

Jesus from the dead.

We have already noted the primacy of the resurrection in Peter's preaching as recorded in the early chapters of the Book of Acts. This same note is sounded in the full assurance of faith in the epistles of Peter. These Christian documents belong to the seventh decade of the first century. They were written to Christians who were experiencing severe persecution and suffering. The apostle Peter comforts and strengthens their hearts with a message of hope. This hope is founded on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. At the very beginning of his first epistle Peter writes, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1:3) This joyous message of the resurrection of Jesus is a living hope! Later on in the first chapter the apostle Peter speaks of God that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. (I Peter 1:21) In I Peter 3:21 the apostle refers to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as a fact. So the apostle Peter, to whom the Lord Jesus appeared on the day of resurrection, gives a living testimony to this great fact of the risen Christ.

The book of the Revelation presents a glorious picture of the exalted Lord. The apostle John is privileged to have a transforming vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is "the first-born of the dead." (Revelation 1:5) He is "the Living one" who says, "I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." (1:18) He is also "the first and the last, who was dead, and lived again." (2:8) So we see very clearly that the last book of the New Testament is occupied with the risen Lord as the preeminent theme.