
BOOK OVERVIEW

Matthew

1. The book was written by...
Matthew Mark Luke John Paul
2. The book was written about AD...
36 59 68 87
3. Which of the following statements are true of the writer of this Gospel?
A) he lived in Capernaum
B) he was a tax collector
C) he was also called Levi
D) he was one of the 12 Apostles
4. In this book Jesus is presented as...
A) the Son of God
B) a Servant
C) a King
D) the Son of Man
5. The accounts of which of the following are found **ONLY** in Matthew?
A) Jesus taken to Egypt
B) the earthquake at the crucifixion
C) feeding of the 5,000
D) the angel appears to Joseph
E) the resurrected Jesus appears to 500
6. Matthew was the Gospel especially written for the...
A) Romans
B) Jews
C) Greeks
D) world

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6. Matthew was the Gospel especially written for the...
A) Romans
B) Jews
C) Greeks
D) world

- 7. This book ends...
 - A) with Jesus near Jerusalem
 - B) with Jesus in Heaven
 - C) with Jesus in Samaria
 - D) with Jesus in Galilee
- 8. The author emphasizes...
 - A) the power Jesus used for miracles
 - B) how Jesus fulfilled OT prophecy
 - C) the humility of Christ
 - D) the importance of the Apostles
- 9. The genealogy of Jesus in this book...
 - A. goes from Joseph to Adam
 - B. goes from Joseph to Abraham
 - C. goes from Joseph to David
- 10. T F The Gospel makes very few references to the Old Testament.
- 11. T F The baptism of Jesus is NOT mentioned in this book.
- 12. T F The book begins with the genealogy of Mary
- 13. T F This the longest of the four Gospels.
- 14. T F A copy of this book was NOT found among the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- 15. T F People encouraged Jesus to go to Matthew's house to eat.

Answers:

- 1) Matthew; 2) 68; 3) A, B, C, D; 4) C;
- 5) A, B, D; 6) B; 7) D; 8) B; 9) B; 10) F;
- 11) F; 12) F 13) T; 14) T; 15) F

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Mark

1. The book was written by...
Matthew Mark Luke John Paul
2. The book was written about AD...
60s 70s 80s 90s
3. In this book Jesus is presented as...
A) the Son of God
B) a Servant
C) a King
D) the Son of Man
4. The account of which of the following is **NOT** found in the book of Mark?
A) a genealogy of Jesus
B) feeding of the 5,000
C) Jesus taken to Egypt
D) the baptism of Jesus
5. Which of the following statements is **true** of the writer of this Gospel?
A) he was a gentile
B) he was a nephew of Barnabas
C) he was also called John
D) he was one of the 12 Apostles
6. It appears that the primary source for the information in this Gospel was...
A) Paul
B) James
C) Peter
D) Barnabas

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- A) Romans
- B) Jews
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8. The disciples often met...

- A) at the home of Mark's mother, Mary
- B) at the empty tomb of Jesus
- C) in Nazareth
- D) in the garden of Gethsemane

9. T F Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels.

10. T F This Gospel contains very few quotes from the Old Testament

11. T F Many Bible scholars believe that Mark was the first Gospel to be written.

12. T F Paul became angry with Mark when he did not complete the first missionary journey.

13. T F Eventually, Paul and Mark were reconciled to each other.

14. T F Mark is the only Gospel that tells us that at Jesus' death the veil of temple was torn from top to bottom.

1) Mark; 2) 60s; 3) B; 4) A, C; 5) B, C; 6) C; 7) A; 8) A; 9) T; 10) T; 11) T; 12) T; 13) T; 14) F

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Answers:

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Luke

1. The book was written by...
Matthew Mark Luke John Paul
2. The book was written about AD...
60-62 70-73 82-83 91-94
3. In this book Jesus is presented as...
A) the Son of God
B) a Servant
C) a King
D) the Son of Man
4. The account of which of the following is found **ONLY** in the book of Luke?
A) the birth of Jesus
B) Jesus' baptism
C) the parable of the good Samaritan
D) the rich man and Lazarus
E) Jesus visits the temple at 12 years old
5. Which of the following statements are true of the writer of this Gospel?
A) he was a gentile
B) he was a physician
C) he was an old man when he met Paul
D) he was one of the 12 Apostles
6. The genealogy of Jesus in this book...
A) goes from Joseph to Adam
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BOOK OVERVIEW OF LUKE (continued)

7. Luke is writing his account of Jesus to...
Christians in Rome Paul Theophilus

8. This book ends...
- A) with Jesus near Jerusalem
 - B) with Jesus in Heaven
 - C) with Jesus in Samaria
 - D) with Jesus in Galilee

9. Draw a line to link the phrase with the word that completes the phrase:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| the rich young | Samaritan |
| the prodigal | coin |
| the lost | ruler |
| the good | son |

10. T F Only Luke tells about Simeon and Anna in the temple with baby Jesus.

11. T F Luke is the only Gospel that tells what Jesus, Moses, and Elijah talked about at His transfiguration.

12. T F Luke is the only Gospel that tells about the birth of John the Baptist.

13 T F Luke is the only Gospel which includes the parable of the sower.

14. T F This is the only Gospel that mentions the census that required Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem.

Answers:

(1) Luke; (2) 61-62; (3) D; (4) A, C, D, E; (5) A, B; (6) A; (7) Theophilus; (8) B; (9) young/ruler, prodigal/son, lost/coin, good Samaritan; (10) T; (11) T; (12) T; (13) F; (14) T

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BOOK OVERVIEW

John

1. The book was written by...
Matthew Mark Luke John Paul
2. The book was written about AD...
50-6 60-70 70-80 80-90
3. In this book Jesus is presented as...?
A) the Son of God
B) a Servant
C) a King
D) the Son of Man
4. The account of which of the following is found **ONLY** in the book of John?
A) Jesus turning the water to wine
B) the raising of Lazarus from the dead
C) Jesus washing the disciples' feet
D) Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit
E) the prayer of Jesus in the Garden
5. Which of the following statements are true of the writer of this Gospel?
A) he was one of "the sons of thunder"
B) he was a fisherman by trade
C) he wrote four other books in the NT
D) he was the last of the Apostles to die
6. Which of the following would serve well as the key verse for this Gospel?
12:32 14:6 6:38 20:31
7. The book begins with...
A) a genealogy of Jesus
B) the eternal nature of Jesus
C) Jesus' first miracle

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- 8. At the end of this book...
 - A) Jesus is in Jerusalem
 - B) Jesus is in Heaven
 - C) Jesus is in Gethsemane
 - D) Jesus is in Galilee
- 9. In this Gospel Jesus refers to Himself in which of these ways?
 - A) the Bread of Life
 - B) the Light of the World
 - C) the Way, the Truth, and the Life
 - D) the Good Shepherd
 - E) the Vine
- 10. T F John was referred to as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.”
- 11. T F Only this book records the visit of Nicodemus
- 12. T F This Gospel tells about the baptism of Jesus.
- 13. T F This Gospel describes the temptation of Jesus by Satan
- 14. T F In this Gospel, the writer never refers to himself by name.
- 15. T F Most of the book is devoted to the last few days of Jesus on earth.

Answers:

- (1) John; (2) 80-90; (3) A; (4) A, B, C, D, E; (5) A, B, C, D; (6) 20:31; (7) B; (8) D; (9) A, B, C, D, E; (10) T; (11) T; (12) F (13) F; (14) T; (15) T

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Acts

1. The book was written by...
Matthew Mark Luke John Paul
2. The book was written about AD...
63 76 86 95
3. Who was the man the Apostles chose to replace Judas?
Apollos Justus Matthias Jared
4. What is the basic content of the book?
A) Christ, after His resurrection
B) biographies of the Apostles
C) history of church in Jerusalem
D) beginning and growth of the Church
5. Who preached the Gospel to the first Gentiles?
Paul Peter Timothy Philip
6. Which chapters contain an account of Paul's conversion experience?
9 12 22 26
7. Draw a line to link the person with their mate or coworker.

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| Ananias | Bernice |
| Paul | Priscilla |
| Aquilla | Sapphira |
| Agrippa | Barnabas |
- 8) The first Christian martyr mentioned by name in Acts was...
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6. In the book how many times does Paul relate his conversion experience?
1 2 3 4
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BOOK OVERVIEW OF ACTS (continued)

9. In which city did the people begin to worship Paul and Barnabus as gods?
Berea Lystra Iconium Derbe
10. In which city was Paul stoned and left as dead?
Berea Lystra Iconium Derbe
11. Acts records the resurrection of...
Dorcas Ananias Felix Eutychus
12. Which significant event is in Acts 2?
A) the conversion of Paul
B) the beginning of the Church
C) the raising of Lydia from the dead
D) the stoning of Stephen
13. How many missionary journeys did Paul take (including his trip to Rome)?
1 2 3 4
14. Which might be a better title for the book of Acts?
A. The Acts of Paul and Barnabas
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Answers:

(1) Luke; (2) 63; (3) Matthias; (4) D; (5) Peter; (6) 9, 22, 26; (7) Ananias/ Sapphira, Paul/Barnabas, Aquilla/Priscilla, Agrippa/Bernice; (8) Stephen; (9) Lystra; (10) Lystra; (11) Dorcas & Eutychus; (12) B (13) 4; (14) B; (15) 3

BOOK OVERVIEW OF ACTS (continued)

9. In which city did the people begin to worship Paul and Barnabus as gods?
Berea Lystra Iconium Derbe
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BOOK OVERVIEW

Romans

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: about 57-58 A.D.

Recipients: Christians in Rome

Summary: The book presents the foundational doctrines of the Church. It is sometimes called the “Constitution of the Gospel.”

Key verses: Romans 1:16-17

Key words: justify (justification) (17), faith (37); Christ (39)

Notes:

No one knows who established the church in Rome. It consisted predominately of Gentile believers, but it also included Jewish converts.

This book contains what is often called “The Roman’s Road,” a classic soul-winning sequence of verses that leads to salvation:

- Romans 3:23; 3:10-18 “all are sinners”
- Romans 6:23 “sin brings death”
- Romans 5:8 “God provides a solution”
- Romans 10:9 “salvation received by faith”
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It is believed that Paul wrote this letter in Corinth and it was taken to Rome by Phoebe. (16:1-2)

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I Corinthians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: 56-57 A.D.

Recipients: The church at Corinth. Paul assumed the letter would circulate in the area around Corinth. (I Corinthians 1:1)

Summary: Paul seeks to correct the inappropriate behavior of the Believers in the church at Corinth.

Key verses: I Corinthians 14:33, 40

Key words: spirit/Spirit (35), wise/wisdom (30), tongue/tongues (22), spiritual (16)

Notes:

Paul first entered Corinth, where he stayed for a year and a half, during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1).

This letter was probably written in Ephesus while Paul was on his third missionary journey. (I Corinthians 16:8)

Paul had written an earlier letter to the Corinthians and they had written to him. (I Corinthians 5:9, 7:1)

Corinth, an important Greek city, had a population of 600-700 thousand people. A major attraction was its temple to Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty, which was served by several hundred women prostitutes.

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II Corinthians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 56-57 (shortly after the writing of I Corinthians)

Recipients: The believers at Corinth, to be shared in Achaia (southern Greece).

Summary: In addition to expanding upon the instructions he gave in his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul defends his Apostleship and the ministry to which God had called him.

Key verses: II Corinthians 4:5, 5:20–21

Key words: ministry (in various forms) (18 times)

Notes:

This is one of the most personal of all of Paul's letters.

Paul wrote this letter from somewhere in Macedonia during his third missionary journey.

Paul places special emphasis upon the Corinthian believers not being "unequally yoked with unbelievers." (II Corinthians 6:14-7:1)

In chapters eight and nine Paul encourages the Corinthians to be generous in their giving "not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Galatians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 55-56

Recipients: Various groups of Believers in the Roman province of Galatia

Summary: Paul makes a clear defense of the truth that “*the just shall live by faith*” and not by works. (Galatians 3:10) As a result, this book is sometimes referred to as the ***Magna Carta of the Church***.

Key verses: Galatians 5:1

Key words: law (32 times), faith (21 times)

Notes:

Paul addresses the problem of Judaizers, those who expected Believers to live by the Mosaic law **in addition to** their life of faith in Jesus Christ, a view which is held by some religious sects even today.

Galatia, in Asia Minor, included Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, cities Paul visited during his first missionary journey. (Acts 13:14–14:21)

The Galatian people were originally Gauls who had migrated from western Europe.

The Greek word for “mark” referred to a brand that was used to indicate ownership of slaves or animals. (Galatians 6:17)

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Ephesians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 62 (while Paul was a prisoner in Rome)

Recipients: the Believers in Ephesus

Summary: The daily walk and heavenly position of the members of the Body of Christ

Key verses: Ephesians 1:3, 4:1, 13

Key words: in (indicative of our position, "in Christ," "in the heavenlies") (93 times), grace (12 times)

Notes:

Ephesus was the chief city in the Roman province of Asia (now Asia Minor).

Paul spent about three years establishing the church in Ephesus. (Acts 20:31) The church there was also built through the ministries of Timothy, Aquila, Priscilla, and Apollos. Tradition indicates that the Apostle John ministered there in the latter years of his life.

Ephesus was at the center of the trade routes that attracted people from all over the known world.

By the first century Ephesus was a dying city, as its harbor was filling with silt. Commerce based on the cult of the Greek goddess Artemis, Diana of the Romans, was what sustained it.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Philippians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 63-64 (probably while Paul was a prisoner in Rome)

Recipients: “all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi” (Philippians 1:1)

Summary: Paul thanks the Believers for their faithful support and encourages them to continue emulating Christ.

Key verses: Philippians 4:4

Key words: joy (rejoice) (18 times)

Notes:

Paul visited Philippi for the first time on his second missionary journey, about A.D. 51.

Philippi, an ancient city of Macedonia, was renamed after Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, who annexed it in 356 B.C. It later became a Roman colony. Philippi means “pertaining to Philip.” Its people were proud of their Roman citizenship. (see Acts 16:20-21)

Unlike many of the epistles, the book addresses no particular doctrinal error among the Believers in Philippi.

Paul sent this letter from Rome to Philippi, about 700 miles, by Epaphroditus, who had been sent by the Philippians to help Paul. (see Philippians 2:25–30)

Philippi was the first European city to receive the Gospel. (see Acts 16:9-15)

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Colossians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 62 (probably while Paul was a prisoner in Rome)

Recipients: “the saints and faithful brethren in Christ Jesus which are at Colosse” (Colossians 1:2)

Summary: the supremacy of Jesus Christ

Key verses: Colossians 1:18; 2:10

Key words: head (3 times)

Notes:

There is no record in the book of Acts of Paul visiting Colosse. Apparently, the church was started by Paul’s fellowworker Epaphras, probably while Paul was in Ephesus on his third missionary journey.

This was the hometown of Philemon. Colossians 4:9 tells of Onesimus, his run-away slave, who Paul is returning to him.

Colosse was a large city on the Lycus River in Phrygia, an area in what we now call Asia Minor. It was located about 100 miles east of Ephesus and about 11 miles east of Laodicea.

In this letter Paul confronts errors that were creeping into the church in the area around Colosse (taboos about food, confusion about holy days, devotion to angelic beings, and early Gnostic heresies) by proclaiming the supremacy of Christ.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

I Thessalonians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 52

Recipients: “the church of the Thessalonians” (I Thessalonians 1:1)

Summary: the second coming of Christ

Key verses: I Thessalonians 1:9–10

Key words: coming (of Christ, 4 times), comfort (6 times)

Notes:

When Paul writes of “we,” he is undoubtedly referring to Silas and Timothy, who are with him. (1:2, 5, 8, 9; 2:2)

From Athens Paul had sent Timothy to see how the church at Thessalonica was doing. Paul was in Corinth by the time Timothy returned and this letter is written in response to Timothy’s report. (3:1-2)

The church in Thessalonica was established during Paul’s second missionary journey. Paul spent only about three weeks in the city. (Acts 17:1-10)

This epistle is one of the earliest writings of Paul that we have today.

Apparently many in the church were confused about the return of Christ. Some were concerned that loved ones who had died would miss Christ’s return and others had stopped working and were idly waiting for Christ’s return.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

II Thessalonians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 52

Recipients: “the church of the Thessalonians” (II Thessalonians 1:1)

Summary: the day of the Lord

Key verses: II Thessalonians 1:7b–10

Notes:

This letter was probably written in response to the report that Paul received from the Thessalonians after they received his first letter.

Apparently, Paul’s first letter did not clear up the matter of Christ’s return; so he gives further instruction concerning the subject.

Paul encourages the Believers by assuring them that God will render justice upon those who are persecuting them.

Apparently Paul dictated some of his letters; but, as is noted in II Thessalonians 3:17, sometimes he concluded the letter with a note in his own handwriting.

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Paul uses his own example of working rather than being idle and living off of the work of others. (II Thessalonians 3:6-10, see also Acts 18:2-3)

BOOK OVERVIEW

II Thessalonians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 52

Recipients: “the church of the Thessalonians” (II Thessalonians 1:1)

Summary: the day of the Lord

Key verses: II Thessalonians 1:7b–10

Notes:

This letter was probably written in response to the report that Paul received from the Thessalonians after they received his first letter.

Apparently, Paul’s first letter did not clear up the matter of Christ’s return; so he gives further instruction concerning the subject.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

I Timothy

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 64-5 (probably sometime between Paul's two imprisonments in Rome)

Recipient: Timothy, "my own son in the faith" (I Timothy 1:2)

Summary: guidance for a young man to help him properly lead the church

Key verse: I Timothy 3:15

Key words: doctrine (8 times), godliness (8 times), teach/teacher (7 times)

Notes:

Paul met Timothy in Lystra during his first missionary journey. Under Paul's ministry Timothy became a Christian and was a devoted disciple of Paul throughout his life. Paul thought of him as his "son."

Timothy had a Greek father and a devout Jewish mother and grandmother.

This is the first of three letters that are commonly referred to as the "pastoral epistles," I & II Timothy and Titus.

Timothy was in Ephesus, when he received this letter.

This book gives the clearest instructions as to the character and qualifications of those who would be leaders in the church.

Paul admonishes Timothy to focus upon "sound doctrine" rather than the "old wives' fables" espoused by false teachers.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

II Timothy

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 67 (probably during Paul's final imprisonment in Rome)

Recipient: Timothy, "my dearly beloved son" (II Timothy 1:2)

Summary: the true minister of Jesus Christ, the servant of the Lord

Key verses: II Timothy 4:1-5

Key words: good (5 times)

Notes:

Knowing that his life may be short, Paul uses this letter to ask Timothy to join him in Rome. (II Timothy 4:9, 11, 13, 21)

In Timothy's day, the "scriptures" were what we have as the Old Testament. They did not include those writings which are referred to as the Apocrypha. Although God was revealing new truth to Christians at that time, what we have as the New Testament, we should be reminded of how important the Old Testament has been and is to Christianity. It was the Old Testament that Jesus used to reveal Himself as the Messiah.

Even while Paul was alive, he was aware that the churches that he founded and disciplined would be infiltrated with doctrinal error. His concern is confirmed in the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation.

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Titus

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 64-65

Recipient: “Titus, mine own son after the common faith” (Titus 1:4)

Summary: the consistent godly life that should be true of the Believer

Key verses: Titus 2:11-14

Key words: good (11 times), good works (5 times), sound (5 times)

Notes:

Titus was Greek by birth. (Galatians 2:3) He is not mentioned in the book of Acts, but he was apparently led to the Lord by Paul. He was a faithful co-worker with Paul who sent him on various missions to serve the churches that Paul had established.

Titus went with Paul and Barnabus to the council in Jerusalem, (Acts 15:1-35, Galatians 2:1)

Titus is known for his service to the church on the island of Crete (Titus 1:5), where it is assumed he died.

Paul used Titus to show that a Gentile did not have to follow the Jewish law to become a complete Christian. (Galatians 2:1-5) That is why Titus 3:5 is so important.

Paul gives clear instructions to Titus as to the kinds of leaders that the church should have. (Titus 1:5-9)

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Philemon

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 64-65

Recipient: Philemon (Philemon 1:1)

Summary: the reconciliation of a runaway slave with his Christian master

Key verses: Philemon 17-19

Notes:

Paul's salutation is also addressed to Apphia, the wife of Philemon, and their son Archippus.

It appears that Philemon was a leader in the church at Colosse and had come to know the Lord through the ministry of Paul.

Apparently, Onesimus not only ran away from his master, but he also stole from him. While Onesimus was in Rome he came under the ministry of the Apostle Paul and became a Christian. The life of Onesimus was so changed that Paul wanted to keep him in Rome, but he felt obligated to return him to his master.

Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus with forgiveness and promised to repay Philemon whatever Onesimus had stolen.

Onesimus means "profitable."

Tradition says that Philemon and his family were stoned to death during Nero's persecution.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Hebrews

Author: uncertain (possibly the Apostle Paul)

Date: A.D. 63-68

Recipients: A group of Jewish Christians that the writer knew (location unknown)

Summary: the supremacy of Jesus Christ as our High Priest

Key verses: Hebrews 4:14-15

Key words: perfection (11 times), eternal/forever (13 times), Heaven (16 times), better (12 times), faith (31 times)

Notes:

The writer shows how Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets (Hebrews 1:1-2) and the angels. (Hebrews 1:3–14)

Although revering Moses, the writer demonstrates how Christ is superior to Moses. (Hebrews 3:1–6)

Hebrews 11–12:2, “the role call of the faithful,” lists several of those who are among the “cloud of witnesses” whose legacy we carry on.

This book was written to Jewish Christians who were prone to revert to Judaism.

The author reassures his readers that Christ’s work is not only superior, but it is also complete, finished, “once for all.” (Hebrews 10:10)

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BOOK OVERVIEW

James

Author: James (“the Lord’s brother”—Galatians 1:19—half-brother of Jesus)

Date: A.D. 45

Recipients: “the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad” (James 1:1)

Summary: one’s faith is demonstrated by a life of obedience to Christ

Key verse: James 2:20

Key words: faith (16 times), works (15 times)

Notes:

This James was **not** the son of Zebedee, one of Jesus’ disciples, the one who may have been a cousin to Jesus.

At first, James, along with the rest of his family, did not believe in their half-brother Jesus (John 7:5); but, after Jesus’ resurrection, James became a believer. Eventually he was the primarily leader in the church at Jerusalem. (Acts 15)

This may have been the first epistle written to Christians.

The message of James is that while we are justified before God by our faith, we are justified before men by our works.

James indicates that the singing of psalms was common among Christians. (James 5:13)

According to Josephus, James was put to death by the High Priest.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

I Peter

Author: the Apostle Peter

Date: A.D. 63

Recipients: Jewish Christians in Asia Minor (I Peter 1:1)

Summary: encouragement to live the Christian life even in trials and persecution

Key verses: I Peter 4:12-13

Key words: suffer/suffering (15 times), glory/glorify (16 times)

Notes:

Peter was a nickname, from the Greek word "*petros*," for Simon. He was also called Cephas, the Aramaic word for rock. He was a fisherman by trade. He was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew. (John 1:40-42)

Peter had a wife and she travelled with him. (Mark 1:30, I Corinthians 9:5)

Even though only two short letters from the Apostle Peter are included in the New Testament, many Bible scholars believe that much of the information that Mark included in his Gospel was received from Peter. It is believe that Mark travelled with Peter and served as his secretary.

In Peter's day women would weave gold threads and spangles in their hair so they would sparkle and jingle when they moved their heads. (I Peter 3:3)

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BOOK OVERVIEW

II Peter

Author: the Apostle Peter

Date: A.D. 66

Recipients: Jewish Christians in Asia Minor, as was I Peter (II Peter 3:1)

Summary: encouragement to live for Christ in spite of scoffers and false teachers

Key verse: II Peter 2:1

Key words: know/knowledge (9 times), judgment (4 times)

Notes:

This epistle was written shortly before Peter's death. Although the Bible does not record his death, tradition indicates that he was executed during the reign of Nero. There is some archaeological evidence to suggest that Peter became a martyr in Rome.

Although there is no Biblical or historical evidence that Peter was the key leader in the church at Rome, apparently he lived there for a while.

Peter concludes his letter by reminding its readers that knowledge should lead to spiritual growth. (II Peter 3:18)

Peter offers a clear defense of the Divine inspiration of Scripture in II Peter 1:19-21. In II Peter 3:16 he speaks of Paul's writing as being on the same level as the Old Testament scriptures.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

I John

Author: the Apostle John

Date: A.D. 90

Recipients: “you that believe on the name of the Son of God” (I John 5:13)

Summary: assurance to those who believe in Christ that they have eternal life, and instruction as to how to live accordingly

Key verses: I John 5:12-13

Key words: know (35 times), world (23 times), love (21 times), light (6 times)

Notes:

John was the son of Zebedee and the brother of James. (Matthew 4:21)

John was the only disciple that followed Jesus from His betrayal in the garden to his crucifixion on Calvary.

I John 4:2–3 refutes a belief that was held by the Gnostics of John’s day. They believed that “Christ” was only a spirit that came upon Jesus at His baptism and left Him at the crucifixion. Thus, they believed that it was Jesus only, not Christ, who died on the cross. Others believed that Jesus was only a spirit.

The Gnostics also believed that the God of creation was an inferior god, because they believed that the material world was inferior. The Gnostics claimed to have secret knowledge about God.

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I John 4:2–3 refutes a belief that was held by the Gnostics of John’s day. They believed that “Christ” was only a spirit that came upon Jesus at His baptism and left Him at the crucifixion. Thus, they believed that it was Jesus only, not Christ, who died on the cross. Others believed that Jesus was only a spirit.

The Gnostics also believed that the God of creation was an inferior god, because they believed that the material world was inferior. The Gnostics claimed to have secret knowledge about God.

BOOK OVERVIEW

II & III John

Author: the Apostle John

Date: A.D. 90

Recipients: II John = “the elect lady and her children” (II John 11), III John = “Gaius” (III John 1)

Summary: II John = warning against deceivers; III John = admonition to accept true believers

Key verses: II John 9, 10; III John 8

Key words: II John = truth (5 times), III John = true/truth (7 times)

Notes:

It is uncertain as to whether the “lady and her children” refers to a particular woman and her family, a particular woman and the Christians meeting in her home, or to a particular Church and its members.

Apparently, this Gaius is not related to any other Gaius mentioned in the Bible, but he became a Christian under the ministry of the Apostle John.

II John warns against having fellowship with those who are unbelievers; on the other hand, III John warns those who refuse to have fellowship with true believers.

The hospitality of Christians was especially important to traveling teachers and evangelists, since public housing was not always available.

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Jude

Author: Judas (Jude)

Date: A.D. 66-68

Recipients: “them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ” (Jude 1)

Summary: apostasy past, present, and future

Key verse: Jude 3

Key word: ungodly (6 times)

Notes:

Jude is the English form of the name Judas and the Hebrew name Judah. He was **not** one of the twelve Apostles.

Jude makes the only mention in Scripture of the contention between the archangel Michael and the devil over the body of Moses. (vs 9)

Jude is the only Biblical writer that mentions the prophecy of Enoch. (vs 14-16)

Jude had originally intended to write about the “common salvation;” instead, he was prompted by God to write concerning the apostasy that was creeping into the church. (vs 3-4)

Even though Jude and his brother James were half brothers of Jesus in the flesh, they referred to themselves as nothing more than His servants. (vs 1)
Neither one believed in Christ until after the resurrection. (John 7:5, Acts 1:14)

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BOOK OVERVIEW

Revelation

Author: the Apostle John

Date: A.D. 96

Recipients: “the seven churches which are in Asia” (Revelation 1:4)

Summary: letters to seven churches and revelation concerning the end times

Key verse: Revelation 1:19

Key word: I saw/beheld/looked (49 times), seven (59 times), angel (70 times)

Notes:

John outlived the other Apostles and died about 100 A.D at a very old age as a prisoner on the island of Patmos. (Revelation 1:9) Patmos had a penal colony for political prisoners.

Some scholars view the seven churches in Revelation as representative of the various stages through which the Church has developed historically.

The book contains four great visions, each preceded by “in the spirit.” (1:10; 4:2: 17:3; 21:10) Each vision presents a unique perspective on Christ.

Revelation is a difficult book to understand, but its clear message of encouragement is that God is in complete control.

In art the Apostle John is often represented by an eagle.

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