

The Bible

Part Fifteen: The General (Catholic) Epistles

The Grouping of the General Epistles

The Nature of the New Testament Epistles

- *epistole* letter

Hebrews

- The Background
 - The Recipients
 - The Occasion
- The Outline (Refer to Your Outline)

James

- The Background
 - The Author
 - The Recipients
 - The Occasion
- The Outline (Refer to Your Outline)

1 Peter

- The Background
 - The Author
 - The Recipients
 - The Occasion
- The Outline (Refer to Your Outline)

2 Peter

- The Background
 - The Recipients
 - The Occasion
- The Outline (Refer to Your Outline)

1 John

- The Background
 - The Author
 - The Occasion
- The Outline (Refer to Your Outline)

2 John

- The Background
 - The Author
 - The Recipients

- The Outline (Refer to Your Outline)

3 John

- The Background
 - The Occasion
- The Outline (Refer to Your Outline)

Jude

- The Background
 - The Author
 - The Recipients
 - The Occasion
- The Outline (Refer to Your Outline)

Outlines of The General (Catholic) Epistles

Hebrews. A.D. 68

- I. Jesus, God's Final Revelation (1:1-4)
 - A. The Revelation of His Message (1:1-2)
 - B. The Revelation of Himself (1:3-4)
- II. Jesus Has Spoken a Better Word than Angels (1:4-2:18)
 - A. His Position Is Better than Angels (1:4-14)
 - B. His Message Is Better than Angels (2:1-4)
 - C. His Rule Is Better than Angels (2:5-9)
 - D. His Ministry Is Better than Angels (2:10-18)
- III. Jesus Has an Administration Better than Moses
 - A. The Superiority of Christ to Moses (3:1-6)
 - B. The Superiority of Judgement under Christ (3:7-19)
- IV. Christ Has a Priesthood Better than the Levitical Priesthood (4:14-10:18)
 - A. His High Priesthood Is Better (4:14-6:20)
 - 1. He Possesses a Great High-priesthood (4:14-16)
 - 2. He Was Appointed as High-priest to Serve His Own (5:1-10)
 - 3. Parenthesis: the Danger of Being Disobedient (5:11-6:20)
 - B. His Priestly Ministry Is Better (7:1-10:18)
 - 1. Melchizedek Is Greater than Levi (7:1-10)
 - 2. Christ Belongs to a Superior Priestly Order (7:11-25)
 - 3. Christ Possesses a Greater Person (7:26-28)
 - 4. Christ Conducts a Better Ministry (8:1-13)
 - 5. Christ Administered a Better Sacrifice in the New Tabernacle (9:1-28)
 - 6. Christ's Sacrifice Sanctifies Better than the Old Sacrifices (10:1-18)
- V. His Assembly Offers Better Security
 - A. His Assembly Stimulates Believers to Hold Fast Their Confession (10:19-25)
 - B. His Assembly Keeps One from Judgement (10:26-39)
 - C. His Assembly Provides Examples of Faithfulness (11:1-40)

- D. His Assembly Provides Discipline (12:1-17)
- E. His Assembly Provides a Better Word (12:18-29)
- F. His Assembly Provides for a Better Conduct (13:1-25)

VI. Concluding Exhortations (13:22-25)

James..... A.D. 62

- I. Trials and Temptations (1:2-27)
 - A. Trials (1:2-12)
 - B. Temptations (1:13-18)
 - C. The Word (1:19-27)
- II. Faith in Action (2:1-26)
 - A. The Manifestation of Faith (2:1-13)
 - B. The Nature of Faith (2:14-26)

Speech under Control (3:1-18)

 - A. The Tongue's Potential Impact (3:1-12)
 - B. The Tongue's Controlling Source (3:13-18)
- III. Materialism's Bane (4:1-5:11)
 - A. The Manifestation of Materialism (4:1-6)
 - 1. The Evidence of Materialism in the Church (4:1-3)
 - 2. The Source of Materialism in the Church (4:4-6)
 - B. The Response to Materialism (4:7-17)
 - 1. Pursue God (4:7-10)
 - 2. Respect Others (4:11-12)
 - 3. Depend on God (4:13-17)
- IV. Truthfulness' Expression (5:12)
- V. Prayerfulness (5:13-18)
 - A. The Need for Prayer (5:13-14)
 - B. The Impact of Prayer (5:15)
 - C. The Implication of Prayer (5:16)
 - D. The Illustration of Prayer (5:17-18)
- VI. Responsibility (5:19-20)

1 Peter..... A.D. 63-64

- I. Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. The Believer's Future Hope (1:3-2:10)
 - A. The Certainty of Our Hope (1:3-12)

- 1. It is Protected by God's Power (1:3-5)
- 2. It is Inevitable through Faith (1:6-9)
- 3. It is Secured by God's Word (1:10-12)
- B. The Implications of Our Hope
 - 1. It Produces a Desire for Holiness (1:13-21)
 - 2. It Produces a Determined Brotherly Love (1:22-2:3)
 - 3. It Produces a Doxology of Life (2:4-10)
- III. The Believer's Earthly Life (2:11-3:22)
 - A. Its Basic Description: Living in Light of Christ's Return (2:11-12)
 - B. Its Specific Details: Living out Effective Relationships (2:13-3:12)
 - C. Its Definite Hardship: Living in Spite of Persecution (3:13-22)
- IV. The Believer's Expected Suffering (4:1-19)
 - A. The Purpose of Our Suffering (4:1-6)
 - B. The Service in Our Suffering (4:7-11)
 - C. The Reward for Our Suffering (4:12-19)
- V. The Believer's Final Exhortations (5:1-11)
 - A. The Role of Elders in the Church (5:1-5)
 - B. The Exercise of Humility within the Church (5:5-8)
 - C. The Victory of Suffering by the Church (5:9-11)
- VI. Greetings and Salutation (5:12-14)

2 Peter..... A.D. 64-65

- I. The Believer's Need for Spiritual Maturity: Peter's Salutation (1:1-2)
- II. The Believer's Pathway to Spiritual Maturity (1:3-11)
 - A. The Ground of Christian Maturity (1:3-4)
 - B. The Progress into Christian Maturity (1:5-11)
 - 1. Its Defining Virtues (1:5-7)
 - 2. Its Definitive Results (1:8-11)
- III. The Believer's Need for the Word of God (1:12-21)
 - A. It is the Abiding Truth (1:12-15)
 - B. It is Apostolically Confirmed (1:16-18)
 - C. It is Absolutely Consistent (1:19-21)
- IV. The Believer's Stand against the False Teachers (2:1-22)

- A. The Rise of False Teachers in the Church (2:1-3)
- B. The Pattern of God's Dealings with Apostates (2:4-10)
- C. The Exposing of the False Teachers' Prideful Rebellion (2:10-16)
- D. The Consequence of the False Teachers' Conduct (2:17-22)
- V. The Believer's Hope in the End Times (3:1-18)
 - A. The Ground of Our Hope: The Apostolic Witness (3:1-2)
 - B. The Essence of Our Hope: The Return of the Lord (3:3-10)
 - 1. The Resistance Against It: Scoffers (3:3-4)
 - 2. The Background of it: The Word (3:5-7)
 - 3. The Reason for Its Delay: Salvation of the Elect (3:8-9)
 - 4. The Experience of It (3:10)
 - C. The Impact of Our Hope: The Life of Sanctification (3:11-18)
 - 1. A Watchful Life (3:11-13)
 - 2. A Disciplined Life (3:14-16)
 - 3. A Maturing Life (3:17-18)

1 John..... A.D. 94

- I. Prologue: The Defense of the Apostolic Witness of Christ (1:1-4)
- II. The First Mark of Fellowship with God: Walking in the Light (1:5-2:29)
 - A. The Walk in Light Contrasted (1:5-2:2)
 - B. The Walk in Light Manifested (2:3-17)
 - 1. In Obeying God (2:3-6)
 - 2. In Loving One's Brothers (2:7-11)
 - 3. In Knowing and Loving God (2:12-17)
 - C. A Warning: Standing Against the False Teachers (2:18-29)
- III. The Second Mark of Fellowship with God: Walking in Righteousness (2:29-4:6)
 - A. Righteousness Identifies the True Child of God (2:29-3:10)
 - B. Righteousness Revealed in Loving Acts of Kindness (3:11-24)
 - C. A Warning: Discerning the False Teachers (4:1-6)
- IV. The Third mark of Fellowship with God: Walking in Love (4:7-5:12)

- A. The Basis of Our Love (4:7-10)
- B. The Expression of Our Love (4:11-21)
- C. The Empowerment of Our Love (5:1-12)
- V. Epilogue: The Result of this Epistle's Witness (5:13-21)
 - A. Certainty of Eternal Life (5:13)
 - B. Certainty of Answered Prayer (5:14-17)
 - C. Certainty of Ultimate Victory (5:18-21)

2 John. A.D. 95

- I. Salutation (1-3)
- II. The Church and the Truth (4-11)
 - A. Walking in the Truth (4-6)
 - B. Standing for the Truth (7-11)
- III. Farewell (12-13)

3 John. A.D. 95

- I. Salutation (1-2)
- II. John's Commendation of Gaius (3-8)
 - A. Regarding His Personal Life in General (3-4)
 - B. Regarding His Hospitality in Specific (5-8)
- III. John's Admonition of Gaius (9-12)
 - A. Warning Him Regarding False Leadership (9-11)
 - B. Encouraging Him Regarding Good Leadership: Demetrius (11-12)
- IV. Farewell (13-14)

Jude. A.D. 95

- I. Jude Greet His Recipients (1:1-2)
 - A. Jude Identifies Himself (1:1a)
 - B. Jude Identifies His Recipients (1:1b)
 - C. Jude Identifies His Desire (1:2)
- II. Jude Makes His Appeal: The Resisting of Apostates (1:3-4)
 - A. The Response of the Church Exhorted (1:3)
 - B. The Rise of the Apostates Explained (1:4)
- III. Jude Justifies His Appeal: The Reality of Apostates (1:5-19)

- A. The Pattern of God's Dealing with Apostasy (1:5-10)
- B. The Connection of the Apostates with Previous False Teachers (1:11-13)
- C. The Divine Witness to the Certainty of God's Judgement on Apostasy (1:14-16)
- D. The Apostolic Warning regarding Apostasy (1:17-19)
- IV. Jude Explains His Appeal: The Response to Apostates (1:20-23)
 - A. A Call To Persevere: Maintain the Gospel (1:20-21)
 - B. A Call to Rescue: Minister the Gospel (1:22-23)
- V. Jude Gives His Benediction (1:24-25)
 - A. The Ability of Our God (1:24)
 - B. The Work of Our God (1:25a)
 - C. The Way to Our God (1:25a7-11)
 - D. The Worth of Our God (1:25b)
 - E. The Self-Existence of Our God (1:25b)