

THE GENERAL LETTERS

I. 1 PETER

- A. Written by the apostle Peter (1:1)
 - 1. From Rome, called “Babylon” (5:13), around AD 63
 - 2. To persecuted gentile Christians in Asia Minor (1:1; 2:12; 4:3)
 - 3. Silvanus (=Silas?) acted as amanuensis (5:12)
- B. Theme: salvation and suffering
 - 1. Encouragement, appeal to holiness and love (1:1 - 2:10)
 - 2. Christian conduct in a non-Christian world (2:11 - 4:19)
 - a. Good deeds and citizenship (2:11-17)
 - b. Submission of slaves and family conduct (2:18 - 3:12)
 - c. Suffering (3:13 - 4:19)
 - 3. Humility and resistance to persecution; conclusion (5:1-14)

II. 2 PETER: A Polemic Against False Doctrine and Easy Morality

- A. Authenticity and canonicity/Many assume pseudonymous; critical problems:
 - 1. Significantly different style than 1 Peter; brief
 - 2. Very similar to material in Jude
 - 3. Reference to Paul’s epistles as “scripture” (3:15-16)
- B. Content: Against False Teachers

III. JUDE: Against False Teachers

- A. Jude: another half-brother of Jesus
- B. Summary outline
 - 1. Greeting (1-2)
 - 2. The entrance of false teachers into the church (3-4)
 - 3. Their ungodly character and future judgement (5-16)
 - 4. Resistance against false teachers (17-23)
 - 5. Conclusion: benediction (24-25)

IV. 1 JOHN: Fatherly Instruction to “Little Children”

- A. To strengthen Christians against false teaching (1:3-4; 5:13)
- B. Against a growing Gnostic (Cerinthian) heresy (2:1ff; 4:1ff)

V. 2 JOHN: Christian Love and Truth

- A. Warns against showing hospitality to false teachers (10)
- B. To the “elect lady and her children” (1): the local church?

VI. 3 JOHN: An Ecclesiastical Dispute