

Finding the Truth: Understanding the Bible

The Final Epistles

Hebrews:

Author: Unknown

Date: Probably before AD 70.

To: Unknown recipients but predominately Jewish Christians.

Emphasis: The community is discouraged because of suffering and doubts whether Jesus really took care of sin. They are encouraged to maintain the faith and not throw away their confidence.

Structure:

- Introduction 1:1-3
- Part 1: 1:4-4:13 the superiority of Jesus.
- Part 2: 4:14-10:18 Jesus as perfect high priest.
- Part 3: 10:19-13:25 appeal to faithfulness.

James:

Author: James, the Lord's brother, leader of the Jerusalem church.

Date: Unknown, probably 50's - 60's.

To: Believers in Christ among the Jewish diaspora.

Emphasis: Practical faith, living out what you believe.

Structure:

1:2-18 consolation to believe in exile.

- Trials test for good (v2-4,12) or tempt toward evil. (v13-15)
- Wisdom is God's gift for endurance. (v5-8, 16-18)
- In God's eyes, the poor are above the rich. (v9-11)

1:19-2:26 Putting faith into practice.

3:1-4:12 Dissension in the church.

4:13-5:6 Blessings and warnings to rich and poor.

5:7-20 Final warnings and corrections.

I Peter:

Author: The Apostle Peter, written by Silas

Date: 64-65, from Rome

To: Mostly Gentile believers in Asia Minor.

Emphasis: Suffering is to be expected. Our hope is the resurrection.

Structure:

1:3-12 Sets the themes of the letter.

1:13-2:10 A call to holy living. Assurance they are God's people.

2:11-4:11 reflecting Jesus before the Pagans.

4:12-5:11 Conduct under suffering.

Lesson 28

Studying the Bible: The Final Epistles

May 24, 2016

Suggested Reading

HTRTB BBB: pages 390-425

Key Verse:

Hebrews 1:3-5

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Notes

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Lesson 28

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II Peter:

Author: Probably the Apostle Peter.

Date: AD 64 if written by Peter.

To: Unknown group of believers.

Emphasis: Warnings against false teachers, the need to grow in godliness, and certainty of Christ's return.

Structure:

Part 1 1:3-11 Growth in godliness.

Part 2 1:12-21 The coming of the Lord.

Part 3 2:1-22 Judgment to false teachers.

Part 4 3:1-18 Exposing false teaching.

Jude:

Author: Jude, a brother of Jesus.

Date: Latter part of 1st century.

To: Unknown

Emphasis: Judgment coming to false teachers and those who live carelessly.

Notes
