wolves and false teachers

v2-3 series of comparisons on how to do it

Oversight, not compulsion

Eagerly, not for gain

Examples, not domineering

Why?

Tough job, unpleasant.

Moaned at, tough decisions!

Serving not being served - not about titles.

When the chief shepherd comes back, elders will get a reward - an unfading crown of glory.

"Youngers" - be good sheep!

Not about age

Some ways to be good sheep

1) Be subject- submit to godly leadership

2) Be humble

God opposes the proud

God will lift you up at the right time

3) Be sober-minded, watchful and firm in the faith

v8-9 Like a lion -Devil worse than Mystique from the X-men who is a shape shifter - Peter tells us he is like a lion, Jesus is the true lion of the tribe of Judah. Trying to fool us that he is stronger than he really is.

v10-11 Panic - devil likes to use panic, to rattle your courage, make you anxious. The devil's strength is an illusion - our God is a God of grace, Jesus has shared His eternal glory with us. He is the Rock, so we are rocks, He is the Living Stone so we are living stones. Satan's onslaughts may last a while, but God's power is with us forever and ever.

v12-13 Devil loves division - the whole letter has been about unity in the face of persecution, the second letter deals with disunity. The devil loves division so Peter exalts Silvanus as a faithful brother who has exhorted and declared Jesus.

v14 Lastly the devil uses seduction - Peter refers to the church where he is writing the letter "She who is in Babylon" - Rome in disguise. Babylon represents the world's seductive power. Resist being seduced into sinful thoughts and behaviour as much as not overrating the devil and being divided.

We live in Babylon, but our true home is in Christ.