

NT Survey (Part 3)

General Letters and Revelation

Hebrews

- The author is unknown.
- Most likely written to Jewish Christians facing persecution.
- Primary theme: the superiority of Jesus Christ.
- Overall Structure:
 - A Superior Person: Christ (1-6)
 - A Superior Priesthood (7-10)
 - A Superior Principle: Faith (11-13)

James

- Likely written by James, the brother of Jesus.
- Written to address the practical implications of true faith – what does Christianity look like in action?
- Compare this book with Romans:
 - Paul addresses our standing before God.
 - James addresses our witness before the world.

1 Peter

- Written to the church in Asia Minor – modern day Turkey – facing increasing suffering and persecution.
- Major theme is the sufficiency of God's grace, which is used in every chapter (1:2, 10, 13, 2:19-20; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5, 10, 12).

2 Peter

- Peter is most likely awaiting execution as he writes this letter.
- Primary theme: growth in grace and knowledge.
- Compare with themes of 1 Peter regarding the church:
 - Satan can come as a lion to devour with persecution (1 Peter).
 - Satan can come as a serpent to deceive with false doctrine (2 Peter).

1 John

- John states five purposes: that we might have **fellowship** (1:3); that we might have **joy** (1:4); that we might **not sin** (2:1-2); that we might **overcome error** (2:26); that we might have **assurance** (5:13).
- Primary themes: God is **light** (1:5); God is **love** (4:8, 16); God is **life** (1:1-2; 5:11-13).

2 John

- Written to either one local church or an esteemed woman in a local church.
- The church must...
 - Guard the doctrine of the Incarnation.
 - Avoid false teachers.

3 John

- Shortest book in the Bible.
- Four characters involved: John, who wrote it; Gaius, who received it; Diotrephes, who caused it; Demetrius, who carried it.
- Primary theme: hospitality in the church.

Jude

- Written by Judas, the brother of Jesus.
- Primary theme: “contend for the faith.”
- Twofold purpose:
 - To condemn the practices of the ungodly in the church.
 - To counsel believers to hold fast and contend for the faith.

Revelation

- Written...
 - By John when he was exiled on Patmos.
 - To Christians facing persecution in the first century.
 - About the gospel and the future of God’s kingdom.
- Look for the Old Testament throughout Revelation...
 - 278 out of 404 verses contain references to the Old Testament!
 - Most often referring to the Psalms, Daniel, Zechariah, Genesis, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Joel.
- See how Genesis and Revelation serve as book-ends of the Bible.
- “Seven critical conclusions from Revelation: God is Sovereign, Satan is Subordinate, Our God Wins, We must see the world in all its deception, We must see Christ in all His glory, We must see the church in all her beauty, We must see our lives in proper perspective.” – David Platt
- Some important questions to consider:
 - When will these prophecies be fulfilled?
 - Is Revelation arranged chronologically or cyclically?
 - What is the millennium and when will it happen?
 - What is the tribulation and who will experience it?