

1 Thessalonians - Revelation

1st and 2nd Thessalonians

- Both of these letters were written around 51 A.D.
- They were written from Corinth while Paul stayed there
- Both letters are addressed to: To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
- The first letter to the Thessalonians was written to encourage growth in the faith and to instruct the believers about the return of the Lord
- The second letter to the Thessalonians was written to correct false teaching about the coming day of the Lord

Paul's Founding Of The Church

- Paul founded the Church of the Thessalonians on his second missionary journey around 51 A.D.---(Acts 17)
- When Paul was in Thessalonica he made sure that he was not a burden to them
- " For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God." - 1 Thess 2:9

Key Themes in 1st Thessalonians

- **Encouragement to persevere:** The church at Thessalonica was suffering serious persecution. Throughout this letter Paul praises the Thessalonians for their patient endurance and encourages them to continue faith, hope, and love
- **Hope for the return of Jesus:** In times of crisis this is the believers ultimate hope
- **Love for fellow believers:** Paul praises the Thessalonians over and over for their love for each other

Thessalonians Love For The Word Of God

- "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."-- 1 Thess 2:13
- The Bible is different than any other book in that it is a living organism

The Rapture Of The Church

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**"-1 Thess. 4:13-18

The Day Of The Lord

"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. [For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one](#)

All Prophecy Begins And Ends With Jesus

- Jesus came the first time as a Lamb led to the slaughter but the next time He will come as the Lion to judge the world.
- Psalm 2: A commentary on prophecy
- “[Kiss the son](#), lest he be angry , and ye perish from the way....”

How To Kiss The Son And Avoid His Anger?

- John 3:36: believe in the Son
- I Thess: 4:13—5:11 [hope](#) in the rapture and avoid wrath = God pouring it out not man to man
- Rapture = [harpazio](#) = snatched away--(1 Thess. 4:17)

We Have Hope

- Hope not in this world
- Hope not in the government
- Hope not in the economy
- But, hope in the Jesus Christ, our Savior

2 Thessalonians

- Paul had heard that the church of the Thessalonians was following a false teaching that the day of the Lord had already happened
- "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first."-- 2 Thess 2:1-3

1 and 2nd Timothy

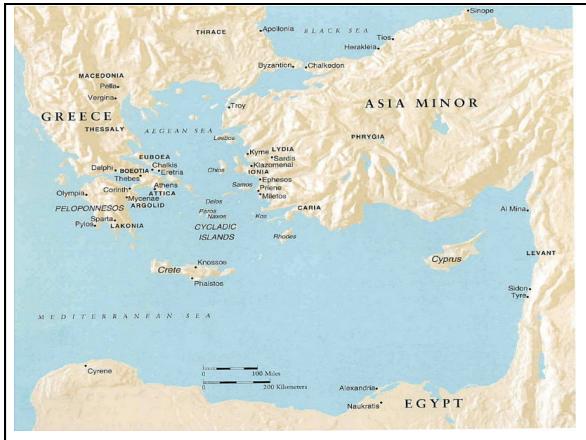
- Paul wrote these two letters to Timothy his young disciple to instruct Timothy in matters of church practice
- 1 Timothy was written from Macedonia around 62-63 A.D.
- 2 Timothy was Paul's last letter before his death written from a Roman prison around 67 A.D.
- Both letters are addressed :"To Timothy..."

Scripture The Guide For Church Practice

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."--2 Tim 3:16-17

Titus

- The letter to Titus was written around 63 A.D.
- It was written from Corinth after Paul was released from his first imprisonment
- It is addressed to: "To Titus, a true son in our common faith"-Titus 1:4
- Titus is a Gentile convert of Paul
- "Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.-Gal 2:3
- Titus was left in charge of the church in Crete, and the letter is giving instructions to Titus about appointing Elders and warning against false teachers



Philemon

- It was written around 60-61 A.D.
- It was written while Paul was imprisoned in Rome
- It is addressed to: "To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer, to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house" Philem 1-2
- Paul appeals to Philemon to accept back his runaway slave Onesimus not as a slave but a brother in Christ just as he would accept Paul himself
- All are one in Jesus

Hebrews

- The author to the Hebrews is unknown although some believe it to be Paul
- It is written to Jewish believers and is heavy in Jewish knowledge
- When reading Hebrews we should read it in light of the context and culture to which it is written
- The point of Hebrews is keeping the Jewish believer in Christ from lapsing back into the sacrificial system of Judaism

Hold Fast The Confession

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh**, and having a High Priest over the house of God, **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **For If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.**

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, **will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?**"--Hebrews 10:19-29

James

- Written by, "James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ..." James 1:1
- It is addressed to: To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad"-James 1:1
- James is considered the most Jewish book of the New Testament writings therefore it is thought it was written before the gospel had gone out to the Gentiles sometime around 45-50 A.D.

Key Themes Of James

- **Faith and Works**: Faith needs evidence, it is a Faith that works once being saved
- **The Joy of trials**: Trials are for the testing of faith which builds character and strength
- **Favoritism**: Treat one another with respect regardless of position or wealth
- **Watch your tongue**: The tongue is deadly, cursing man and blessing God in the same breath
- **Riches and Poverty**: There is danger in using wealth to oppress the poor warned against in the Old Testament

1st Peter

- Written by Silvanus(5:12) as secretary for Peter, from Rome probably around 60 A.D.
- Silvanus is another name for Silus
- It is addressed to: "To the pilgrims of the **Dispersion** in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...."1 Peter 1:1
- The dispersion is the Jewish population that lived outside of Judea and Jerusalem
- Peter encourages the Jews to find strength in the face of trials as they live as strangers and aliens in a foreign land

The Jewish Diaspora (Dispersion)



2nd Peter

- Written by Peter from Rome around the 65 A.D.
- It is addressed to: To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ"- 2 Peter 1:1
- It is written to combat false teachers that are beginning infiltrate the church
- Peter emphasizes his witness to the Transfiguration
- "And we have the word of the prophets made more certain.."2 Peter 1:19
- There are over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled

The Word of God Inspired

"And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; **knowing this first**, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for **prophecy never came by the will of man**, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."- 2 Peter 1:19-21

1 John

- Written by John around 85 A.D. from Ephesus
- John was a Pastor to the church in Ephesus
- He writes to encourage his congregation from false teachers
- The false teachers were the Gnostics who believed that they were saved not by Jesus but through special knowledge available only to those initiated into the cult.
- John writes about the assurance of salvation through knowing Jesus

Key Verse

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." - 1 John 2:1-2

2nd and 3rd John

- John writes these letters to caution against false teachers
- "Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch out that you do not lose what you have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully."

- Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work." - 2 John 7-11
- 3 John is a short letter to Gaius to let him know that John is encouraged by the faithfulness of believers walking in the faith, but discouraged by the gossiping of Diotrophes who is prideful

Jude

- Jude was a brother of James and half-brother of Jesus
- Jude was probably written mid to late 60 A.D.
- Jude warns against false teachers in the church
- "Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints."--Jude 3

Revelation

- It was written by John around 90 A.D. from the Island of Patmos an ancient Alcatraz for criminals of the Roman emperor Nero
- "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John..."-Rev 1:1
- The revelation = "*apocalypsis*" = unveiling (note: singular "revelation" not "revelations", not plural)

- Revelation of whom? "Of Jesus Christ"
- Not a revelation of Jesus who he was but who he is, today, right now
- The Book of Revelation is unveiling of Jesus as the judge of the world, it is the book of the world's destiny. [Rev. 6:12-17)
- Genesis is the miracle of our origin
- Revelation is unveiling of the mystery of our destiny.

John Writes To the Seven Churches From Patmos

