



GENERAL EPISTLES / 3.0

Lesson 1

THE BOOK OF JAMES

The “general epistles” are the epistles within the New Testament addressed to the church at large as opposed to the Pauline epistles which were written by Paul and addressed to individual churches. Secondly, they are called general epistles because they were accepted as inspired scripture by the whole church.

The Book of James: The author is James, the brother of Jesus. The letter was written around A.D. 45, before the first council of Jerusalem in A.D. 50. James was martyred in approximately 62 A.D. James refers to himself as a “**bond servant**” (*doulos*). This word emphasizes that the master has complete control of the slave who is totally submissive to him. James' honor and authority is based upon the fact that he is the slave of the Lord.

Getting Through Your Problems (James 1:1-12)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

I. COUNT IT ALL JOY (vs. 2-4)

II. ASK FOR WISDOM (vs. 5-8)

Wisdom is the God-given ability to perceive the true nature of a matter and to implement the will of God into that matter.

Contrast “godly” wisdom and “devilish” wisdom (James 3:13-18)

III. WHAT WISDOM TELLS YOU WHEN YOU’RE GOING THROUGH TRIALS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Overcoming Sin (James 1:13-21)

I. THE PROGRESSION OF SIN (vs. 13-16)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Joshua 7:21; Psalm 19:12-14

II. ALL GOOD COMES FROM GOD (vs. 17-18)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

GENERAL EPISTLES
Lesson 2

The Real Thing (James 1:21-2:13)

I. RECEIVE MEEKLY (WITH HUMILITY) THE ENGRAFTED WORD (vs. 21).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

II. BE “DOERS” OF THE WORD (vs. 22-25).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

III. DOING GOD'S WORD PRODUCES THE REAL THING.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

GENERAL EPISTLES Lesson 3

The Real Faith (James 2:14-26)

“**Faith**” and “**presumption**” look alike, but there is a vast difference.

Presumption will confess a thought from the head and give it the same confidence as a word from God, going so far as to even say, “God told me.” Presumption will leave you disillusioned – blaming God – saying the Bible is not true. Real faith is based on the written Word quickened by the Holy Spirit.

I. **DEAD FAITH (James 2:14-17, 20, 26)**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

II. **DEMONIC FAITH (vs. 19)**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

III. DYNAMIC FAITH – THE REAL FAITH

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

The Long Tongue

Notes:

Ask yourself these questions:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Two Fountains (3:9-11)

Notes:

GENERAL EPISTLES
Lesson 4

Fight the Right Fight (James 4:1-12)

I. DON'T WAR AMONG YOURSELVES.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

II. DON'T WAR WITH YOURSELF (vs. 1-3)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Philippians 4:6-7 – “. . . with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God – and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

III. DON'T WAR WITH GOD (vs. 4-6)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

IV. THREE WAYS TO FIGHT THE RIGHT FIGHT

1. _____

Submit – a military term meaning to get into “proper rank; to come under the authority of God.
The only way you have **any** authority is to come under the authority of God.
Then, resist the devil in that authority.

2. _____
3. _____

Instructions for Healing (James 5:13-20)

Three Conditions	Three Responses

Two things the elders should do:

1. _____
2. _____

Two things the Lord will do:

1. _____
2. _____

Two other ways to be healed:

1. _____
2. _____

GENERAL EPISTLES

Lesson 5

The Book of 1st Peter: The author is the Apostle Peter. It was written in such wonderful Greek that some have questioned whether he could have written it. The question is answered in I Peter 5:12 – “by Silvanus (Silas), a faithful brother unto you as I supposed, I have written briefly . . .” Silas was the Greek scholar, also a prophet, and a traveling companion of Paul. The letter was written sometime in the 60’s A.D., probably during the persecution by Nero. The letter was accepted as scripture and often quoted by the early church fathers such as: Ireneus, Clement of Rome, and Polycarp. The circumstances behind the letter: It was a time of persecution for the church. Instructions and encouragement were given on how to live and witness for Christ.

Outline of 1ST Peter

Introduction: 1:1-2

Salutation: 1:1

Addresses: 1:2

I. BELIEVERS’ FAITH AND HOPE IN THE WORLD (1:3 – 2:10)

II. BELIEVERS’ CONDUCT IN EVERYDAY CIRCUMSTANCES (2:11 – 5:1)

III. CONCLUSION (5:12-14)

a. Silvanus, co-author of this letter (5:12)

b. Greetings (5:13)

c. Final exhortation with benediction (5:14)

II. THE REBIRTH OF THE CHRISTIAN (vs. 3-5)

- a. By an act of God

- b. By the work of the Spirit.

- c. By the word of truth

- d. To a living hope

- e. To righteousness, love and victory

- f. To an inheritance

- g. Protected in time and safe in eternity

III. THE SECRET OF ENDURANCE (vs. 6-7)

- a. They can stand anything because of what they are able to look forward to.

- b. They can stand anything if they remember that every trial is really a test.

- c. They can stand anything because at the end of it, when Jesus Christ appears, they will receive from Him praise and glory and honor.

THE CHRIST-FILLED LIFE

I Peter 1:14-25

- Life without Christ is a life of ignorance. (v. 14)
- Life without Christ is a life dominated by lust. (v. 15)

I. THE CHRIST-FILLED LIFE IS A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE AND HOLINESS (vs. 14-16)

II. THE CHRIST-FILLED LIFE IS A GOD-FEARING LIFE, PURCHASED BY A GREAT PRICE (vs. 17-21)

III. THE CHRIST-FILLED LIFE IS A LIFE OF BROTHERLY LOVE (v. 22)

GENERAL EPISTLES
Lesson 6

1ST PETER 2, 3, 4, AND 5

Chapter 2: “A Peculiar People”

- I. STRIP OFF (v. 1)**
 - a. Malice
 - b. Guile
 - c. Hypocrisies
 - d. Envy
 - e. Evil speakings
- II. DESIRE ONE THING (v. 2)**
 - a. Unadulterated Word
 - b. You will grow.
- III. YOU ARE WHAT GOD SAYS YOU ARE (vs. 3-10)**
 - a. Living stones
 - b. A holy priesthood
 - c. A chosen generation
 - d. A holy nation
 - e. A peculiar people
 - f. The people of God
- IV. HOW WE MUST CONDUCT OURSELVES (vs. 11-25)**
 - a. As strangers and pilgrims
 - b. Manner of life – honest

- c. Good citizens
- d. Honor all men – treat everyone with respect
- e. Even those who wrong you
- f. Follow the example of Christ

Chapter 3

I. THE HOME (vs. 1-7)

- a. The wife (vs. 1-6)
- b. The husband (v. 7)

II. SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE (vs. 7-17)

- a. Inherit a blessing
- b. Be ready to give an answer

III. PREACHING TO THE SPIRITS IN PRISON

- a. Preached – heralded the victory
- b. Disobedient spirits in Noah's day

Chapter 4

I. HOW TO CONDUCT YOURSELF UNDER PERSECUTION (vs. 1-16)

II. JUDGMENT BEGINS AT THE HOUSE OF GOD (vs. 17-18)

Chapter 5: Instructions for Sheep and Shepherds

I. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SHEPHERD (vs. 1-4)

- a. Feed

- b. Take the oversight.

- c. Reward – the crown of glory

II. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SHEEP (vs. 5-11)

- a. Submit to elders.

- b. Submit to one another.

- c. Be clothed with humility.

- d. Cast all your care.

- e. Resist the devil.

- f. Be completed.

- g. Give the glory to God.

GENERAL EPISTLES

Lesson 7

2ND PETER

Chapter 1

- Exceeding Great Promises (vs. 1-4)

I. ADD TO YOUR FAITH (vs. 5-11)

- a. Virtue
- b. Knowledge
- c. Temperance
- d. Patience
- e. Brotherly kindness
- f. Charity
- g. Result: You will never fall

II. STIR UP YOUR REMEMBRANCE (vs. 12-15)

III. THE MORE SURE WORD (vs. 16-21)

- a. More sure than an audible voice
- b. Of no private interpretation
- c. Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit

Chapter 2: False Teachers

- I. HERESIES (vs. 1-2)**

- II. COVETOUSNESS (v. 3)**

- III. THREE BIBLICAL EXAMPLES (vs. 4-9)**
 - a. Angels

 - b. Old world

 - c. Sodom and Gomorrah

- IV. FLESHLY SINS (vs. 10-14)**

- V. FOLLOWING THE WAYS OF BALAAM (vs. 15-18)**

- VI. TURNED BACK AND BECAME WORSE (vs. 19-22)**

Chapter 3: The Time of the End

- I. SCOFFERS ABOUND (vs. 1-7)**

- II. THE LORD IS LONGSUFFERING (vs. 8-9, 15)**

- III. THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME (vs. 10-16)**

- IV. A FIRM FOUNDATION AND CONTINUAL GROWTH (vs. 17-18)**

GENERAL EPISTLES
Lesson 8

1ST JOHN

I. KEY WORD: KNOW

II. FELLOWSHIP IN TWO DIRECTIONS

III. SAYING AND DOING

GENERAL EPISTLES

Lesson 9

1st John continued:

I. CHAPTER 1: THE ANSWER TO THE SIN PROBLEM

II. CHAPTER 2: FOUR LEVELS OF MATURITY (vs. 12-14)

a. Teknion – infants

b. Teknon – toddlers, little children

c. Young men

d. Fathers

III. THE WORLD – AN ENEMY OF FELLOWSHIP (vs. 15-17)

IV. CHAPTERS 3 AND 4: THE LOVE OF GOD

a. Antichrists are here

b. The test (4:1-6)

GENERAL EPISTLES
Lesson 11

2nd JOHN & 3rd JOHN

2nd John

To the “elect lady”

I. WALK IN THE TRUTH

II. MANY DECEIVERS

a. Have the same error

b. They deny Jesus Christ has come in the flesh

3rd John

I. THE GOLDEN VERSE OF PROMISE (v. 2)

II. THREE MAIN CHARACTERS

a. Gaius (v. 1)

b. Diotrephes (v. 9)

c. Demetrius (v. 12)

GENERAL EPISTLES

Lesson 12

JUDE

The Book of Jude: The author was Jude, the half-brother of Jesus (cf: Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). A date that has been suggested for the writing of the Letter of Jude is around A.D. 70 to A.D. 80.

I. THE COMMON SALVATION (v. 3)

II. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES (vs. 4-7)

a. Israel out of Egypt

b. Angels

c. Sodom and Gomorrah

III. NO RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY (vs. 8-10)

IV. THREE BAD EXAMPLES (vs. 11-13)

a. The way of Cain

b. Error of Balaam

c. Gainsaying of Korah

V. THE PROPHECY OF ENOCH (vs. 14-19)

VI. PRAYING IN THE HOLY GHOST (vs. 20-23)

VII. BENEDICTION (vs. 24-25)