

Starting with Acts

1. **Acts of the Apostles**; written by *Luke*, the physician, it is a continuation of the book of Luke; Written about 60 AD. Covers the three decades that followed the death, burial, resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the pivotal book of the N.T. It is addressed to Theophilus, which means lover of God. The disciples are listed:

Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, Simeon, and Judas, son of James.

Soon after the death of the other Judas, Matthias was added

The church started at Jerusalem with Peter, then the Jerusalem Council and later to Antioch with Paul as the center of leadership. Acts 15 is the crucial point where the church shifts from a Jewish nature to the Gentile world.

2. **Hebrews**: *author unknown*, much speculation by a man by the name of Origen, who asserted that “who it was that wrote the epistle, God only knows”. The author has knowledge of classical Greek unsurpassed by any other book. It was written about 70 AD. A key word is “better.” Absolute supremacy of Jesus is emphasized and more than 20 names are listed for Jesus.

3. **James**; one of the earliest, about 48 AD, and listed as a brother of Jesus. He took over the leadership of the church at Jerusalem after Peter left Palestine. He insists in the letter that a genuine faith must produce good works.

4. **I Peter**; Written by Peter about 63 AD shortly before his death. The book emphasizes suffering (mentioned 16 times) which was probably from the pagan society around them due to the fact that physical persecution did not occur until the end of the 60's decade.

5. **II Peter**; 65-68 AD, addressed to the same audience at I Peter. The word knowledge or “to know” occur more than 16 times.

6. **I, II, III John**; written by John the apostle who wrote the Gospel of John. Written about 85-98 AD. Addresses Gnosticism, a false belief that man rose through knowledge; matter being evil and spirit being good; this led to two

false theories concerning who Jesus was; Docetism; that Jesus was a ghost, only appearing to have a body and Cerinthianism, which made Jesus a dual personality, at times human and at times divine.

7. **Jude**; a bother of James and a half brother of Jesus. It could have been written as early as 65-70 AD or a decade later. He addresses the error and emphasizes contending for the faith in Jesus Christ.

8. **Revelation**; written by *John*, the apostle, exiled to the isle of Patmos, off the coast of Greece, he addresses the letters to the 7 churches he is familiar with and has most likely ministered to.

Notes on I Peter:

What an awesome book written by one of the disciples that walked with Jesus and lived another 30 + years after the resurrection of Jesus. He writes to the Jews, uses a code name Babylon (ch.5v. 13) probably Rome and ends with salutations from him, Mark, and Silvanus. The word suffer or sufferings is used over 16 times, probably referring to the Gentiles and their scoffing and some Jews who did not believe, riling them over their faith in Jesus as the Messiah. 4:16 He uses the word Christian, (used only 4 times in the NT) He gives much instruction on how to live, addressed to the Jewish Christians but indicative to all believers. He tells of Christ as the living stone and the chief corner stone in Chapter 2:24; by his stripes we WERE healed. He addresses husbands, wives and slaves in chapter 3 on conduct Above all things have an intense love for one another, chapter 4 In Chapter 5 he addresses pastors and leaders in the church and goes on to that often quoted passage v. 6 therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God so that in due time He might exalt you. v. 7; casting the whole of your care, all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all on Him for He cares for you affectionately and cares for you watchfully, v. 8 the devil walks around like a ...

II Peter

Only three chapters but powerful. He quotes OT scriptures as well as events He uses the word knowledge over 16 times, emphasizing the importance of knowing God and becoming like Him.

In chapter 1 the adding to scriptures starting with v.5 To be like Jesus; adding to your diligence faith to faith virtue, to virtue, knowledge and knowledge self control and self control patience and to patience godliness, godliness brotherly affection, brotherly affection Christian Love the highest of them all. He knew Paul and was familiar with his letters, also Silas and Mark He speaks of the event; the Mount of Transfiguration Chapter 2 describes my ex-husband Louis Chapter 3 he gives a truth (scriptural fact) that a day with the Lord is as a thousand years. Here he speaks on Christ return and the earth's destruction

Notes on James:

This book comes from the heart of a Pastor. James was pastor of the church at Jerusalem and was killed by Herod early in church history.

Chapter 1 tells us of what patience will reward us with and begs for one to ask for wisdom if it is needed. Scolds the double-minded man

God tempts no one and can not be tempted He gives only good and perfect gifts

Be a doer of what you hear and read or your faith is worthless. Be a doer out of your faith and you prove your faith is real

Do not show a distinction between people by the way you treat them.

In chapter 3, he says that not many believers should become teachers because they are more responsible for what they say. Teachers must be careful not to offend with their words or bring offence. So he goes on to talk about the tongue

Where sin abounds in our members grace much more abounds

He tells the believer to humble themselves

4:6-10, awesome verses about drawing near to God, the devil fleeing and humility allowing God to exalt believer.

Very similar to II Peter 5

Chapter 5 he speaks to the rich gives more instruction, talks about the prayer of faith and praying for the sick, calling in the elders and anointing with oil

He ends with a verse we often quote:

5:20; whoever turns one away from sin from the evil course will cover a multitude of sins.

Faith creates works and works perfect faith, because faith works by love.