



General Letters

Hebrews James 1&2 Peter 1,2&3 John Jude

Hebrews

Main theme: Jesus replaces the OT roles and rituals.

Interesting Facts and Lessons:

- Author of Hebrews is a mystery.
- Jesus is superior to the Temple, priests and sacrifices.

Hebrews 8:8-12 = Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

James

Main theme: True faith transforms one's behavior.

Interesting Facts and Lessons:

- ❖ James- a brother of Jesus and leader in the church at Jerusalem.
- Extremely practical letter discussing daily struggles, what we say, avoiding favoritism, and helping the needy.
- ❖ Faith without works is dead. (Difference between claiming to believe and really truly believing.)

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers, if someone **says** he has faith but does not have works? Can <u>that faith</u> save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

1st & 2nd Peter

1st Main theme: Suffering for the cause of Christ is good.

2nd Main theme: Beware false teachers in the church.
Interesting Facts and Lessons:

Same author who is the main source of Mark's Gospel.

1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1st, 2nd & 3rd John

Main theme: Correcting heresy that Jesus was just Spirit and not human.
Interesting Facts and Lessons:

- Emphasis on Jesus being separate from the Father.
- ❖ The term "antichrist" is only found in 1 & 2 John.

1 John 1:8-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Jude

Main theme: Beware false teaches who have crept into the church.
Interesting Facts and Lessons:

- Author- Judas, brother of Jesus.
- Only one chapter (25 verses)
- Leaders were using grace as a cover to fulfill their worldly desires.

"Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the book widens and deepens with our years." Charles H. Spurgeon