

New Testament 3
Epistles – Revelation

Hebrews

Background

Author – Unknown

Date Written – Before AD 70 (temple still in use)

Audience – Unknown (possibly former Jews tempted to go back to old ways)

Themes

Faith

Jesus is better

Outline

I. Christ better than Old Testament economy, Chapters 1 — 10

(Doctrinal)

A. Christ is superior to prophets, Chapter 1:1-3

B. Christ is superior to angels, Chapters 1:4 — 2:18

1. Deity of Christ, Chapter 1:4-14

2. Humanity of Christ, Chapter 2

1st Danger Signal: Peril of drifting, Chapter 2:1-4

C. Christ is superior to Moses, Chapters 3:1 — 4:2

2nd Danger Signal: Peril of doubting, Chapters 3:7 — 4:2

D. Christ is superior to Joshua, Chapter 4:3-13

E. Christ is superior to the Levitical priesthood, Chapters 4:14 — 7:28

1. Our great High Priest, Chapter 4:14-16

2. Definition of a priest, Chapter 5:1-10

3rd Danger Signal: Peril of dull hearing, Chapter 5:11-14

3. 4th Danger Signal: Peril of departing, Chapter 6

4. Christ our High Priest after order of Melchizedek, Chapter 7

a. Christ is perpetual Priest, vv. 1-3

b. Christ is perfect Priest, vv. 4-22

c. Christ in His Person is perpetual and perfect Priest, vv. 23-28

F. Christ as our High Priest ministers in superior sanctuary by better covenant built upon better promises, Chapters 8 — 10

1. True tabernacle, Chapter 8:1-5

2. New covenant better than the old, Chapter 8:6-13

3. New sanctuary better than the old, Chapter 9:1-10

4. Superior sacrifice, Chapters 9:11 — 10:18

5. Encouragement, Chapter 10:19-25

5th Danger Signal: Peril of despising, Chapter 10:26-39

II. Christ brings better benefits and duties, Chapters 11 — 13

(Practical)

A. Faith, Chapter 11

B. Hope, Chapter 12

1. The Christian race, vv. 1, 2

2. Believers are now in contest and conflict, vv. 3-14

6th Danger Signal: Peril of denying, Chapter 12:15-29

C. Love, Chapter 13

1. Secret life of believers, vv. 1-6

2. Social life of believers, vv. 7-14

3. Spiritual life of believers, vv. 15-19

4. Special and personal benediction, vv. 20-25

James

Background

Author – James, half-brother of Jesus

Date Written – AD 40-42

Audience – “Twelve tribes in the Dispersion”

Themes

Enduring trials

Faith in action

Outline

I. Verification of genuine faith, Chapters 1 — 3

A. God tests faith by trials, Chapter 1:1-12

B. God does not test faith with evil, Chapter 1:13-21

C. God tests faith by the Word, not by man's words, Chapter 1:22-27

D. God tests faith by attitude and action in respect of persons, Chapter 2:1-13

E. God tests faith by good works, Chapter 2:14-26

F. God tests faith by the tongue, Chapter 3

II. Vacuity and vapidness of worldliness, Chapter 4

III. Vexation of the rich; value of the imminent coming of Christ, Chapter 5

A. Riches are a care (rich warned), vv. 1-6

B. Coming of Christ is a comfort, vv. 7-12

C. Prayer of the righteous is a power, vv. 13-20

1 Peter

Background

Author – Apostle Peter

Date Written – AD 64

Audience – Believers in Jewish churches in Asia Minor

Themes

Living as a believer in Christ

Outline

I. Suffering and the security of believers produces joy, Chapter 1:1-9

II. Suffering and the Scriptures produces holiness, Chapter 1:10-25

III. Suffering and the suffering of Christ, Chapters 2 — 4

- A. Produces separation, Chapter 2**
- B. Produces Christian conduct, Chapter 3**
 - 1. Conduct in the home, vv. 1-7**
 - 2. Conduct in the church, vv. 8-17**
 - 3. Christ's suffering preached by the Spirit in Noah's day, vv. 18-22**
- C. Produces obedience to the will of God, Chapter 4**
- IV. Suffering and the Second Coming of Christ, Chapter 5**
 - A. Produces service and hope, vv. 1-4**
 - B. Produces humility and patience, vv. 5-14**

2 Peter

Background

Author – Apostle Peter

Date Written – AD 65-67

Audience – Believers everywhere

Themes

Truth in Scripture

Outline

- I. Addition of Christian graces gives assurance, Chapter 1:1-14**
- II. Authority of the Scriptures attested by fulfilled prophecy, Chapter 1:15-21**
- III. Apostasy brought in by false teachers, Chapter 2**
- IV. Attitude toward return of the Lord is a test of apostates, Chapter 3:1-4**
- V. Agenda of God for the world, Chapter 3:5-13**
 - A. Past world, vv. 5, 6**
 - B. Present world, vv. 7-12**
 - C. Future world, v. 13**
- VI. Admonition to believers, Chapter 3:14-18**

1 John

Background

Author – John

Date Written – AD 85-95

Audience – Believers

Themes

Walking in light and love

Outline

- I. Prologue: The Reality of the Incarnation (1.1-4)
- II. Fellowship: Motivated by God's Dealings in the Past (1.5–2.17)
 - A. The Principles of Fellowship: Walking in the Light (1.5-10)
 - B. The Provision of Fellowship: The Death of Christ (2.1-2)
 - C. The Imperatives of Fellowship: Obeying God's Commands (2.3-11)
 - D. The Prerequisites of Fellowship: The Status of the Believers (2.12-14)
 - E. The Impulses against Fellowship: Loving the World (2.15-17)
- III. False Teachers: Recognition of Deception (2.18-27)
 - A. First Proof: Their Abandonment (2.18-19)
 - B. Second Proof: Their Denial that Jesus is the Christ (2.20-23)
 - C. Third Proof: Our Anointing of the Spirit (2.24-27)
- IV. Eschatological Hope: Motivation for Holy Living in the Present (2.28–3.10)
 - A. Hope Produces Holiness (2.28–3.3)
 - B. A Proleptic View of Sanctification (3.4-10)
- V. Love as Basis for Assurance: Definition and Discernment (3.11-24)
 - A. Definition (3.11-17)
 - 1. Negatively Stated: The Example of Cain (3.11-15)
 - 2. Positively Stated: The Example of Christ (3.16-17)
 - B. Discernment: The Witness of the Spirit (3.18-24)
 - 1. The Condemnation by our Hearts (3.18-20)

2. The Confidence we can have before God (3.21-24)

VI. False Teachers: Discernment of False Spirits (4.1-6)

A. Objective Test: Doctrine (4.1-3)

B. Subjective Test: The Witness of the Spirit (4.4-6)

VII. Love: Essential to Sanctification (4.7-21)

A. Love Displayed in the Death of Christ (4.7-12)

B. The Death of Christ Witnessed by the Spirit (4.13-16a)

C. Love Removes Fear (4.16b-18)

D. Divine Love Prompts Brotherly Love (4.19-21)

VIII. Faith: Assurance in our Hearts (5.1-12)

A. Faith and External Evidence: Overcoming (5.1-5)

B. Faith and Internal Assurance: Witness of the Spirit (5.6-12)

IX. The Advocacy of Christ: Basis for Present Confidence before God (5.13-21)

A. The Advocacy of Christ (5.13-17)

B. Summary: Assurances Restated (5.18-21)

2 John

Background

Author – John “the elder”

Date Written – AD 85-95

Audience – The “elect lady and her children”

Themes

Remaining in the truth

Outline

I. Love expressed in the boundary of truth, vv. 1-6

II. Life is an expression of the doctrine of Christ, vv. 7-11

III. Personal greeting, vv. 12, 13

3 John

Background

Author – John “the elder”

Date Written – AD 85-95

Audience – Gaius

Themes

Imitate what is good

Outline

I. Gaius, beloved brother in the early church, vv. 1-8

II. Diotrephes, “who loveth to have the pre-eminence,” vv. 9-11

III. Demetrius “hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself,” vv. 12-14

Jude

Background

Author – Jude, half-brother of Jesus

Date Written – AD 66

Audience – “To those called, sanctified, and preserved”

Themes

Contend for the faith

Outline

I. OCCASION of the epistle, v. 1-3

A. Assurance for believers, vv. 1, 2

B. Change of theme to apostasy, v. 3

II. OCCURRENCES of apostasy, vv. 4-16

A. Inception of apostasy, v. 4

B. Israel in wilderness in unbelief destroyed, v. 5

C. Angels rebelled; kept in chains, v. 6

D. Sodom and Gomorrah sinned in sensuality; destroyed by fire, v. 7

E. Modern apostate teachers identified, vv. 8-10

F. Cain, Balaam, and Korah are examples of apostates, v. 11

G. Modern apostate teachers defined and described, vv. 12-16

III. OCCUPATION of believers in days of apostasy, vv. 17-25

A. Believers warned by apostles that these apostates would come, vv. 17-19

B. What believers must do in days of apostasy, vv. 20-25

Revelation

Background

Author – John

Date Written – AD 95

Audience – Churches in Asia Minor

Themes

Apocalypse

Being faithful until the end

Like Christ is faithful to us until the end

Outline

I. The PERSON of Jesus Christ — Christ in glory, Chapter 1

A. Title of the Book, v. 1

B. Method of revelation, v. 2

C. Beatitude of Bible study, v. 3

D. Greetings from John the writer, and from Jesus Christ in heaven, vv. 4-8

E. The post-incarnate Christ in a glorified body, judging His church (the great High Priest in the Holy of Holies), vv. 9-18

F. Time division of the contents of the apocalypse, v. 19

G. Interpretation of the seven stars and seven lampstands, v. 20

II. The POSSESSION of Jesus Christ — the church in the world, Chapters 2, 3

A. Letter of Christ to the church in Ephesus, Chapter 2:1-7

B. Letter of Christ to the church in Smyrna, Chapter 2:8-11

C. Letter of Christ to the church in Pergamum, Chapter 2:12-17

D. Letter of Christ to the church in Thyatira, Chapter 2:18-29

E. Letter of Christ to the church in Sardis, Chapter 3:1-6

F. Letter of Christ to the church in Philadelphia, Chapter 3:7-13

G. Letter of Christ to the church in Laodicea, Chapter 3:14-22

III. The PROGRAM of Jesus Christ — the scene in heaven, Chapters 4 — 22

A. The church in heaven with Christ, Chapters 4, 5

1. Throne of God, Rev 4:1-3

2. Twenty-four elders, Rev 4:4, 5

3. Four living creatures, Rev 4:6-11

4. Book with seven seals, Rev 5:1-4

5. Christ: the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb that has been slain, Rev 5:5-10

6. A myriad of angels of heaven joins the song of praise and redemption, Rev 5:11, 12

7. Universal worship of the Savior and Sovereign of the universe, Rev 5:13, 14

B. The Great Tribulation in the world, Chapters 6 — 18

1. Opening of the seven-sealed book, Chapters 6 — 8:1

a. Opening of the first seal, Rev 6:1, 2

(Rider on a white horse)

b. Opening of the second seal, Rev 6:3, 4

(Rider on a red horse)

c. Opening of the third seal, Rev 6:5, 6

(Rider on a black horse)

d. Opening of the fourth seal, Rev 6:7, 8

(Rider on a pale horse)

e. Opening of the fifth seal, Rev 6:9-11

(Prayer of the martyred remnant)

f. Opening of the sixth seal, Rev 6:12-17

(The Day of Wrath has come — beginning of the last half of the Great Tribulation)

g. Interlude, Chapter 7

(1) Reason for the interlude between the 6th and 7th seals, vv. 1-3

(2) Remnant of Israel sealed, vv. 4-8

(3) Redeemed multitude of Gentiles, vv. 9-17

h. Opening of the seventh seal, Rev 8:1

(Introduction of seven trumpets)

2. Blowing of the seven trumpets, Chapters 8:2 — 11:19

a. Angel at the altar with censer of incense, Rev 8:2-6

b. First trumpet — trees burnt, Rev 8:7

c. Second trumpet — seas become blood, Rev 8:8, 9

d. Third trumpet — fresh water becomes bitter, Rev 8:10, 11

e. Fourth trumpet — sun, moon, stars smitten, Rev 8:12, 13

f. Fifth trumpet — fallen star and plague of locusts, Rev 9:1-12

g. Sixth trumpet — angels loosed at river Euphrates, Rev 9:13-21

h. Interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets, Rev 10:1 — 11:14

(1) The strong angel with the little book, Rev 10:1-7

(2) John eats the little book, Rev 10:8-11

(3) Date for the ending of “the times of the Gentiles,” Rev 11:1, 2

(4) Duration of the prophesying of the two witnesses, Rev 11:3-12

(5) Doom of the second woe — great earthquake, Rev 11:13, 14

i. Seventh trumpet — end of Great Tribulation and opening of temple in heaven, Rev 11:15-19

3. Seven performers during the Great Tribulation, Chapters 12, 13

- a. The woman — Israel, Rev 12:1, 2
 - b. The red dragon — Satan, Rev 12:3, 4
 - c. The child of the woman — Jesus Christ, Rev 12:5, 6
 - d. Michael, the archangel, wars with the dragon, Rev 12:7-12
 - e. The dragon persecutes the woman, Rev 12:13-16
 - f. Remnant of Israel, Rev 12:17
 - g. Wild beast out of the sea — a political power and a person, Rev 13:1-10
 - (1) Wild beast, description, vv. 1, 2
 - (2) Wild beast, death-dealing stroke, v. 3
 - (3) Wild beast, deity assumed, vv. 4, 5
 - (4) Wild beast, defying God, vv. 6-8
 - (5) Wild beast, defiance denied to anyone, vv. 9, 10
 - h. Wild beast out of the earth — a religious leader, Rev 13:11-18
 - (1) Wild beast, description, v. 11
 - (2) Wild beast, delegated authority, vv. 12-14
 - (3) Wild beast, delusion perpetrated on the world, vv. 15-17
 - (4) Wild beast, designation, v. 18
4. Looking to the end of the Great Tribulation, Chapter 14
- a. Picture of the lamb with the 144,000, vv. 1-5
 - b. Proclamation of the everlasting gospel, vv. 6, 7
 - c. Pronouncement of judgment on Babylon, v. 8
 - d. Pronouncement of judgment on those who received mark of the beast, vv. 9-12
 - e. Praise for those who die in the Lord, v. 13
 - f. Preview of Armageddon, vv. 14-20
5. Pouring out of the seven mixing bowls of wrath, Chapters 15, 16
- a. Preparation for final judgment of the Great Tribulation, Rev 15:1 — Rev 16:1

(1) Tribulation saints in heaven worship God because He is holy and just, Rev 15:1-4

(2) Temple of the tabernacle opened in heaven that seven angels, having seven golden bowls, might proceed forth, Rev 15:5 — Rev 16:1

b. Pouring out of the first bowl, Rev 16:2

c. Pouring out of the second bowl, Rev 16:3

d. Pouring out of the third bowl, Rev 16:4-7

e. Pouring out of the fourth bowl, Rev 16:8, 9

f. Pouring out of the fifth bowl, Rev 16:10, 11

g. Pouring out of the sixth bowl, Rev 16:12

h. Interlude: kings of inhabited earth proceed to Har-Magedon, Rev 16:13-16

i. Pouring out of the seventh bowl, Rev 16:17-21

6. The two Babylons judged, Chapters 17, 18

a. The apostate church in the Great Tribulation, Chapter 17

(1) Great harlot riding the wild beast, vv. 1-7

(2) Wild beast destroys the great harlot, vv. 8-18

b. Political and commercial Babylon judged, Chapter 18

(1) Announcement of fall of commercial and political Babylon, vv. 1-8

(2) Anguish in the world because of Babylon's judgment, vv. 9-19

(3) Anticipation of joy in heaven because of judgment on Babylon, vv. 20-24

C. Marriage of the Lamb and return of Christ in judgment, Chapter 19

1. Four hallelujahs, vv. 1-6

2. Bride of the Lamb and marriage supper, vv. 7-10

3. Return of Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, vv. 11-16

4. War of Armageddon, vv. 17, 18

5. Hell opened, vv. 19-21

D. Millennium, Chapter 20

1. Satan bound 1000 years, vv. 1-3
2. Saints of the Great Tribulation reign with Christ 1000 years, vv. 4-6
3. Satan loosed after 1000 years, vv. 7-9
4. Satan cast into lake of fire and brimstone, v. 10
5. Setting of Great White Throne where lost are judged and follow Satan into lake of fire and brimstone, vv. 11-15

E. Entrance into eternity; eternity unveiled, Chapters 21, 22

1. New heaven, new earth, New Jerusalem, Rev 21:1, 2
2. New era, Rev 21:3-8
3. New Jerusalem, description of the eternal abode of the bride, Rev 21:9-21
4. New relationship — God dwelling with man, Rev 21:22, 23
5. New center of the new creation, Rev 21:24-27
6. River of the water of life and tree of life, Rev 22:1-5
7. Promise of return of Christ, Rev 22:6-16
8. Final invitation and warning, Rev 22:17-19
9. Final promise and prayer, Rev 22:20, 21