

Bible reading

I PETER

While Christianity was growing up within Judaism initially, it was protected by the Roman state as a legal religion. Rome's policy was tolerance wherever religious observances did not conflict with the state. As long as Christians created no disturbance, they were simply ignored. The church had followed a policy of peaceful penetration of society with the Gospel.

Towards the close of A.D.60 the situation began to change. The Christians had separated from Judaism and were recognised as a different group. Talk of coming judgement and overthrow of the existing world, among other things created misunderstanding and hatred.

When the churches began to realise this hatred, they began to wonder what would become of them.

This letter was written into this situation.

Written from the capital from which came their growing enemy-Rome ('Babylon' in 5:13).

1. Why would Peter equate Rome with Babylon?
2. Give 5 commands (imperatives) in this letter (with references).
3. What example did Peter give to his readers of Christ Himself?