

# Session 18

Hebrews to Jude

Focus on James



(MATTHEW 16:18-19)  
YOU ARE A ROCK!

(ARAMAIC: KEPHAS) GREEK:  
**SIMON PETER**

ONE OF JESUS' FIRST DISCIPLES  
KEY LEADER IN THE EARLY JERUSALEM CHURCH (SEE ACTS 1-10)

WRITTEN FROM ROME by SILVANUS (5:12-15)

TO: PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN ASIA MINOR

HOSTILITY & HARASSMENT (2:12, 3:16, 4:16)

(DECADES LATER)

# 1 PETER

HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

- GOD'S PEOPLE ARE A MISUNDERSTOOD MINORITY, LIVING UNDER THE RULE OF A DIFFERENT KING.
- PERSECUTION OFFERS A CHANCE TO SHOW OTHERS THE GENEROUS LOVE OF JESUS.

## 1:1-2 GREETING

HELLO, GOD'S PEOPLE WHO ARE CHOSEN & EXILED... (SEE GENESIS 18-19; ISAIAH 41:8) (SEE GENESIS 23:4)

OLD TESTAMENT DESCRIPTIONS OF ABRAHAM & ISRAEL

COME ALONG! WE'RE FAMILY!

GENTILES WHO NOW BELONG TO THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM... (SEE 1:14, 18; 4:3-4)

## 1:3-12 SONG OF PRAISE

"PRAISE GOD WHO CAUSED US TO BE BORN AGAIN INTO A LIVING HOPE." (1:3)

NEW HOPE  
NEW IDENTITY  
NEW FAMILY

SUFFERING IS A PURIFYING FIRE THAT CAN DEEPEN OUR FAITH. (1:7)

## 1:13-2:10 A NEW FAMILY IDENTITY

OLD TESTAMENT IMAGES APPLIED TO GENTILE CHRISTIANS

1:13 "GIRD YOUR LOINS" SEE EXODUS 12:11

1:17-21 THE NEW EXODUS & PASSOVER SEE EXODUS 12-15

1:15-16 THE HOLY PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS SEE LEVITICUS 11:44

1:22-25 THE NEW COVENANT PEOPLE ISAIAH 40, JEREMIAH 31

2:1-8 THE NEW TEMPLE ISAIAH 28:16, PSALM 118:22

2:9-10 A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS EXODUS 19:4-6

## 2:11-4:11 SUFFERING AS A WITNESS TO JESUS

2:13-17 SUBMIT TO ROMAN RULE

2:18-3:7 CHRISTIAN SLAVES, WIVES & HUSBANDS

THE PROBLEM: HOUSEHOLDS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT & WORSHIP THE PATRIARCHS' GODS

THE RESPONSE: CHRISTIANS ARE LIBERATED TO LOVE THEIR ENEMIES

3:8-4:11 THEIR FUTURE VINDICATION

PERSECUTED & MURDERED

VINDICATED & EXALTED

BAPTISM: A SACRED SYMBOL SHOWING THEY ARE JOINED TO JESUS

## 4:12-5:9 SUFFERING & FUTURE HOPE

4:12-14 JESUS' PROMISE

REJOICE WHEN PEOPLE PERSECUTE YOU BECAUSE OF ME. (SEE MATTHEW 5:11-12)

LEADERS TO CARE FOR THE CHURCH

5:6-7 THE REAL ENEMY: SPIRITUAL EVIL

"RESIST EVIL WITH FIRM FAITHFULNESS." (5:9)

## 5:10-14 CLOSING

MAY GOD STRENGTHEN YOU!

GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH IN...

BABYLON → ROME

• ARCHETYPE FOR CORRUPT RULERS (SEE JEREMIAH 50-51)

• GOD'S PEOPLE ARE 'EXILED' FROM THEIR TRUE HOME

TO THE CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR (SEE 1 PETER 1:1 & 2 PETER 3:1)

PETER'S FAREWELL SPEECH

I KNOW I DON'T HAVE LONG! (1:14)

NERO

# 2 PETER

...AND THIS IS THE TRUE CHRISTIAN HOPE!

3:1-10 CONCLUSION

DON'T MY TWIST WORDS!

JAMES JOHN PETER PAUL

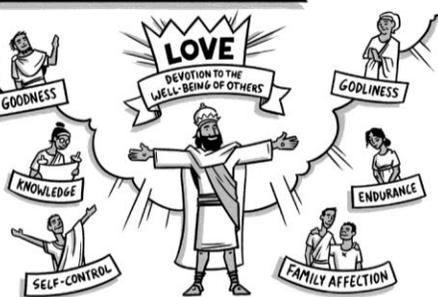
## PETER'S PASSIONATE CONVICTION:

GOD LOVES THE WORLD & IS DETERMINED TO RESCUE IT.

HE MUST CONFRONT & DEAL WITH EVIL TO OPEN THE WAY FOR A NEW FUTURE.

### 1 A FINAL CHALLENGE

1:1-11 GOD'S INVITATION TO BECOME... PARTICIPANTS OF THE DIVINE NATURE



1:12-15 THE LETTER'S PURPOSE

A MEMORIAL OF PETER'S TEACHINGS...

TO LATER GENERATIONS...



1:16-20 OBJECTION #1:

YOU APOSTLES MADE ALL THIS UP!

WE SAW JESUS EXALTED AS KING OF THE WORLD...

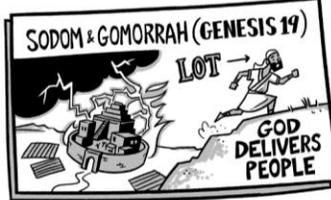
...WHICH FULFILLS THE PROMISES OF PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES.



### 2 WARNINGS ABOUT CORRUPT LEADERS' WAY OF LIFE...

2:1-3 OBJECTION #2:

THERE WON'T BE A FINAL RECKONING!



3:1-4 OBJECTION #3:

GENERATIONS COME & GO...

WHEN IS JESUS PROMISED RETURN?

SO WHY DOES GOD TAKE SO LONG?!



3:10-13 THE DAY OF THE LORD (SEE ISAIAH 34, ZEPHANIAH 3)

3:10 GREEK

"THE HEAVENS WILL PASS AWAY & THE STOICHEIA WILL MELT BY FIRE..."

...SO THAT THE EARTH & ALL ITS WORKS ARE EXPOSED."

GOD'S PURPOSE:

2:12-22 THE TEACHERS' CORRUPT WAY OF LIFE

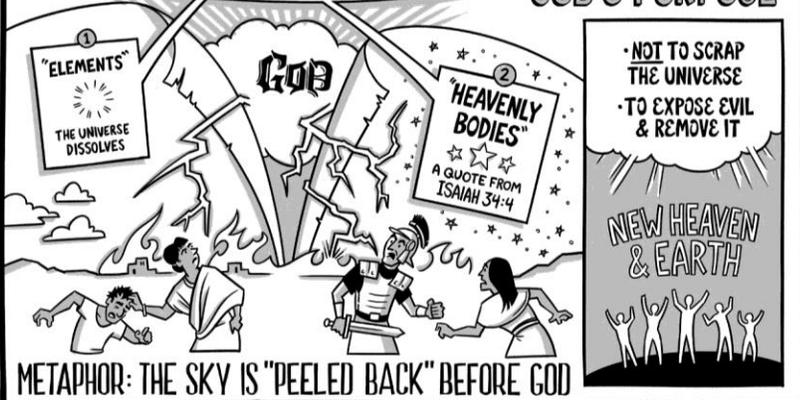
WE ARE FREE IN CHRIST... SAYS PAUL!

PAUL

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

IN REALITY, THEY'RE SLAVES TO THEIR BODILY IMPULSES.

THEY'RE LIKE THE PROVERB: (26:11)



**THE AUTHOR**  
**"THE ELDER"** → **THE DISCIPLE JESUS LOVED**  
 (SEE 2 & 3 JOHN) (SEE JOHN 21:20-24)

**THE CRISIS**  
 • A GROUP LEFT THE CHURCH & DENIED JESUS AS MESSIAH & SON OF GOD (SEE 1 JOHN 2:18-23, 4:1-3)  
 • THEY'VE GENERATED HOSTILITY (1 JOHN 3:1-10)  
 • JOHN WROTE THESE FOR DAMAGE CONTROL & TO ASSURE THE CHURCHES.

# THE LETTERS OF 1-2-3 JOHN

THE UNIQUENESS OF **1 JOHN**  
 • NOT A LETTER, BUT A POETIC SERMON  
 • ALL THE KEY IDEAS COME FROM JESUS' FINAL SPEECH IN JOHN chs.13-17

~~NOT LINEAR~~  
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5...  
 THERE ARE, BUT NOT THUS, 5...

**"AMPLIFICATION"**  
 LIFE LOVE TRUTH  
 • CYCLICAL REPETITION  
 • HYPERBOLE  
 • STARK CONTRASTS



**JOHN**  
 • SON OF ZEBEDEE?  
 • THE ELDER?  
 OVERSEEING HOUSE CHURCHES (PROBABLY IN EPHESUS)



KNOWING JESUS = KNOWING THE GOD OF LOVE



**1:5-3:10 THIS IS THE MESSAGE...**

**3:11-5:17 THIS IS THE MESSAGE...**

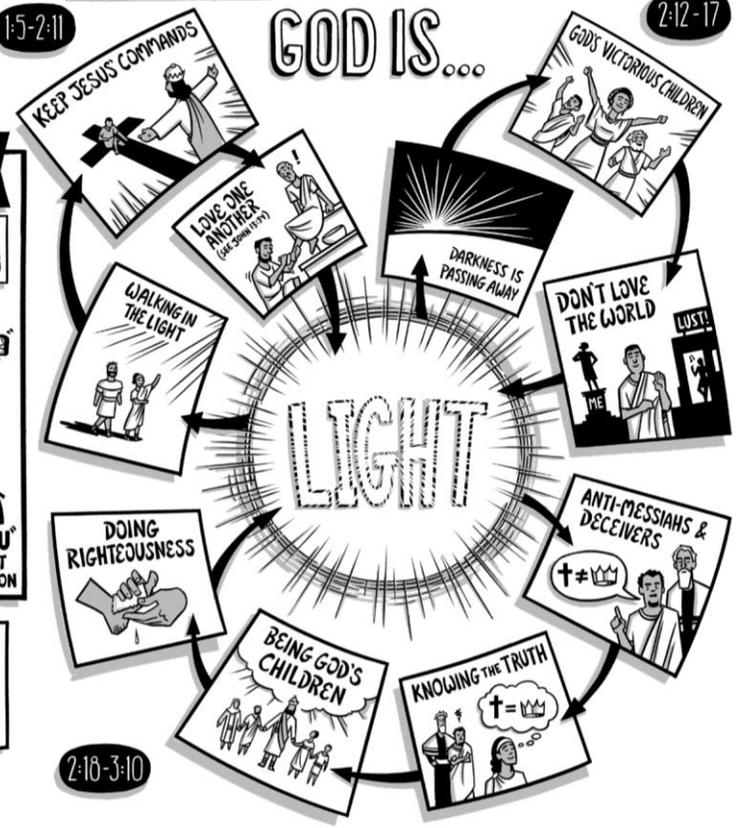
**2 JOHN**

**1:1-4 INTRODUCTION**

• SIMILAR TO JOHN 1:1-18  
 • ECHOES OF GENESIS 1 & PROVERBS 8



**FELLOWSHIP**  
 = GREEK: KOINONIA  
 PARTICIPATION IN GOD'S OWN LIFE & LOVE



**5:18-21 CONCLUSION**

"WE KNOW THE SON OF GOD HAS COME SO WE CAN KNOW THE ONE WHO IS TRUE & WE ARE IN THE ONE WHO IS TRUE. IN HIS SON JESUS THE MESSIAH, THIS IS THE TRUE GOD & ETERNAL LIFE." (5:20)

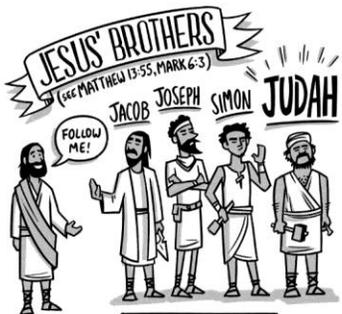


RESIST REMAKING GOD IN YOUR OWN IMAGE.

DEAR CHURCH, IF THE 'DECEIVERS' COME TO YOUR CHURCH...  
 ...DON'T OFFER THEM SUPPORT.

**3 JOHN**

DEAR GAIUS, WELCOME THE BROTHERS...  
 ...DON'T BE LIKE DIOTREPHES.



AFTER THE RESURRECTION, THEY BECAME DISCIPLES, (ACTS 1:14) LEADERS, AND MISSIONARIES. (1 CORINTHIANS 9:5)



# THE LETTER OF JUDE

A.K.A. **JUDAH**  
GREEK: IOUDAS  
HEBREW: YEHUDAH

**GOD'S GRACE DEMANDS A WHOLE-LIFE RESPONSE**  
• JUDAH DOESN'T FOCUS ON THEOLOGY, BUT ON MORAL CHOICES  
• *LOVING JESUS = OBEYING JESUS* (SEE JOHN 14:15)

**vv1-4**

## OPENING CHARGE

vv1-3 **CONTEND FOR THE FAITH...**



v1 **...BECAUSE OF THE CORRUPT TEACHERS'**

**WE ARE FREE IN CHRIST!** **EVERYTHING IS NOW ALLOWABLE!**



**THEY DISTORT GOD'S GRACE AS A LICENSE TO SIN...** **...& REJECT THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS.**

• WRITTEN TO A MESSIANIC JEWISH COMMUNITY  
• ASSUMES DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEBREW BIBLE & OTHER JEWISH LITERATURE

**WHY DOES JUDAH QUOTE FROM STRANGE BOOKS?**



**REMEMBER...**

ANCIENT JUDAISM WAS IMMersed IN THE HEBREW BIBLE & MANY OTHER TEXTS INSPIRED BY THE SCRIPTURES.  
A BOOK DIDN'T HAVE TO BE IN THE BIBLE TO BE IMPORTANT  
THE APOCRYPHA (DEUTERO-) & PSEUDEPIGRAPHA WERE VALUED AS PART OF THE BIBLICAL TRADITION



## vv5-19 ACCUSATION OF CORRUPT LEADERS

vv5-10 **3 OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES: REBELLION & DIVINE JUSTICE**



• **REBELS AGAINST GOD'S AUTHORITY**  
• **SEXUALLY IMMORAL**  
• **REJECT GOD'S MESSENGERS**



vv11-13 **3 MORE OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES: REBELS WHO CORRUPT OTHERS**



vv11-16 **AN ANCIENT WARNING**



**1 ENOCH ch 1**

QUOTING FROM: **DEUTERONOMY 33:2** **ZECHARIAH 14:5** **ISAIAH 66:15-16**

vv17-19 **A RECENT WARNING**



**vv20-25**

## CLOSING CHARGE

vv20-21 **CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH 101**

**METAPHOR: COMMUNITY OF JESUS = GOD'S NEW TEMPLE**



# James

Galatians 2vs16 – “We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”

James 2vs24 – “You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”

# James

- Author
- Recipients
- Structure

# James - structure

- Introduction (1vs2-12)
  - Patience
  - Prayer
- Temptation to quit (1vs13)
- New creatures (1vs17-18)
- New lifestyle (1vs19-27)
  - Control of the tongue
  - Care for the needy
  - Purity of life

# James - structure

- Ch.2 vs 1-26: Care for the needy
  - Includes section on faith, works and justification
- Ch.3 vs 1-12: Taming the tongue
- Ch3vs13 – 5vs6: Pure life
  - Jealousy
  - Selfish ambition
  - Arrogance
- Conclusion (5vs7-20)
  - Patience
  - Prayer
  - Care