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THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

AUTHOR, Matthew (also called Levi), one of the twelve apostles # Mr 2:14
Undoubtedly a Jew who was a publican, or Roman tax collector # Mt 10:3
When called by Jesus he left all and followed him # Lu 5:27,28
He made a great feast for Christ, who attended it despite the fact that the publicans belonged to a despised class # Lu 5:29

TO WHOM ADDRESSED-- Primarily to the Jews. This view is confirmed by the fact that there are about sixty references to the Jewish prophecies and about forty quotations from the Old Testament. Christ's mission to the Jews is especially emphasized # Mt 10:5,6 15:24

KEY WORDS. FULFILLED, which is frequently repeated to indicate that the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Christ. The word KINGDOM, which appears fifty times and the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN thirty times. KING, Jesus as # Mt 2:2 21:5 22:11 25:34 27:11,37,42

APPARENT PURPOSE, To show that Jesus of Nazareth was the Kingly Messiah of Jewish prophecy.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES.

(1) The Complete Genealogy of Christ # Mt 1:1-17

(2) Incidents and Discourses found only in this Gospel

Ch. 2. The visit of the Magi # Mt 2:1

a)The flight into Egypt # Mt 2:13,14

b)The slaughter of the Innocents # Mt 2:16

The return to Nazareth # Mt 2:19-23

Ch. 3. The coming of the Pharisees and Sadducees to John the Baptist # Mt 3:7

Chs. 5-7 The Sermon on the Mount (complete). # Mt 5:1 - 7:1

Ch. 11. "Come unto me, all ye that labour." # Mt 11:28

Ch. 14. Peter walking on the sea. # Mt 14:28-31

Ch. 23. The denunciation of the Pharisees, as an extended Discourse. # Mt 23:1

Ch. 26. The thirty pieces of silver received by Judas # Mt 26:15

Ch. 27. The return of the thirty pieces of silver # Mt 27:3-10

The dreams of Pilate's wife # Mt 27:19

The appearance of resurrected saints # Mt 27:52

The watch at the sepulcher # Mt 27: 64-66

Ch. 28. The bribing of the soldiers # Mt 28:12,13

The earthquake # Mt 28:2

The Great Commission # Mt 28:19,20

(3) Miracles found only in Matthew.

The two blind men healed # Mt 9:28-30

The tribute money. # Mt 17:24-27

(4) Parables found only in Matthew.

Ch. 13. The Tares # Mt 13:24

the hid treasure # Mt 13:44

the goodly pearl # Mt 13:45

the draw-net # Mt 13:47

Ch. 18. The unmerciful servant # Mt 18:23

Ch. 20. The labourers in the vineyard # Mt 20:1-16

Ch. 21. The two sons # Mt 21:28-32

Ch. 22. The marriage of the king's son # Mt 22:1-14

Ch. 25. The ten virgins # Mt 25:1-13

The talents # Mt 25:14-30

The sheep and the goats # Mt 25:31-46

ANALYSIS. From the standpoint of the Kingship of Christ. The King. The story of the Kingly Messiah.

Lineage and birth ch. 1 # Mt 1:1

search for # Mt 2:2

adoration of # Mt 2:11

herald of # Mt 3:1-12

spiritual victory of # Mt 4:1-11

the proclamation of # Mt 4:17

summoning followers, by # Mt 4:18-22

the laws and mandates of, chs. 5-7 # Mt 5:1 - 7:1

the words and works of, chs. 8-12 # Mt 8:1 - 12:1

parables of, ch. 13 # Mt 13:1

the murder of his herald # Mt 14:1-12

his power over natural forces, and disease # Mt 14:14-36 15:32-39

his revelation of the dullness of men, and his own coming sufferings and glory, chs. 16,17
Mt 16:1 - 17:1

his instruction concerning the principles of his kingdom chs. 18-20 # Mt 18:1 - 20:1

his triumphal entry unto the capital, his rejection, parables and prophecies # Mt 21:1 - 22:14

his foiling of the plots of the Pharisees and Sadducees # Mt 22:15-46

his denunciation of the leaders, ch. 23 # Mt 23:1

his prophecies and parables relating to the future, chs. 24,25 # Mt 24:1 - 25:1

the events leading up to his betrayal # Mt 26:1-46

his trial # Mt 26:57-75 27:1-31

his crucifixion # Mt 27:31-50

the events immediately following his death # Mt 27:51-56

his reappearance upon earth, and his commission to his followers, ch 28 # Mt 28:1

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

AUTHOR, Mark, the son of Mary of Jerusalem # Ac 12:12

Referred to as John Mark, in# Ac 12:25

A relative of Barnabas# Col 4:10

Associated with Paul and Barnabas on their First Missionary Journey # Ac 12:25 13:5

Temporarily alienated from Paul # Ac 13:13 15:37-39

Afterwards restored to his friendship # 2Ti 4:11

Ancient tradition certifies that Mark was a companion of Peter. The book is called Peter's Gospel by some very ancient writers. It is generally conceded that Peter may have furnished, or suggested, much of the material found in the book.

TO WHOM ADDRESSED. It is thought that the writer had in mind the Roman or Gentile Christians in his preparation of the book. That it was not especially adapted to Jewish readers seems clear from the fact that it contains few references to Old Testament prophecy. Furthermore, the explanation of Jewish words and customs would indicate that the author had foreigners in mind when he wrote. See, # Mk 3:17 5:41 7:1-4,11,34

MAIN THEME, "Christ, the Tireless Servant of God and Man."

The Life of Jesus is portrayed as crowded with benevolent deeds.

His devotions interrupted # Mk 1:35-37

No time to eat # Mk 3:20

Yielding to such perpetual calls for service that his friends said he was unbalanced # Mk 3:21

Pursued when he sought rest # Mk 6:31-34

KEY WORD, "Straightway," indicating immediate action, repeated throughout the entire book.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES. It is the shortest of the four Gospels. The style is vivid and picturesque. Much of the subject matter is found also in Matthew and Luke, but it is not mere repetition, for it contains many details not found in either of the others. The Gospel of Mark opens, like that of John, with a declaration of the divinity of Jesus Christ, but unlike John he does not enlarge upon the doctrine. However, a careful study of the book reveals the fact that the aim of the author is to let the wonderful works of Jesus testify to his deity, rather than frequent statements of the writer.

Many personal touches are found in this gospel, as "was with the wild beasts," # Mk 1:13

"He surnamed them Boanerges" # Mk 3:17

"Jesus was much displeased" # Mk 10:14

"They were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid" # Mk 10:32

"The common people heard him gladly" # Mk 12:37

"Is not this the carpenter?" # Mk 6:3

Although emphasizing Christ's divine power, the author often alludes to his human feelings;-- his disappointment # Mk 3:5; his weariness # Mk 4:38; his wonder # Mk 6:6; his sighs # Mk 7:34 8:12; his affection # Mk 10:21

Matthew harks back to the past, and deals largely with the prophecies for the sake of Jewish readers, and also gives much space to the discourses of our Lord. Mark is more condensed; has little to say concerning prophecy; gives only a brief report of the discourses, but lays great stress upon the mighty works of Jesus. Nineteen miracles are recorded in this short book which demonstrate the supernatural power of the Master.

Eight, which prove his power over disease # Mk 1:31,41 2:3-12 3:1-5 5:25 7:32 8:23 10:46
Five, showing his power of nature # Mk 4:39 6:41,49 8:8,9 11:13,14
Four, demonstrating his authority over demons # Mk 1:25 5:1-13 7:25-30 9:26
Two, show his conquest over death # Mk 5:42 16:9

SYNOPSIS. The book may be divided in six parts--

Part 1, The Introductory and Preliminary Events leading up to the Public Ministry of Christ # Mk 1:1-13

In this first chapter Mark plunges abruptly into his subject, and pours forth a torrent of description in the first thirteen verses.

He opens with the announcement that Jesus is the Son of God # Mk 1:1

He then dwells upon the five preparatory steps for his work,

- (1) The coming of his herald # Mk 1:2-8
- (2) His baptism with water # Mk 1:9
- (3) His enduement with the Holy Spirit # Mk 1:10
- (4) The divine witness to his Sonship # Mk 1:11
- (5) His conflict with his arch enemy # Mk 1:12,13

Part II. The Early Galilean Ministry # Mk 1:14 - 7:23
(Mark omits entirely the early Judæan Ministry, See) # Joh 2:13 - 4:2

Part III. The tour to Tyre and Sidon # Mk 7:24-30

Part IV. Christ's teaching and work in Northern Galilee # Mk 7:31 - 9:50

Part V. The closing Ministry in Perea, and the journey toward Jerusalem. # Mk 10:1-52

Part VI. The events of Passion Week # Mk 11:1 - 16:8

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

WRITER, Luke, the beloved physician, see # Col 4:14

Reputed Author of Acts; both books being addressed to the same person. Luke was a close friend and travelling companion of Paul, as is shown in his personal allusions recording the journeys of the apostle.

See in the book of Acts where the author changes the pronouns to "we" and "us," indicating that he himself was present at these times, # Ac 16:10 20:6 27:1 28:16. Many students see something of the stamp of Paul's doctrine in Luke's gospel. The exact date of the writing of the gospel is unknown. But if it were written after Luke came under Paul's influence, it would be quite natural that the latter should give some colouring to the narrative.

TO WHOM ADDRESSED. To Theophilus, an unknown person. Internal evidence indicates that the book was written especially for the Gentiles. This is inferred from the fact that the writer takes pains to explain Jewish customs and sometimes substitutes Greek names for Hebrew.

PURPOSE. To give a connected and orderly narrative of the life of Christ as seen by eye witnesses, # Lu 1:1-4

KEY VERSE

Lu 1:4

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES.

(1) It is a Gospel of the Universal Grace of God # Lu 2:32 3:6 24:47

(2) It is the Gospel of "The Son of Man." It emphasizes Christ's sympathetic attitude toward the POOR, the LOWLY, and the OUTCASTS. The Poor disciples # Lu 6:20

the sinful woman # Lu 7:37

Mary Magdalene # Lu 8:2

the Samaritans # Lu 10:33

publicans and sinners # Lu 15:1

the deserted beggar # Lu 16:20,21

the lepers # Lu 17:12

the dying thief # Lu 23:43

(3) It is a Devotional Gospel; it especially emphasizes prayer

(a) It contains three parables on prayer not found in the other gospels.

The friend at midnight # Lu 11:5-8; the unjust judge # Lu 18:1-8; the Pharisee and publican

Lu 18:9-14

(b) It contains Christ's prayers, - at his baptism # Lu 3:21; in the wilderness # Lu 5:16; before choosing the disciples # Lu 6:12; at the transfiguration # Lu 9:29; before giving the Lord's Prayer # Lu 11:1; for Peter # Lu 22:32; in the garden of Gethsemane # Lu 22:44; on the cross # Lu 23:46

(4) In its early chapters it strikes the note of joy and praise. Some of the great Christian hymns are taken from this gospel. The Ave Maria," the words of the Angel to Mary, # Lu 1:28-33

The Magnificat," Mary's song # Lu 1:46-55

"The Benedictus," of Zacharias # Lu 1:68-79

"The Gloria in 'Excelsis," of the heavenly angels # Lu 2:13-14

"The Nunc Dimittis," the rejoicing of Simeon # Lu 2:29-32

(5) It greatly honours womanhood. Women appear prominently in Luke's narrative. In chapter one, Mary, Elisabeth; # Lu 1:1

Mary and her sister Martha in chapter ten # Lu 10:1

the daughters of Jerusalem # Lu 23:27

several widows are mentioned # Lu 2:37 4:26 7:12 18:3 21:2

(6) The Biography of Christ is more complete in Luke than in either of the other Gospels. About one half of the material in this book is not in the others. Many of the most important utterances of our Lord, and striking incidents of his life are recorded in this one gospel. Examples of this are,--

The draught of fishes # Lu 5:6

raising the widow's son # Lu 7:11-15

the ten lepers # Lu 17:12

Malchus healed # Lu 22:51

For the parables which occur only in Luke

Other incidents and sayings recorded only by Luke,-- Christ weeping over Jerusalem # Lu 19:41

reference to the conversation of Moses and Elias on the Mount of Transfiguration # Lu 9:30,31

the bloody sweat # Lu 22:44

Christ before Herod # Lu 23:8

Christ's words to the women of Jerusalem # Lu 23:28

the penitent thief # Lu 23:40

the walk to Emmaus # Lu 24:13-31

SYNOPSIS

(1) The introduction # Lu 1:1-4

The birth of Jesus and incidents connected with his early life up to the time of his baptism and temptation # Lu 1:5 - 4:13

(2) The beginning of his public ministry, mainly in Galilee # Lu 4:14 - 9:50

(3) The journey toward Jerusalem, through Samaria and Perea; the ministry mainly in Perea # Lu 9:51 - 19:28

(4) The last days, including the events of Passion Week and the crucifixion # Lu 19:29 - 23:55

(5) Events connected with the Resurrection and the Ascension # Lu 24:1-51

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

WRITER, The Apostle John,

DATE uncertain. Probably late in the first century.

MAIN PURPOSE, To inspire faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

KEY VERSE

Joh 20:31

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES.

(1) It is considered by many to be the deepest and most spiritual book in the Bible.

(2) In it Christ gives a more complete revelation of himself, and of God, than in either of the Synoptic Gospels.

(a) Of his person and attributes. SEE the "I am"s of Christ, Bible Readings 4166

(b) Of his Divinity # Joh 1:1 10:30-38 12:45 14:7-9 16:15

(c) Of the work of the Holy Spirit. SEE 6's, 7's, 8's of the Holy Spirit, 4165

(d) Of his own divine commission. For example in the fifth chapter he declares himself to be sent from God six times consecutively, in verses # Joh 5:23,24,30,36,37,38

(e) Of the Fatherhood of God. Christ speaks of God as "The Father" over one hundred times God is the spiritual Father # Joh 4:23

he is the life-giving Father # Joh 5:21

the message is the Father's # Joh 7:16

the Father is greater than all # Joh 10:29

the works are the Father's # Joh 14:10

God is the Indwelling Father # Joh 14:23

the Eternal Father # Joh 17:5

the Holy Father # Joh 17:11

the Righteous Father # Joh 17:25

(3) Perhaps the most notable of all the peculiarities of this gospel is the fact that over one half of the space in the book is given to events of Christ's life, and his sayings during his last days.

(4) Discourses and conversations found only in John;-- the talk with Nicodemus # Joh 3:1-21

with the woman of Samaria # Joh 4:1-26

The discourse to the Jews at the Feast of Tabernacles # Joh 7:14-39 8:3-58

the parable of The Good Shepherd, ch. 10 # Joh 10:1

The series of private instructions to the disciples, his comforting words and intercessory prayer, chs. 14-17 # Joh 14:1 - 17:1

His meeting with the disciples at the Sea of Galilee, ch 21, etc. # Joh 21:1

(5) John records eight miracles of Christ (beside his own resurrection) to prove his divinity. Six of these are found only in this gospel; The water made wine # Joh 2:1-11

healing the nobleman's son # Joh 4:46-54

healing the man at the pool # Joh 5:1-9

the man born blind # Joh 9:1-7

the raising of Lazarus, ch 11 # Joh 11:1

the second draught of fishes # Joh 21:1-6

(6) There are two great currents of thought flowing through the book which it is profitable to follow--

(a) Faith, # Joh 3:16-18 5:24 6:29,40 7:38 8:24 10:37,38 11:25-27 12:46 , 14:12

(b) Eternal life # Joh 3:15,16,36 4:14 5:24 6:27,51 11:26 12:50 17:3 20:31

SYNOPSIS. The book may be divided into five parts;--

(1) The Prologue. The Eternal Word incarnate # Joh 1:1-18

(2) The Manifestation of Christ's Divinity to the world accompanied by a six-fold testimony. That of John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit, the disciples, Christ's mighty works, that of The Father, and the Scriptures. # Joh 1:19 - 12:50

(3) The Private Revelation and instruction to the disciples, chs. 13-17 # Joh 13:1 - 17:1

(4) His Humiliation and Triumph over Death, chs. 18-20 # Joh 18:1 - 20:1

(5) The Epilogue, ch 21-23 # Joh 21:1 - 23:1

ACTS

SEE the Tree of Paul's Life,

WRITER, Luke, the beloved physician

The book is in some sense a sequel to the Gospel of Luke, and is addressed to the same unknown person, Theophilus # Ac 1:1

MAIN THEME, The history of the development of the early church, from the Ascension of Christ to Paul's imprisonment at Rome, and the opening of his ministry there. Many Bible students see in the book the formal beginning of the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. The departing Christ makes the announcement of a great campaign of world-wide missions, through human agency under the power of the Spirit. # Ac 1:8

THE BOOK MAY BE DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS, The period of Home Missions, and the period of Foreign Missions.

I. THE PERIOD OF HOME MISSIONS, with Jerusalem as the centre. The Work mainly in Palestine among the Jews; the apostle Peter being the most prominent figure.

(1) The Preparatory Events.

- (a) The divine commission # Ac 1:4-8
- (b) The ascending Lord # Ac 1:10,11
- (c) The descending Spirit # Ac 2:1-4
- (d) The workers' equipment # Ac 2:4 4:31

(2) The Ministries.

- (a) Of Peter at Pentecost # Ac 2:14-40
- Peter's second sermon # Ac 3:12-26
Peter's address to the Sanhedrin # Ac 4:5-12
- (b) Of Stephen # Ac 7:1-60
 - (c) Of Philip and Peter # Ac 8:5-25
 - (d) Of Philip # Ac 8:26-40

(3) Facts Concerning the Church.

- (a) The growth of. SEE Accessions, 733
- (b) The infilling of, with the Holy Spirit # Ac 4:31
- (c) The unity and benevolence of # Ac 4:32-37
- (d) The spiritual power of # Ac 5:12-16
- (e) The appointment of deacons # Ac 6:1-6

(4) The persecutions of the Church # Ac 4:1-3, 17-22 5:17,18,40 6:8-15

Persecutions under Saul of Tarsus # Ac 8:1-3 9:1

II. THE PERIOD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Opening with Jerusalem as the centre of operations, which was soon transferred to Antioch in Syria.

(1) Preliminary Events Leading up to World-wide Missions.

- (a) The ministry of Philip in Samaria, in association with Peter and John # Ac 8:5-25
- (b) The conversion of Paul, who becomes the great missionary, and the leading figure in the church during this period # Ac 9:1-30
- (c) The broadening of Peter's views by his vision at Joppa, resulting in his ministry among the Gentiles at Cæsarea. # Ac 10:1-43
- (d) The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles at Cæsarea, and the vindication of Peter's ministry there # Ac 10:44 - 11:18
- (e) The sanction of the work at Antioch by Barnabas, the representative of the church at Jerusalem # Ac 11:22-24
- (f) The bringing of Paul from Tarsus to Antioch by Barnabas, and the co-operation of the two men in establishing the church in the place where the disciples were first called Christians # Ac 11:25,26
- (g) Parenthesis, The persecution of the church at Jerusalem by Herod. The death of James and the imprisonment and deliverance of Peter # Ac 12:1-19

(2) The Epochal Event in the History of Foreign Missions. Under the Direction of the Holy Spirit, the sending forth of Paul and Barnabas as missionaries by the church at Antioch. John Mark accompanies them # Ac 13:1-5

(3) Paul's First Missionary Journey. Missionaries, Paul, Barnabas and John Mark, # Ac 13:4 - 14:26

~Places visited and outstanding events: The island of Cyprus where the proconsul was converted and Saul's name changed to Paul in the record # Ac 13:4-12

~Perga in Pamphylia, where John Mark deserted the party # Ac 13:13

~Antioch in Pisidia, Paul's great sermon in the synagogue # Ac 13:14-41

~Opposition by the Jews and work among the Gentiles # Ac 13:44-49

~Driven from the city by the Jews, the missionaries go to Iconium. Here they work for some time, but persecution arising, they flee to Lystra and Derbe # Ac 14:6

~The healing of the lame man at Lystra results in the people proposing to worship Paul and Barnabas, but the Jews stir up opposition and Paul is stoned. Undaunted, the two heroes escape to

~Derbe, where they preach the gospel and teach many # Ac 14:8-20

~From this point the missionaries retrace their steps, revisiting and organizing the churches, and return to Antioch in Syria, where they make a report of their journey # Ac 14:21-28

(4) The Council at Jerusalem.

(a) The question at issue # Ac 15:5,6

(b) Peter's argument in favour of Christian Liberty # Ac 15:7-11

(c) Paul and Barnabas relate their experiences # Ac 15:12

(d) The speech of James and the decision of the Council in favour of exempting the Gentiles from the rules of the ceremonial law # Ac 15:13-29

Judas and Silas are sent to Antioch to deliver the letter from the Council to the church # Ac 15:27-30

(5) Paul's Second Missionary Journey # Ac 15:36 - 18:22

(a) Preliminary events. A disagreement between Paul and Barnabas concerning John Mark. Silas chosen by Paul to accompany him on the journey # Ac 15:36-40

(b) Places visited and outstanding events: Visitation of the churches of Syria and Cilicia # Ac 15:41

~At Lystra, Timothy joins the missionaries, and various cities of Asia Minor are visited and the churches strengthened # Ac 15:41 - 16:5

~The Spirit guides them to Troas, where they are called into Europe by the Macedonian vision # Ac 16:7-10

~At Philippi Paul and Silas are imprisoned, and the jailor converted, and a church is established. # Ac 16:12-34

~The next important event is the founding of a church at Thessalonica, where persecution arises and they depart for Berea # Ac 17:1-10

~Here the missionaries find some candid students of The Word who become ready converts # Ac 17:11,12

~The storm of persecution breaks out again, and Paul goes on to Athens, leaving Silas and Timothy to establish the church # Ac 17:13-15

~At Athens Paul finds a city filled with idols, and preaches a sermon on Mar's Hill, but secures only a few converts to the faith # Ac 17:15-34

~At Corinth Paul is soon joined by Silas and Timothy, and a church is founded. The work is carried on in the midst of persecution for eighteen months # Ac 18:1-17

~After a considerable time Paul bids the brethren farewell, and sets sail for Syria, making a brief stop at Ephesus, and closes his journey at Antioch # Ac 18:18-22

(6) Paul's Third Missionary Journey # Ac 18:23 - 21:15

Places visited and outstanding events: Visitation of the churches in Galatia and Phrygia # Ac 18:23

-Apollos at Ephesus # Ac 18:24-28

-Paul returns to Ephesus and finds a company of imperfectly instructed disciples, and leads them into the larger life of the Spirit # Ac 19:1-7

-He continues in the work at Ephesus for two years # Ac 19:8-10

-The Lord showed his approval of the work by bestowing upon Paul the gift of healing # Ac 19:11,12

-Sinners were confounded and many burned their evil books # Ac 19:11-20

-Then there arose a great uproar among the silver-smiths, fearing that Paul's doctrine would destroy their business of idol making # Ac 19:23-41

-Paul leaves Ephesus, and after visiting the churches of Macedonia, comes to Greece # Ac 20:1,2

-He spends three months in Greece, then returns to Macedonia, and comes to Troas, and preaches # Ac 20:3-12

-From Troas he goes to Miletus, and sends for the Ephesian elders to come to him.

-Here at Miletus he delivers his great farewell address to the elders # Ac 20:17-38

-From Miletus Paul starts for Jerusalem, although warned by the Spirit of the sufferings awaiting him there # Ac 21:1-17

(7) Paul in Jerusalem and Cæsarea.

- (a) He relates to the church the experiences of his ministry among the Gentiles # Ac 21:18-20
- (b) To silence suspicion, he is urged to take a Jewish vow, which he does # Ac 21:20-26
- (c) Is seized by Jewish enemies in the Temple, and rescued from their fury by Roman soldiers # Ac 21:27-40
- (d) His defence before the multitude # Ac 22:1-21
- (e) He asserts his Roman citizenship to escape being scourged # Ac 22:25-30
- (f) His appearance before the Sanhedrin # Ac 23:1-10
- (g) The Lord appears to him in the night with a message of cheer # Ac 23:11
- (h) A conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, leads to his being sent to Cæsarea # Ac 23:12-33
- (i) The accusation brought against him by the Jews, and his defence before the governor, Felix # Ac 24:1-21
- (j) His speech before Felix concerning his faith in Christ # Ac 24:24-26
- (k) His defence before Festus and his appeal unto Cæsar # Ac 25:1-12
- (l) His address before Agrippa # Ac 26:1-29

(8) Paul's Journey to Rome as a Prisoner # Ac 27:1-28:16

- (a) The first stage of the voyage # Ac 27:2-13
- (b) The storm and the moral ascendancy of Paul # Ac 27:14-36
- (c) The shipwreck and the escape to land # Ac 27:38-44
- (d) The experiences on the Island of Melita # Ac 28:1-10
- (e) The arrival at Rome and Paul's ministry there # Ac 28:16-31

ROMANS

WRITER, The Apostle Paul

ADDRESSED TO Roman Christians # Ro 1:7

KEY VERSES

Romans 1:16 5:1

The epistle may be divided into two main sections:

PART I. DOCTRINAL chs. 1-11 # Ro 1:1 - 11:1

PART II. PRACTICAL, chs. 12-16 # Ro 12:1 - 16:1

MAIN THEME of Part I, The Plan of Salvation. Justification by Faith and Sanctification through the Holy Spirit. Part II. Mainly Exhortations concerning Christian Duties.

A MASTERLY ARGUMENT. In Part I, the apostle proceeds to prove that the entire human race is surrounded by three insurmountable walls.

(1) The wall of universal guilt, chs. 1-3 # Ro 1:1 - 3:1

(2) The wall of sinful tendencies and fleshly lusts # Ro 7:15-24

(3) The wall of the supposed sovereign election of God of a certain portion of the race to salvation, and the divine reprobation of all others # Ro 9:7-18

In the midst of his argument showing the awful situation of the natural man, he points out the **DOORS OF DIVINE MERCY** provided for in the plan of salvation, by which all men can escape the impending judgments of God if they will.

The "**DOORS of ESCAPE**" or "**DIVINE MERCY**" in the "**WALLS**" are..

- (a) Justification by Faith # Ro 5:1
- (b) Regeneration # Ro 8:1-4
- (c) Universal Opportunity # Ro 10:13

KEY CHAIN showing the current of thought # Ro 1:16 3:22,23,28 4:3 5:1,18 9:31,32 10:3,4,6-9

SYNOPSIS

PART I. THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

(1) The need of, grounded in the universal guilt of mankind:

- (a) Of the Gentile world # Ro 1:18 - 2:7
- (b) Likewise the Jews, under the condemnation of the law # Ro 2:8 - 3:20
- (c) All alike sinners # Ro 3:23

- (2) The method of, Justification, or righteousness, by faith # Ro 3:21-28
 (a) Universal # Ro 3:29-30
 (b) Honours the law # Ro 3:31
- (3) Illustrated in the life of Abraham ch. 4 # Ro 4:1
 (a) Apart from works # Ro 4:1-6
 (b) Apart from ordinances # Ro 4:9-12
 (c) Apart from the law # Ro 4:13-25
- (4) The blessings of, made effective through the love of God as manifested in the sacrificial death of Christ.# Ro 5:1-11
- (5) The scope of the free gift of salvation expounded # Ro 5:12-21
- (6) The free gift does not encourage the continuance in sin, but demands rather the crucifixion of man's corrupt nature, and a life of holy service to God # Ro 6:1-23
- (7) In chapter seven, Paul is evidently speaking of the struggle with sinful tendencies and fleshly lusts. Whether he refers to his own experience before, or after conversion, is a question concerning which Bible students differ in opinion. All agree that he vividly portrays the strife going on in the human heart. # Ro 7:7-24
- (8) The culmination of the divine plan of salvation is pictured in chapter eight. It is a new spiritual life of liberty and righteousness, through faith in Christ. This is one of the great spiritual chapters of the Bible, in it the Holy Spirit is referred to nineteen times.
- (9) Parenthesis, Paul's solicitude for his own people # Ro 9:1-5
- (10) The Mystery of Divine Election and God's dealings with Israel.
 (a) Special privileges of Israel # Ro 9:4-5 See also # Ro 3:1,2
 (b) The distinction between the natural and spiritual seed of Abraham # Ro 9:6-13
 (c) The mystery of the divine sovereignty # Ro 9:14-24
 (d) The prophets predicted the failure of the Jews to live up to their privileges; the calling of the Gentiles and their acceptance of the divine plan of righteousness by faith. # Ro 9:25-33
- (11) The Misapprehension by the Jews of the divine plan, resulting in their self-righteousness # Ro 10:1-3
- (12) The Plan of "Salvation by Faith" expounded and its universal application set forth # Ro 10:4-18
- (13) God's dealings with Israel # Ro 10:19 - 11:12
- (14) The Gentiles warned not to boast because of their privileges, but to take heed lest they fall under condemnation # Ro 11:13-22

(15) The Restoration of Israel predicted and the mysteries of God's ways declared to be unsearchable # 11:23-36

PART II. PRACTICAL. Chiefly exhortations and Instructions concerning Christian Duties, chs. 12-16 # Ro 12:1 - 16:1

Ch. 12. This chapter presents one of the finest summaries of Christian Duties found in the Scriptures. # Ro 12:1

Ch. 13.

(1) Civic and social duties # Ro 13:1-10

(2) The duty of living as "children of the day," # Ro 13:11-14

Chs. 14.1 to 15:7 Duties to the Weak.

(1) Charitableness in judging # Ro 14:1-13

(2) Carefulness not to give offence to # Ro 14:15-23

(3) Bearing the infirmities of, and not pleasing self # Ro 15:1-7

CLOSING THOUGHTS, Mainly personal experiences and greetings.

Ch. 15. (Cont.)

(1) Reasons for thanksgiving on the part of the Gentiles and the apostle's wide-spread ministry among them # Ro 15:8-21

(2) Paul's desire to visit Rome and his greetings to the various Christian friends # Ro 15:22 - 16:16

(3) Final words and benediction # Ro 16:17-27

1 CORINTHIANS

WRITER, The Apostle Paul.

HISTORICAL OCCASION. The church at Corinth was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey. It had become infected with the evils which surrounded it in a licentious city. The Greeks were proud of their learning and philosophy, but at the same time were addicted to gross immorality. They were especially fond of oratory. It is apparent that Apollos, an eloquent Christian Jew, had come to Corinth and captured the imaginations of the Greek Christians, see # Ac 18:24-28. This fact led to the drawing of comparisons between him, with his silver tongue, and other religious leaders. Especially to the discredit of Paul, whose bodily presence seems not to have been impressive.

See # 2Co 10:10

This probably is the clue to the schisms in the church, # 1Co 1:11-13

It was the desire of Paul to purify the church from partyism and immorality, which was the primary cause of the writing of the epistle.

THE EPISTLE MAY BE DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS.

PART 1. MAIN THEME. The cleansing of the Church from False Conceptions of the Ministry, Intellectual Pride, Social Evils, and other disorders, chs. 1-11# 1Co 1:1 - 11:1

KEY CHAIN showing the false conceptions of the ministry.# 1Co 1:12-17 3:4-7,21,22 4:6,7

SYNOPSIS.

(1) The salutation # 1Co 1:1-9

(2) The need of cleansing the church from party divisions, man-worship, and glorying in worldly wisdom # 1Co 1:10-31

(3) Paul's exemplary ministry. There was no attempt on his part to display worldly wisdom, but to declare the wisdom of God in a message revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. # 1Co 2:1-16

(4) The strife over leaders is a mark of immaturity and carnality # 1Co 3:1-8

(5) The True view of the Ministry, Ministers should be regarded:

- (a) As dispensers of the truth # 1Co 3:1,2
- (b) As gardeners # 1Co 3:6-8
- (c) As co-labourers with God # 1Co 3:9
- (d) As character builders # 1Co 3:10
- (e) As stewards # 1Co 4:1,2
- (f) As sufferers for Christ's sake # 1Co 4:9-13
- (g) As examples # 1Co 4:16-17
- (h) As administrators of discipline # 1Co 4:18-21

(6) The duty of cleansing the church:

- (a) From immorality # 1Co 5:1-13
- (b) From litigation # 1Co 6:1-8

(c) Believers as members of Christ's body and temples of the Holy Spirit, should purify themselves from all sensuality # 1Co 6:9-20

(7) The sanctification of marriage and all sexual relationships and the paramount claims of the spiritual life # 1Co 7:1-40

(8) Christian Ideals demand the sacrifice of certain rights and privileges for the sake of the ignorant and weak. For instance, the eating meat that has been offered to idols # 1Co 8:1-13

(9) Paul's example of surrender of certain rights and liberties for the sake of winning men to Christ # 1Co 9:1-27

(10) Israel's example of infidelity, a warning to the church # 1Co 10:1-15

(11) Fellowship at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, demands separation from evil associations # 1Co 10:16-21

(12) Christian Influence to be guarded in the matters of eating and drinking # 1Co 10:23-33

(13) Social customs to be observed in matters of dress # 1Co 11:1-16

(14) Cleansing of the church from disorders in connection with the Lord's Supper, and the proper observance of the same # 1Co 11:17-34

PART II. Doctrinal Instructions and Advices.

(1) Concerning the diversity of spiritual gifts # 1Co 12:1-31

(2) The preëminence of love # 1Co 13:1-13

(3) The preëminence of prophecy over the gift of tongues, and the importance of maintaining proper order in the public assemblies # 1Co 14:1-40

(4) The doctrine of the resurrection # 1Co 15:1-58

(5) Closing instructions and salutations # 16:1-24

2 CORINTHIANS

WRITER, the Apostle Paul.

MAIN THEME. This is somewhat hidden, but it is quite apparent that Paul had prominently in mind, the vindication of his apostleship when he was writing this book. Both epistles to the Corinthians indicate that there was an element in this church which tended to discredit his ministry and authority. This tendency is shown in the texts of the Key Chain below.

CONTENTS. This is one of the most personal of all of Paul's epistles. He dwells largely upon his own ministry. He opens his heart and discloses his motives, his spiritual passion, and his tender love for the church.

KEY CHAIN.

2Co 3:1 5:12 7:2 10:2,3 11:5,6 12:11 13:3

SYNOPSIS: There are no definite divisions of thought in the epistle, but the subject matter may be arranged under three headings.

I. The Characteristics of the Apostle's Ministry.

(1) Comforting # 2Co 1:4-7 7:7,13

(2) Suffering # 2Co 1:5-9 4:8-12 5:4 6:4-10 7:5 11:24-28 12:7-10

(3) Sincere # 2Co 1:12 2:17 4:2 7:2

(4) Steadfast # 2Co 1:17-19 4:1,16

(5) Solicitous # 2Co 2:3,4 7:7,8 11:2,3 12:20,21

(6) Triumphant # 2Co 2:14 4:8,9 12:10

(7) Self-sacrificing # 2Co 4:5,11,15 5:13 11:7,9

(8) Love of Christ the controlling motive # 2Co 4:11 5:14

(9) Spiritual # 2Co 4:18 5:16 10:4

(10) Persuasive # 2Co 5:11,20 6:1 10:1,2

(11) Reconciling # 2Co 5:19-21

(12) Demonstrated by earnestness, afflictions and good works # 2Co 5:13 6:4-10 12:12

(13) Authoritative # 2Co 10:1-11

(14) Self-supporting # 2Co 11:9

II. Exhortations and Instructions concerning Benevolence chs 8,9 # 2Co 8:1 - 9:1

III. The Apostleship of Paul.

(1) Discredited by one element in the church # 2Co 10:7-10 12:11 13:3

(2) The authority of # 2Co 2:9 13:2

(3) Authenticated:

(a) By the Lord # 2Co 1:1,21,22 3:5,6 4:6

(b) By unparalleled sufferings for the cause # 2Co 6:4-10 11:23-27

(c) By wonderful revelations received # 2Co 12:1-5

(d) By mighty deeds performed # 2Co 12:12

CHOICE SELECTIONS

(1) The ideal ministry # 2Co 4:1-18

(2) The triumph over death # 2Co 5:1-9

(3) The call to separation from the world # 2Co 6:14-18

(4) The list of sufferings endured by Paul # 2Co 11:24-33

GALATIANS

WRITER, The Apostle Paul.

DATE. Probably between 55 and 60 A.D.

TO WHOM ADDRESSED. To the churches in Galatia, a district in Asia Minor, the exact boundaries of which are uncertain.

MAIN THEMES. A Defense of the Doctrine of Justification by Faith, warnings against Reversion to Judaism and a Vindication of Paul's Apostleship.

THE MAGNA CHARTA OF THE CHURCH. This epistle has been so called by some writers. The main argument is in favour of Christian liberty in opposition to the teachings of the Judaizers. These false teachers insisted that the observance of the ceremonial law was an essential part of the plan of salvation.

KEY TEXT

Ga 5:1

KEY CHAIN showing the current of thought # Ga 1:6 2:11-16 3:1-11 4:9-11 5:1-7 6:15

EMPHATIC WORDS. "Faith," "Grace," "Liberty," "The Cross"

THE EPISTLE MAY BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR PARTS

PART I. The salutation and introduction # Ga 1:1-9

PART II. A narrative of Paul's experiences in support of his claim to true apostleship.

(1) The gospel which he preached came directly by revelation from Christ, while he himself was a zealous Jew persecuting the church # Ga 1:10-16

(2) For years he was away from the church at Jerusalem and laboured independently of the other apostles # Ga 1:17-23

(3) He was under divine direction in his work among the Gentiles, and in the case of Titus, the Greek, had insisted that he should be free from the observance of the ceremonial law # Ga 2:1-5

(4) The church at Jerusalem indorsed his apostleship, and work among the Gentiles # Ga 2:7-10

(5) He had not hesitated to rebuke Peter, Barnabas and other Christian Jews, when he saw that they were yielding to ritualistic tendencies # Ga 2:11-14

PART III. Paul's Defence of the Doctrine of Justification by Faith apart from the Works of the Law.

(1) By showing the folly of Christian Jews abandoning their new faith and light, and returning to the old legalism # Ga 2:15-21

- (2) By appealing to the former spiritual experience of the Galatians # Ga 3:1-5
- (3) By showing that Abraham was justified by faith # Ga 3:6-9
- (4) By showing that the law had no redeeming power, but brought a curse upon the disobedient, from which Christ redeemed believers # Ga 3:10-14
- (5) By proving that the law could not disannul the covenant of salvation by faith # Ga 3:15-18
- (6) By indicating the purpose of the law as a schoolmaster to prepare the way for Christ # Ga 3:19-25
- (7) By showing the losses of those who surrender their faith in Christ, and relapse into legalism.
 - (a) They lose the blessing of their inheritance as children of God, and return to the bondage of ceremonialism # Ga 3:26 - 4:11
 - (b) They have lost the sense of appreciation for labours performed in their behalf # Ga 4:11-16
 - (c) They are in danger of becoming the children of Abraham after the flesh, instead of the children of promise # Ga 4:19-31
 - (d) They not only lose their spiritual liberty, but make Christ's sacrifice of no avail for them # Ga 5:1-6

PART IV. Warnings, Instructions, and Exhortations.

- (1) Warnings in regard to false teachers, and the misuse of liberty # Ga 5:7-13
- (2) Exhortations concerning the spiritual life.
 - (a) The conflict between the flesh and Spirit # Ga 5:17,18
 - (b) The works of the flesh which exclude from the kingdom of God # Ga 5:19-21
 - (c) The fruits of the Spirit which should be manifest in Christian life # Ga 5:22-26
- (3) The characteristics of the spiritual life.
 - (a) Charitableness, and burden bearing # Ga 6:1,2
 - (b) Humility, self-examination, self-reliance and benevolence # Ga 6:3-6
 - (c) The law of sowing and reaping holds good in the moral realm # Ga 6:7-9
- (4) The contrast between the doctrine of the false teachers and that of Paul. The former, glory in ceremonial rites and the marks in the flesh; the latter, in the cross, and the marks of the Lord Jesus # Ga 6:12-17

EPHESIANS

WRITER, The Apostle Paul.

DATE. Probably written at Rome between 60 and 64 A.D.

PAUL'S MINISTRY AT EPHESUS: His first visit # Ac 18:18-21

on his second visit, the Holy Spirit is given to believers # Ac 19:2-7

his continuance of the work with remarkable success # Ac 19:9-20

his conflict with the silversmiths # Ac 19:23-41

his address to the Ephesians elders # Ac 20:17-35

HISTORICAL OCCASION OF THE WRITING.

The converted Jews in the early churches were inclined to be exclusive, and separate themselves from their Gentile brethren. This condition of affairs in the church at Ephesus may have led to the writing of this epistle, the keynote of which is Christian Unity.

KEY VERSE

Eph 4:13

KEY CHAIN, showing the current of thought # Eph 1:10 2:6,14-22 4:3-16

MAIN THEME, the unity of the church, especially between Jew and Gentile believers. This is shown by the recurrence of certain words and phrases, as

(1) The word, "together";

gathered TOGETHER # Eph 1:10

quicken TOGETHER # Eph 2:5

raised up TOGETHER, sitting TOGETHER # Eph 2:6

build TOGETHER # Eph 2:22

(2) The word, "one," indicating unity;

ONE new man # Eph 2:15

ONE body # Eph 2:16

ONE spirit # Eph 2:18

ONE hope # Eph 4:4

ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of all # Eph 4:5,6

OTHER RECURRENT WORDS AND PHRASES.

(1) "In Christ" # Eph 1:1,3,6,12,15,20 2:10,13 3:11 4:21

(2) "In heavenly places # Eph 1:3,20 2:6 3:10

(3) "Riches," of grace # Eph 1:7 2:7

--- of glory # Eph 1:18 3:16

--- of Christ # Eph 3:8

SYNOPSIS.

PART I. The Church and the Plan of Salvation.

Note. Paul in discussing the plan of salvation in the different epistles, somewhat varies the emphasis. In Romans he especially dwells upon faith apart from works. In Galatians, faith apart from ceremonial observances. In Ephesians he lays great stress upon the UNITY OF BELIEVERS.

Ch. 1.

(1) The salutation # Eph 1:2

(2) The divine origin of the church # Eph 1:3-6

(3) The plan of salvation.

(a) Through the redemptive work of Christ # Eph 1:7,8

(b) Universal in its scope # Eph 1:9,10

(c) Insuring a rich spiritual inheritance # Eph 1:11-14

(d) Prayer that believers might be fully enlightened as to the riches of its provisions Eph 1:15-23

Ch. 2.

(e) The plan provides for a spiritual resurrection from sin and the exaltation of the believer into heavenly places # Eph 2:1-6

(f) It is wholly of grace and not of works # Eph 2:7-10

(g) It embraces the Gentiles who were far from God, but were brought nigh by the blood of Christ # Eph 2:11-13

(h) It removes all barriers between Jews and Gentiles and unites them into one body for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit # Eph 2:14-22

Ch. 3.

(i) The mysteries of the divine purpose revealed to Paul, and his appointment as apostle to the Gentiles # Eph 3:1-12

(j) Paul's second prayer for the spiritual fullness of the church and her enlightenment concerning the matchless love of Christ # Eph 3:14-21

PART II. PRACTICAL APPLICATION. What the divine plan calls for, on the part of the church.

Ch. 4.

(1) The unity of believers.

(a) In Spirit # Eph 4:1-3

(b) The seven unities mentioned # Eph 4:4-6

(c) Diversity of gifts but unity in one body of Christ # Eph 4:7-16

(2) Consistent Christian life, the believers' walk:

(a) Not as other sinful people # Eph 4:17-21

(b) In newness of life, abandoning the old sins # Eph 4:22-32

Ch. 5.

(c) Walking in love and purity # Eph 5:1-7

(d) Walking in the light # Eph 5:8-14

(e) Walking circumspectly, filled with the Spirit # Eph 5:15-21

(3) The home life.

(a) Duties of husbands and wives # Eph 5:22-33

Ch. 6.

(b) Duties of children, fathers, servants and masters # Eph 6:1-9

(4) The spiritual warfare.

(a) Source of strength # Eph 6:10

(b) The armour and the foes # Eph 6:11-18

(5) Concluding words and benediction # 6:19-24

CHOICE SELECTIONS.

Paul's prayers for the church # Eph 1:16-23 3:14-21

Christian unity # Eph 4:3-16

The spiritual armour # Eph 6:10-17

PHILIPPIANS

WRITER, The Apostle Paul.

DATE, uncertain. Probably written from Rome between 60 and 64 A.D.

THE CHURCH. The Philippian church was an ideal one in many respects. It was very appreciative and benevolent. SEE # Php 4:15,16 2Co 8:2

It was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey, in the midst of a storm of persecution. The beginnings of the work were small, among a few women at the river side. Lydia, a seller of purple, was the first convert, and she was soon joined by the Philippian jailor and his family. These, and perhaps a few others, became the nucleus of the church. SEE # Ac 16:12-40

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EPISTLE. It is a spiritual love letter to the church. It contains outbursts of warm affection and gratitude. Written under hard circumstances, while Paul was a prisoner, he strikes the keynotes of victory and joy.

REJOICING in PRAYER # Php 1:4

in the GOSPEL # Php 1:18

in CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP # Php 2:1,2

in SACRIFICES FOR THE CAUSE # Php 2:17,18

in THE LORD # Php 3:1

for the LOVING CARE of the church # Php 4.10

CENTRAL MESSAGE. Jesus Christ.

Ch. 1.

(1) As the source of spiritual fruit # Php 1:11

(2) As the theme of preaching # Php 1:18

(3) As the highest motive of Christian service # Php 1:20,21

Ch. 2.

(4) As exhibiting the only perfect spirit and example # Php 2:5-11

Ch. 3.

(5) The knowledge of whom, is the supreme prize for which to struggle in life # Php 3:7-14

(6) At whose appearing, believer's bodies shall be fashioned anew # Php 3:20,21

Ch. 4.

(7) Whose power is limitless in Christian lives # Php 4:13

(8) Who is the channel of divine supplies for every need # Php 4:19

SYNOPSIS.

Ch. 1. (1) The salutation # Php 1:1-7

(2) A personal disclosure by the apostle, of his inner life and his attitude toward the church.

(a) His solicitude for its spiritual development # Php 1:8-11

(b) His assurance that his bonds have proven a blessing to many # Php 1:12-19

(c) His expectation and desire, and whatever may be the outcome of his imprisonment, Christ may be magnified by his life or death # Php 1:20

(d) His realization of the gain of death for the believer, but feeling that his work is unfinished, he is hoping to visit the Philippian church once more # Php 1: 21-25

(e) His chief concern is for the faithfulness of the church in the midst of her persecutions # Php 1:27-30

Ch. 2.

(3) Exhortations, in respect to Christian life and character.

(a) To unity, humility, and self-forgetfulness # Php 2:1-4

(b) To the seeking of the mind of Christ # Php 2:5-13

(c) To co-operation with God, in working out personal salvation, and to live as the approved sons of God in an evil world # Php 2:12-16

(4) The apostle's commendation of his messengers, Timothy and Epaphroditus # Php 2:19-30

Ch. 3.

(5) Warnings against Judaizers # Php 3:1-3

(6) A narrative of the apostle's experiences.

(a) As a high class, zealous Jew, who had abandoned, as worthless, all his legal righteousness, to accept the righteousness by faith, in Christ # Php 3:4-9

(b) His supreme ambition being, to know Christ and partake of his resurrection and reach the final goal of a Christ-like character # Php 3:10-14

(7) Further exhortations to the church:

(a) To follow the apostolic example # Php 3:15-17

(b) To beware of enemies of the cross # Php 3:18-19

(c) To be heavenly citizens, looking forward to a great change at the coming of the Lord # Php 3:20,21

Ch. 4.

(d) To steadfastness, unity, helpfulness, moderation, freedom from anxious care, prayerfulness, high thinking #Php 4:1-8

(8) Closing words of appreciation, a promise of divine supplies for every need, the salutations and benedictions # Php 4:10-23

COLOSSIANS

WRITER, The Apostle Paul.

DATE. Probably written from Rome between 60 and 64 A.D.

TO WHOM ADDRESSED, The church at Colosse, a city of Asia Minor

PURPOSE.

(1) General, a message of good will, to exhort and edify believers.

(2) Special, to counteract doctrinal errors growing out of the mixture of Judaistic teaching, combined with the vagaries of oriental and philosophic speculation. These heresies tended to obscure the divine glory of Christ.

CHARACTERISTICS. The epistle presents a considerable resemblance to Ephesians both in thought and language, yet has a distinct message of its own. In Ephesians Paul dwells upon the thought of the church as the body of Christ, while in Colossians he emphasizes Christ as the head of the church. The warning against trusting in worldly wisdom which appears in 1 Corinthians, reappears in Colossians.

SYNOPSIS, The epistle may be divided into six parts.

PART I.

Ch. 1.

(1) The Apostolic greeting and commendation # Col 1:1-8

(2) The prayer for the church.

(a) That it might be filled with wisdom, fruitful in good works, and strengthened with divine power # Col 1:9-11

(b) Thanksgiving for the spiritual inheritance, the great deliverance, and redemption from sins # Col 1:12-14

PART II. The Doctrinal Section. Main Theme, The glory of the person and the Work of Christ.

Ch. 1.

(1) His glorious preëminence.

(a) As the image of God # Col 1:15

(b) The creator of all things # Col 1:16

(c) His preexistence # Col 1:17

(d) His head-ship of the church # Col 1:18

(e) His divine fullness # Col 1:19

(f) His reconciling work # Col 1:20-23

(g) The mystery of his indwelling in believers proclaimed in Paul's ministry # Col 1:24-29

Ch. 2.

(2) Paul's anxiety concerning the state of the church.

(a) That the members might be united together in love, having a fuller understanding of the spiritual mysteries of the Father and of Christ # Col 2:1-3

(b) He warns against false doctrines and enjoins steadfast faith in Christ # Col 2:4-7

PART III. Doctrinal and Polemical Section.

Ch. 2.

(1) The peril of worldly philosophy and legalism # Col 2:8

(2) The transcendent glory of Christ and the power of his spiritual ordinances, contrasted with those of the ceremonial system # Col 2:4-13

(3) The liberating power of the cross of Christ in abolishing the old ceremonialism # Col 2:14-17

(4) Warnings concerning angel worship, and false mysticism which dishonor Christ as the Head of the church # Col 2:18,19

(5) Warnings against ceremonialism and asceticism # Col 2:20-23

PART IV. The Hortatory Section.

Ch. 3. Exhortations.

(1) To heavenly aspirations and affections # Col 3:1-4

(2) To the subjugation of fleshly lusts and desires # Col 3:5-7

(3) To lay aside the evil passions and vices, and to put on the Christian graces and virtues # Col 3:8-14

(4) To be ruled by the spirit of peace, unity and thankfulness # Col 3:15

(5) To seek an infilling of the truth so as to be mutually helpful in instruction and warning and praise; doing all things in the name of Christ # Col 3:16,17

PART V. The Family Section.

Chs. 3, 4. The duties of the various members of the Christian household: wives, husbands, children, fathers, servants, masters # Col 3:18 - 4:1

PART VI. The Fellowship Section.

Ch. 4.

(1) Paul's request for prayer and advice concerning social conduct # Col 4:3-6

(2) Closing salutations and commendations of workers # Col 4:7-18

1 THESSALONIANS

WRITER, The Apostle Paul.

DATE. Time and place is uncertain. It is generally thought that this was the earliest of Paul's epistles and was probably written from Corinth between 49 and 54 A.D.

THE CHURCH, was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey. He met with violent opposition in his work, but he succeeded in winning some Jews and a multitude of Greeks which enabled him to establish a faithful church. SEE # Ac 17:1-10

HISTORICAL OCCASION. Paul had sent Timothy to encourage and strengthen the church. On his return, the report that he gave apparently inspired the apostle to write the epistle.
1Th 3:6

MAIN THEMES. This is one of the most personal of all of Paul's epistles. It is not so doctrinal or polemical as some of the others. The body of the epistle consists chiefly of commendations, personal reminiscences, counsels, and exhortations. The central truth which is especially emphasized, is the future hope of the advent of Christ.

SYNOPSIS. The epistle made be divided into five parts.

PART I. The Commendatory Section.

Ch. 1.

(1) The salutation # 1Th 1:1

(2) The commendation of the church

For its faith and loving service # 1Th 1:2-4

for spiritual receptivity # 1Th 1:5-6

for exemplary influence # 1Th 1:7-8

for abandonment of idolatry and for spiritual hope # 1Th 1:9,10

PART II. The Reminiscence Section.

Paul reminds them of the characteristics of his ministry.

Ch. 2.

(1) As courageous, sincere, God-fearing, truthful and unselfish # 1Th 2:2-5

(2) As humble, gentle, affectionate, industrious, irreproachable, and paternal # 1Th 2:6-12

(3) He refers to the teachableness and sufferings of the church # 1Th 2:13,14

(4) References to the apostle's desire to visit the church, and his glorying in them as his crown of rejoicing # 1Th 2:17-20

PART III. The messenger Section.

Ch. 3.

(1) The sending of Timothy to strengthen the church # 1Th 3:1-5

(2) The favourable report of his messenger and its comforting and joyful result # 1Th 3:6-9

(3) Paul's earnest prayer that he might visit the church and aid them in their spiritual development # 1Th 3:10-13

PART IV. The Hortatory Section.

Ch. 4.

(1) Exhortations concerning personal and social purity # 1Th 4:1-8

(2) Exhortations in respect to brotherly love and industry # 1Th 4:9-12

PART V. The Future Hope Section.

Ch. 4. The Lord's Coming.

(1) The comforting hope for the bereaved # 1Th 4:13,14

(2) The order of the resurrections # 1Th 4:15

(3) The manner, and accompanying events of Christ's appearance # 1Th 4:16-18

Ch. 5.

(4) The time of the Advent unknown # 1Th 5:1,2

(5) Unexpected by unbelievers # 1Th 5:3

(6) Children of the light should be ready for # 1Th 5:4-8

(7) Safety of believers at # 1Th 5:9-11

PART VI. The Duty Section.

(1) Exhortations concerning the practical duties of the Christian life # 1Th 5:12-22

(2) The closing charge and benediction # 1Th 5:23-28

CHOICE SELECTIONS.

The second Coming of Christ. # 1Th 4:13 - 5:11

Practical duties # 1Th 5:12-22

This is a companion passage to the 12th chapter of Romans.# Ro 12:1

2 THESSALONIANS

A SEQUEL TO I THESSALONIANS

WRITER, The apostle Paul.

DATE. Probably written from Corinth shortly after the first epistle.

HISTORICAL OCCASION. It is apparent that certain expressions in Paul's first epistle to this church, had been misinterpreted. When he had referred to the uncertainty of the time of Christ's coming, his words had been understood as teaching that the day of the Lord was just at hand.
2Th 2:2

This resulted in undue excitement. The converts were "Shaken in mind." They were entertaining wrong views as to the nearness of the Lord's advent which unsettled their lives. # 2Th 2:2

Some have thought from the wording of verses two and three, of chapter two, that the church had received a forged letter which had added fuel to the fire. This is purely conjectural. There is not much doubt that the epistle was the outcome of an excited state of the church.

CENTRAL THEME. The Second Coming of Christ.

KEY TEXT: # 2Th 3:5

SYNOPSIS, The epistle may be divided into three parts.

PART I. Ch. 1

(1) The salutation and thanksgiving # 2Th 1:1-3

- (2) (a) Words of comfort to the church in persecution # 2Th 1:4-6
(b) A sharp contrast is drawn between the glorious destiny of believers at the advent of Christ, and the fate of the impenitent wicked # 2Th 1:7-12

PART II. Ch. 2

(1) Warnings against unrest caused by wrong views concerning The Lord's speedy coming
2Th 2:1,2

- (2) The announcement of events that will occur prior to the advent.
(a) A coming apostasy # 2Th 2:3
(b) The self-exaltation of the man of sin # 2Th 2:3,4
(c) In due time the lawless one will be revealed, accompanied by signs and lying wonders
2Th 2:5-9
(d) The satanic personage shall be destroyed at the coming of Christ # 2Th 2:8
(e) A mighty delusion shall deceive the wicked # 2Th 2:10-12

(3) An affectionate appeal to believers who had enjoyed the great privileges of the gospel, to hold fast to sound doctrine # 2Th 2:13-15

(4) A comforting benediction # 2Th 2:16,17

PART III. Ch. 3.

(1) The apostle's confidence in the church.

(a) He requests their prayers # 2Th 3:1,2

(b) He believes they will be kept from evil and be obedient to his commands # 2Th 3:3,4

(c) He enjoins upon them patient waiting for the advent of Christ and separation from disorderly brethren # 2Th 3:5,6

(2) The apostolic example

(a) Of orderly living # 2Th 3:7

(b) Of voluntary self-support, for the sake of a good influence # 2Th 3:8,9

(c) Of insistence upon industry on the part of believers # 2Th 3:10

(3) Concluding admonitions.

(a) Concerning idlers and busybodies # 2Th 3:11,12

(b) Respecting persevering labour, and recalcitrant # 2Th 3:13,14

(4) The benediction and salutation # 2Th 3:16-18

1 TIMOTHY

WRITER, The Apostle Paul.

DATE, uncertain.

MAIN THEMES. Counsels and Exhortations to a Young Pastor respecting his Personal Conduct and Ministerial Work.

KEY TEXT

1Ti 3:15

SYNOPSIS.

PART I. Mainly Doctrinal Counsels and Personal Experiences.

Ch. 1.

(1) Salutation # 1Ti 1:1,2

(2) Counsels concerning dealing with legalistic teachers

(a) Who emphasize non-essentials rather than real godliness; which, instead of building up character, stir up strife # 1Ti 3-6

(b) Who desire to be teachers of the law without understanding its significance # 1Ti 7-11

(3) Paul's experience.

(a) His call to the ministry while in active opposition to the gospel # 1Ti 1:12,13

(b) His acknowledgment of divine grace and confession of unworthiness # 1Ti 1:14,15

(c) Christ's purpose in using him as a pattern of longsuffering # 1Ti 1:16

(4) The first solemn charge to Timothy # 1Ti 1:18-20

PART II. Prayer and Counsels to Men and Women.

Ch. 2.

(1) Intercessory prayer for all men # 1Ti 2:1-4

(2) Christ the mediator # 1Ti 2:5,6

(3) Paul the apostle to the Gentiles # 1Ti 2:7

(4) The duties of men and women # 1Ti 2:8-15

PART III. Spiritual Oversight. The qualifications of bishops and deacons.

Ch. 3.

(1) The qualifications of a bishop:

(a) Personal character and habits # 1Ti 3:2,3

(b) Attitude toward his family # 1Ti 3:4,5

- (c) Experience and good reputation # 1Ti 3:6,7
- (2) The qualifications of deacons:
 - (a) Character, habits and Christian experience # 1Ti 3:8,9
 - (b) Tested for a period # 1Ti 3:10
 - (c) Having faithful wives, and proper authority in their own homes # 1Ti 3:11,12
 - (d) The advantages of the diaconate # 1Ti 3:13
- (3) The purpose of the epistle # 1Ti 3:15
- (4) The mystery of the incarnation of Christ # 1Ti 3:16

PART IV. Predictions and Counsels.

Ch. 4.

- (1) Predictions of future apostasy and the prevalence of satanic doctrines which would undermine the home and result in a godless asceticism # 1Ti 4:1-4
- (2) Counsels as to teaching, ministerial conduct, example, etc.
 - (a) The marks of a good minister of Christ # 1Ti 4:6
 - (b) The preëminence of godliness # 1Ti 4:7,8
 - (c) The importance of a godly example # 1Ti 4:12
 - (d) The duty of diligence in reading and teaching, and the exercise of personal gifts # 1Ti 4:13,14
 - (e) The importance of meditation and entire consecration, coupled with watchfulness over personal conduct, for the sake of a saving influence # 1Ti 4:15,16

PART V. Ministerial Administration, counsels concerning.

Ch. 5.

- (1) Courtesy to old and young # 1Ti 5:1,2
- (2) The attitude of the church toward widows # 1Ti 5:3-16
NOTE: This passage should be studied with a knowledge of the times and social conditions.
- (3) The duty to the church elders # 1Ti 5:17-20
- (4) The duty of impartial and deliberate action # 1Ti 5:21,22
- (5) Parenthesis, advice relating to personal matters # 1Ti 5:23-25

Ch. 6.

- (6) Duties of servants
1Ti 6:1,2
- (7) Duty of separation from contentious teachers # 1Ti 6:3-5
- (8) The blessings of contentment # 1Ti 6:6-8

(9) The peril of riches, and the duty of the minister to avoid covetousness; to seek Christian virtues, and "fight the good fight of faith" # 1Ti 6:9-12

(10) A solemn charge to the young pastor to keep his doctrine pure until the appearing of the King of kings # 1Ti 6:13-16

(11) An exhortation to warn the rich against pride and self-confidence, and to urge them to benevolence and heavenly investments # 1Ti 6:17-19

(12) Final charge to fidelity and avoidance of false doctrine # 1Ti 6:20,21

2 TIMOTHY

WRITER, The Apostle Paul.

PLACE AND DATE. Probably written from Rome between 65 and 67 A.D. It contains the last recorded words of the Apostle.

PURPOSE.

(1) General, to encourage and instruct a young pastor in his ministerial work.

(2) Special, to request Timothy, his son in the gospel, to hasten to Rome in order that he might have the comfort of his companionship # 2Ti 1:4 4:9,21

HISTORICAL OCCASION. It is generally believed that Paul suffered two imprisonments at Rome, and that it was during the second that this epistle was written. Formerly he had had a certain degree of liberty and lived in his own hired house. # Ac 28:30

At that time he had been accessible to his friends, but now he is in close confinement and Onesiphorus had difficulty in finding him, # 2Ti 1:17 He had been deserted by many of his former associates, # 2Ti 1:15 and was expecting very soon to be led out to execution. # 2Ti 4:6 There is a pathetic strain of loneliness running through the epistle, and it is not surprising that he was anxious to see his beloved Timothy.

PECULIARITIES OF THE EPISTLE.

Both epistles to Timothy contain urgent exhortations. It has been surmised that Timothy was not robust. See # 1Ti 5:23

Perhaps he was temperamentally timid # 2Ti 1:6,7

Hence the word "ashamed" appears prominently in the epistle. He was urged not to be ashamed of HIS TESTIMONY, HIS PRISONER FRIEND # 2Ti 1:8

or his WORKMANSHIP # 2Ti 2:15

He was exhorted to regard himself as a soldier in the midst of a hard campaign # 2Ti 2:3,4

THE EPISTLE MAY BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR PARTS, the chapters furnishing the natural divisions.

SYNOPSIS.

PART I. Personal Greetings, Exhortations and Experiences.

Ch. 1.

(1) The affectionate greeting # 2Ti 1:1-4

(2) A reminder to Timothy of his godly ancestry, and an exhortation to earnestness and courage # 2Ti 1:5-8

(3) A reference to the plan of salvation through Christ # 2Ti 1:9,10

(4) Personal allusions to the writer's own call to the work, and his unswerving confidence in the Lord # 2Ti 1:11,12

(5) A second exhortation # 2Ti 1:13,14

(6) A reference to the disloyalty of the churches in Asia, and a commendation of the constancy of Onesiphorus # 2Ti 1:15-18

PART II. Chiefly Counsels to the Young Servant of the Lord.

Ch. 2.

(1) As a Spiritual Soldier, Athlete and Husbandman.

(a) To be strong in divine grace and select faithful helpers # 2Ti 2:1,2

(b) To manifest soldierly qualities of endurance and separation from worldly entanglements # 2Ti 2:3,4

(c) As a spiritual athlete to keep the rules of the game # 2Ti 2:5

(d) As a husbandman expecting fruits # 2Ti 2:6

(2) Truths to be kept in mind:

(a) The resurrection of Christ, the preaching of which had led to Paul's imprisonment # 2Ti 2:7-9

(b) Suffering for the church, and dying with Christ, lead to eternal life and spiritual honor # 2Ti 2:9-12

(3) Counsels in respect to dealing with heresy and religious controversy.

(a) By earnest admonitions to the contentious # 2Ti 2:14

(b) By seeking to become a skillful expositor of the truth # 2Ti 2:15

(c) By shunning religious vagaries and strange doctrines which eat into spiritual life and overthrow faith # 2Ti 2:16-18

(d) By remembering the strength of divine foundations and that Christians must separate themselves from evil # 2Ti 2:19

(e) By remembering that the church, like a great house, has some vessels of honor and some of dishonor, and it should be the ambition of all to be vessels "meet for the Master's use" # 2Ti 2:20,21

(4) Counsels respecting personal desires and dealing with strife.

(a) The importance of personal purity and spiritual ambitions # 2Ti 2:22

(b) The necessity of avoiding foolish questions and strife, by patient treatment of opposers, with the hope that they will repent # 2Ti 2:23-26

PART III. Chiefly Predictions of Apostasy, and Social Corruption, coupled with an exhortation to steadfastness.

Ch. 3.

(1) The various evil characteristics of men in the last days, who under the guise of religion will practice sensuality # 2Ti 3:1-6

Their stupidity and folly will one day be manifest to all men # 2Ti 3:7-9

(2) Parenthesis, references to persecution # 2Ti 3:11,12

(3) A prediction of the rising tide of sin # 2Ti 3:13

(4) An appeal to Timothy to be steadfast in view of his spiritual opportunities and early training in the Scriptures # 2Ti 3:14,15

(5) The power of the inspired Word of God to equip and perfect the Christian worker for his task # 2Ti 3:16,17

PART IV. A Solemn Charge, a Victorious End, a Sad Desertion, a Pathetic Appeal, a Perfect Confidence.

Ch. 4.

(1) The Solemn Charge:

(a) Concerning faithfulness in delivering the message # 2Ti 4:1,2

(b) Predictions of a time when men would despise the truth, and seek teachers who would pander to their own lusts # 2Ti 4:3,4

(c) The exhortation to an earnest and faithful ministry # 2Ti 4:5

(2) The close of Paul's Career.

(a) It ends in the spirit of victory # 2Ti 4:6-8

(b) In perfect confidence in the Lord # 2Ti 4:17,18

(3) The Need of Companionship, and some things to relieve the hardships of imprisonment

(a) The loneliness caused by the departure of friends and the desertion of inconstant associates # 2Ti 4:10-12,16

(b) Some comforts needed to cheer the prison life # 2Ti 4:13

(c) Timothy urged to come quickly # 2Ti 4:9,21

(d) Final greetings and benediction # 2Ti 4:19-22

TITUS

WRITER, The apostle Paul.

FACTS CONCERNING TITUS.

He was a gentile # Ga 2:3

a beloved friend and helper of Paul # 2Co 2:13 7:6,13 8:23

A messenger of the church at Corinth # 2Co 8:16-18

He was thoroughly trustworthy and unselfish # 2Co 12:18

A companion of Paul and Barnabas on a journey to Jerusalem # Ga 2:1

He was left in Crete by Paul to superintend the churches # Tit 1:5

He was in Rome with Paul during the latter's imprisonment # 2Ti 4:10

He seems to have been a more sturdy man than Timothy and probably more mature.

MAIN THEME. Counsels and Exhortations relating to Ministerial Duties and Doctrines, with special emphasis laid upon the maintenance of good works.

KEY VERSES

Tit 1:5 3:8

EMPHATIC THOUGHT. The emphasis upon good works is seen in, # Tit 1:16 2:7,14 3:1,8,14

This is a sufficient answer to those who claim that there is a conflict of doctrine between Paul's epistles and that of James. The character of the Cretians was such that Paul thought it necessary to advise their minister to insist upon consistent Christian living. Nevertheless this epistle does not teach salvation by works # Tit 3:5

SYNOPSIS

PART I. Chiefly Instructions concerning Church Organization and Discipline.

Ch. 1.

(1) The salutation and reference to the glorious hope of the gospel # Tit 1:1-4

(2) The purpose of the assignment of Titus to Crete # Tit 1:5

(3) Church order and discipline

(a) The character and qualifications of elders and bishops # Tit 1:6-9

(b) The duty of suppressing mercenary teachers # Tit 1:10,11

(c) The evil character of the Cretians demanding stern treatment and steadfast adherence to the truth # Tit 1:12-14

(d) Inward defilement and hypocrisy condemned # Tit 1:15,16

PART II. Sound Doctrine and Good Works.

Ch. 2.

(1) Apostolic Instructions adapted for various classes.

(a) Respecting the spirit and behaviour of aged men and women # Tit 2:2,3

(b) Teachings adapted to young men and women # Tit 2:4-6

(c) Exhortation to Titus concerning his personal example # Tit 2:7,8

(d) The duties of servants # Tit 2:9,10

(2) The Universal Opportunity of salvation demands

(a) Self-denial and godliness in this world # Tit 2:11,12

(b) The looking for the fulfillment of the blessed hope of Christ's coming # Tit 2:13

(c) The sacrifice of Christ constrains his people to holy living # Tit 2:14

(3) The importance of Enforcing these truths # Tit 2:15

PART III. Chiefly Additional Instructions respecting the Maintenance of the Doctrine of Good Works, and the Divine Method of Salvation.

Ch. 3.

(1) Social obligations and duties # Tit 3:1,2

(2) The gracious method of salvation.

(a) The universality of sin # Tit 3:3

(b) Good works not the basis of salvation, but cleansing grace through Christ # Tit 3:4-7

(3) The importance of good works should be constantly taught # Tit 3:8

(4) The treatment of foolish questions and heresy # Tit 3:9-11

(5) Closing words and benediction # Tit 3:12-15

CHOICE SELECTIONS.

The blessed hope # Tit 2:11-14

Saved by grace # Tit 3:4-7

PHILEMON

A private letter of intercession written by Paul probably from Rome, and sent to Philemon at Colosse # Col 4:7-9

FACTS CONCERNING PHILEMON. He was apparently a member of the church at Colosse, which seems to have held its assemblies in his house # Phm 2

His benevolence, # Phm 5-7

and Paul's request for him to prepare a lodging, # Phm 22

indicate that he was a man of some means. As Paul had never been in Colosse # Col 2:1

Philemon must have met him elsewhere, possibly in Ephesus, which was not far away. It would seem that he owed his conversion to the apostle # Phm 19

THE STORY OF ONESIMUS. He was a runaway slave of Philemon. It is inferred that he robbed his master and fled to Rome # Phm 18

Here he came under the influence of Paul and was converted # Phm 10

He became a devoted disciple of Christ # Col 4:9

Paul would have chosen to have detained him in Rome as a helper, # Phm 13

but not having the consent of Philemon, he felt it was his duty to send the slave back to his master. So the apostle writes this beautiful letter of intercession, pleading with Philemon to forgive and restore Onesimus to favour. # Phm 14

SYNOPSIS.

- (1) The cordial and commendatory greeting # Phm 1-7
- (2) The testimonial concerning the changed character of Onesimus # Phm 10,11
- (3) The tender appeal for forgiveness of the returning slave # Phm 12-19
- (4) Farewell salutations and benediction # Phm 20-25

SPIRITUAL LESSONS from Paul's example.

- (1) The importance of sympathy for the lowly
- (2) The duty of obedience to the law on the part of converts: Onesimus must return to his master.
- (3) Christian brotherhood obliterates all social and class distinctions.

HEBREWS

AUTHORSHIP AND DATE UNCERTAIN.

The epistle is anonymous and has been ascribed to Paul, Barnabas, Luke, Apollos and various other persons. The most that can be said is that the weight of opinion seems to favour the Pauline authorship.

PURPOSE. The epistle was apparently written primarily to Hebrew Christians. These converts were in constant danger of relapsing into Judaism, or at least of attaching too much importance to ceremonial observances. The chief doctrinal purpose of the writer was to show the transcendent glory of the Christian dispensation, as compared with that of the Old Testament.

KEY WORD, "Better." By following this word the reader will discover the main current of thought.

Other recurrent words and phrases: "Sat down," referring to Christ's finished work # Heb 1:3, 10:12 12:2

"Heavenly," calling # Heb 3:1
priest # Heb 4:14
gift # Heb 6:4
substance # Heb 10:34
country # Heb 11:16
city # Heb 12:22

"Let Us," a series of eleven exhortations:

1. "Fear" # Heb 4:1
2. "Labor" # Heb 4:11
3. "Come boldly to the throne of grace" # Heb 4:16
4. "Go on" # Heb 6:1
5. "Draw near" # Heb 10:22
6. "Hold fast" # Heb 10:23
7. "Consider one another" # Heb 10:24
8. "Lay aside every weight and run with patience" # Heb 12:1
9. "Have grace" # Heb 12:28
10. "Go forth" # Heb 13:13
11. "Offer the sacrifice of praise" # Heb 13:15

The epistle may be divided into two parts. Part I, chiefly doctrinal; Part II, chiefly practical.

SYNOPSIS.

PART I.

SECTION I. THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

Ch. 1.

(1) Over the prophets, because of his divine glory # Heb 1:1-3

(2) Over the angels.

(a) Having a better name # Heb 1:4

(b) Acknowledged as the only begotten son by the Father # Heb 1:5

(c) Angels commanded to worship him # Heb 1:6

(d) Exalted above the angels to the eternal throne at the right hand of God # Heb 1:8-14

Ch. 2.

(e) His message is transcendent in importance, and it is perilous to disregard it # Heb 2:1-4

(f) Jesus made a little lower than the angels, dies for mankind that he may bring many sons into his own glory with the Father, and destroy him who had the power of death # Heb 2:9-14

SECTION II. THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST'S PRIESTHOOD

Ch. 2. (cont.)

(1) He assumed human nature.

(a) Preparatory for his work of reconciliation # Heb 2:16,17

(b) His temptation prepared him to succour the tempted # Heb 2:18

Ch. 3.

(2) An appeal to consider Christ's priesthood # Heb 3:1

(3) His preëminence over Moses as a servant, Christ being a son # Heb 3:2-6

(4) Parenthesis, The failure of Israel.

(a) To enter in to the Canaan-rest # Heb 3:7-11

(b) They were excluded because of unbelief # Heb 3:12-19

Ch. 4.

(c) A warning to the church not to follow the example of unbelieving Israel, but to enter into the rest of faith # Heb 4:1-8

(d) The believer rests in the work of redemption and ceases trusting in his own works # Heb 4:9-11

(e) The power of The Word of God # Heb 4:12,13

The Subject of the Priesthood of Christ, resumed.

(1) The sympathetic priesthood of Christ as an encouragement to steadfastness and prayer # Heb 4:14-16

Ch. 5.

(2) The high priest, his office and work:

(a) Taken from among men # Heb 5:1

(b) Sympathetic because of his own weaknesses # Heb 5:2

(c) Presents an offering for himself, as well as for the people # Heb 5:3

(d) Divinely chosen # Heb 5:4

(3) Characteristics of Christ's priesthood.

- (a) Divinely chosen after a new order # Heb 5:5,6
- (b) He offered up earnest prayers for deliverance in a submissive spirit # Heb 5:7,8
- (c) Became author of eternal salvation # Heb 5:9,10

(4) Parenthetical rebuke, appeal, warning, and commendation.

- (d) Rebuke, for dullness and immaturity # Heb 5:11-14

Ch. 6.

- (e) An appeal for progress in doctrinal truth # Heb 6:1-3
- (f) A warning respecting those who, having enjoyed the higher privileges of the new dispensation, turn away from Christ # Heb 6:4-8
- (g) A commendation of the church, and a confidence that believers will continue faithful and inherit the promises # Heb 6:9-12

The subject of Christ's priesthood again resumed.

(5) The certainty of the fulfillment of the divine promises.

- (a) Illustrated in the life of Abraham # Heb 6:13-15
- (b) Confirmed by an oath # Heb 6:16,17
- (c) Like an anchor to the soul # Heb 6:18,19
- (d) Assured by our heavenly high priest # Heb 6:20

Ch. 7.

(6) The priesthood of Melchisedec a type of Christ's.

- (a) Having a great name and belonging to an eternal order # Heb 7:1-3
- (b) Honored with tithes by Abraham, and superior to the Aaronic priesthood # Heb 7:4-10

(7) The summary of the preeminent qualities of Christ's priesthood:

- (a) Like that of Melchisedec, it belonged to an eternal order, and was confirmed by a divine oath # Heb 7:11-22
- (b) Is unchangeable and infinite in power # Heb 7:23-25
- (c) Was sinless and perfect, and made one complete sacrifice # Heb 7:26-28

Ch. 8.

- (d) is now exercised in the heavenly sanctuary # Heb 8:1-5
- (e) Mediates through a better covenant # Heb 8:6-13

Ch. 9.

- (f) The ancient rites and ceremonies, and the sacrifices performed by the priests were only types # Heb 9:1-10
- (g) The redemptive work of Christ and his blood cleansing from sin, are sublime realities # Heb 9:11-15
- (h) The institutes of the old covenant prefigured the perfect sacrificial work of Christ in the new # Heb 9:16-28

Ch. 10.

- (i) The oft-repeated Jewish sacrifices were not effectual to take away sin. While Christ, by

his one great sacrifice, completed the redemptive work for mankind, and "sat down at the right hand of God," awaiting the consummation of the divine plan. # Heb 10:1-18

PART II. CHIEFLY PRACTICAL TEACHINGS AND EXHORTATIONS.

(1) The privilege of entering into the divine presence through the sacrifice and priesthood of Christ # Heb 10:19-21

(2) Exhortations.

(a) To draw near in worship with full assurance, having prepared the heart # Heb 10:22

(b) To steadfastness, mutual encouragement, and faithful attendance upon the means of grace # Heb 10:23-25

(3) Warnings respecting the perils of backsliding.

(a) The penalty visited upon despisers, under the Mosaic law # Heb 10:26-28

(b) The worse fate of those who dishonour Christ's sacrifice and the gracious spirit of God # Heb 10:29-31

(4) A reminder to the Hebrew believers, of their previous fortitude in enduring afflictions and an exhortation to patience and perseverance # Heb 10:32-39

Ch.11.

(5) A roll call of the heroes and heroines of faith.

(a) the sphere of faith # Heb 11:1-3

(b) Notable examples of faith:

Abel # Heb 11:4

Enoch # Heb 11:5,6

Noah # Heb 11:7

Abraham and Sarah # Heb 11:8-19

Isaac, Jacob and Joseph # Heb 11:20-22

Moses and his parents # Heb 11:23-29

Joshua and Israel # Heb 11:30

Rahab # Heb 11:31

Other worthies # Heb 11:32-40

Ch. 12.

(6) Spiritual athletics, the Christian race.

(a) The audience, the preparation, and how to run # Heb 12:1

(b) Eyes upon the Master at the goal, remembering his victory # Heb 12:2

(c) The inspiration when weary # Heb 12:3,4

(d) The value of hardship and correction in training # Heb 12:5-10

(e) The good results of hardship and chastening # Heb 12:11

(f) An exhortation to sturdiness and straightforwardness # Heb 12:12,13

(7) Exhortations respecting peaceableness, purity, and watchfulness against evil influences # Heb 12:14,15

(8) Warnings concerning selling out life's blessings # Heb 12:16,17

(9) A contrast between Mount Sinai of the Old Testament and Mount Sion of the New.

- (a) Mount Sinai with its awful manifestations of divine power # Heb 12:18-21
- (b) Mount Sion with the glorious company within the heavenly Jerusalem # Heb 12:22-24

(10) Solemn warning respecting the heeding of the heavenly message in regard to the mutability of earthly things and the permanence of God's kingdom # Heb 12:25-28

Ch. 13.

(1) Final exhortations respecting Christian Duties.

- (a) Social duties # Heb 13:1-6
- (b) Duty to religious leaders # Heb 13:7
- (c) An unchangeable Christ should inspire steadfastness in Christian doctrine # Heb 13:8,9
- (d) The duty of Christian separation # Heb 13:10-14
- (e) The duty of thanksgiving, benevolence and obedience to rulers # Heb 13:15-17

(2) Concluding Words

- (a) A request for prayers, and a blessing pronounced # Heb 13:18-21
- (b) Final salutation and benediction # Heb 13:22-25

CHOICE SELECTIONS.

Suffering, a preparation for priesthood # Heb 2:9-18

The rest of faith # Heb 4:1-11

Spiritual maturity # Heb 5:12 - 6:2

The new covenant # Heb 8:8-13

"The Faith Chapter"--The roll call of heroes, ch. 11 # Heb 11:1

The chapter on "Spiritual Athletics and the Christian Race." Hardship, correction and chastening, as a preparation for victory. # Heb 12:1-13

JAMES

AUTHORSHIP UNCERTAIN.

There are three prominent persons named James, in the New Testament. It is quite generally agreed that James, called by Paul "the Lord's brother" was the writer of the epistle.

Gal 1:19

TO WHOM ADDRESSED. Apparently to the Jewish converts who lived outside the Holy Land; possibly also to the devout Jews of the dispersion # Jas 1:1

MAIN THEME, Practical Religion, manifesting itself in good works, contrasted with mere Profession of Faith.

KEY TEXTS

Jas 1:27 2:26

IMAGINARY DOCTRINAL CONFLICT BETWEEN PAUL AND JAMES.

Some have seen a conflict of doctrine between the teachings of this epistle and that of Romans. This is purely imaginary. Paul, harassed by Judaistic teachers in the churches, naturally laid great stress upon JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH apart from trust in ceremonial observances. Nevertheless, when writing to Titus, he made the IMPORTANCE OF GOOD WORKS the main subject of his epistle, thus showing his perfect harmony with the teachings of James. It is evident that the latter, when he seems to depreciate faith, is referring to mere intellectual assent to truth, and not to "saving faith" spoken of by Paul.

SYNOPSIS. This epistle does not easily lend itself to analysis, but most of the material may be arranged under two headings, True and False Religion.

PART I. The Marks of True Religion.

Ch. 1.

(1) Joy and patience in the midst of trials # Jas 1:2-4

(2) Unwavering faith and singleness of mind # Jas 1:5-8

(3) Acceptance of the providential allotments of life # Jas 1:9-11

(4) The endurance of temptation # Jas 1:12

(5) The recognition of the sources of temptation and the results of yielding thereto # Jas 1:13-15

(6) The recognition of the divine source of all blessings # Jas 1:16-18

(7) Spiritual hearing, deliberation in speech, and patience under provocation # Jas 1:19,20

(8) Forsaking all evil, and the meek reception of saving truth # Jas 1:21

(9) Searching after the truth and practising it # Jas 1:25

(10) Practical philanthropy and purity # Jas 1:27

Ch. 2.

(11) Good works

(a) As a demonstration of faith # Jas 1:18

(b) Cooperating with, and perfecting faith # Jas 1:21-25

Ch. 3.

(12) Heavenly wisdom # Jas 2:17,18

PART II. The marks of False Profession.

Ch 1.

(1) Careless and forgetful hearing of The Word # Jas 1:22-24

(2) The semblance of religion, accompanied by the unbridled tongue # Jas 1:26

Ch. 2.

(3) Respect of persons; honouring the rich and despising the poor # Jas 2:1-9

(4) Partial obedience to the law # Jas 2:10-12

(5) Unmercifulness # Jas 2:13

(6) Mere profession of faith unaccompanied by acts of mercy and help # Jas 2:14-16

(7) Inactive faith # Jas 2:17,18

(8) Intellectual assent to truth, without change of character # Jas 2:19,20

Ch. 3.

(9) The unbridled tongue, destructive in its influence # Jas 3:1-8

(10) Blessings and cursings proceeding from the same mouth # Jas 3:9-12

(11) Envy, strife and satanic wisdom # Jas 3:14-16

Ch. 4.

(12) Unrest and unholy passions # Jas 4:1,2

(13) Unanswered prayer and worldliness # Jas 4:3,4

(14) Pride, stubbornest, impurity, double-mindedness, and impenitence # Jas 4:5-9

(15) Evil speaking and uncharitable judgments # Jas 4:11,12

(16) Presumption in arranging future business enterprises # Jas 4:13-16

(17) Neglect of known duty # Jas 4:17

PART III. Warnings, Exhortations, and Instructions.

Ch. 5.

(1) Warnings to the rich.

- (a) Concerning future misery # Jas 5:1,2
- (b) Respecting hoarded wealth, and withholding the wages of the poor # Jas 5:3,4
- (c) Concerning pleasure seeking and persecution of the righteous # Jas 5:5,6

(2) Exhortations in view of the coming of the Lord.

- (a) To be patient and steadfast, refraining from murmuring against one another # Jas 5:7-10
- (b) To follow the example of the prophets and Job, in patient endurance # Jas 5:10,11
- (c) To refrain entirely from oaths # Jas 5:12

(3) Instructions respecting prayer, confession of faults, and soul-winning.

- (a) Prayer in time of trouble and for the sick # Jas 5:13-15
- (b) The confession of faults and intercessory prayer # Jas 5:16
- (c) Effectual prayer illustrated by Elijah # Jas 5:16-18
- (d) The duty of soul-winning # Jas 5:19,20

1 PETER

WRITER, The apostle Peter, It was not the original Simon Peter, impulsive and full of weaknesses, whom Christ called, "Simon." # Mk 14:37 Lu 22:31 Joh 21:15-17

It was the Peter Christ prophesied should become a rock # Joh 1:42

The same man chastened by years of suffering and trial, and strengthened by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, The epistle evidently belongs to the later period of his life.

DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING UNCERTAIN.

The Babylon referred to, # 1Pe 5:13

may or may not have been the city on the Euphrates river. Many think it was Rome, figuratively called Babylon.

TO WHOM ADDRESSED. To the elect scattered throughout Asia Minor. Probably to the whole body of Christians in that region, both Jew and Gentile converts. To the churches largely founded by Paul, Peter sends this spiritual message of encouragement, instruction and admonition.

PURPOSE. In writing this epistle, Peter obeyed two specific commands which Jesus had given him.

(1) To encourage and strengthen the brethren # Lu 22:32

(2) To feed the flock of God # Joh 21:15-17

KEY WORD, "Suffering," it occurs fifteen, or more times in the epistle.

KEY TEXT

1Pe 4:1

CENTRAL THEME, Victory over Suffering as Exemplified in the Life of Christ.

SYNOPSIS.

Salutation # 1Pe 1:1,2

PART I. The Glorious Salvation.

Ch. 1.

(1) A living hope centering in the resurrection of Christ # 1Pe 1:3

(2) An incorruptible and fadeless inheritance # 1Pe 1:4

(3) A Divine power by which saints are kept victorious in the midst of suffering.

(a) Through faith # 1Pe 1:5

(b) Rejoicing in trials # 1Pe 1:6

(c) Coming forth as gold refined in the fire, at Christ's appearing # 1Pe 1:7

(d) In love and joy unspeakable # 1Pe 1:8

(4) The Mysterious Plan.

- (a) Concerning which the prophets have inquired, foretelling Christ's sufferings and the glory that should be revealed in the latter times: a wonder to angels # 1Pe 1:10-12
- (b) It calls for soberness, obedience, unworldliness, purity, and godly reverence, on the part of believers # 1Pe 1:13-17
- (c) The infinite cost of # 1Pe 1:18,19
- (d) Foreordained before the foundation of the world # 1Pe 1:20,21

PART II. The Believer's Life, in view of the Great Salvation.

Ch. 1. (cont.)

(1) To be purified and regenerated through the agency of the eternal truth, and manifesting brotherly love # 1Pe 1:22-25

Ch. 2.

(2) To be freed from all evil propensities and having an eager desire for the milk of the word by which to grow # 1Pe 2:1-3

(3) Becoming living stones in a spiritual temple, of which Christ is the "chief corner stone" # 1Pe 2:5,6

(4) Regarding Christ as precious, he who is rejected and a stumbling block to unbelievers # 1Pe 2:7,8

PART III. The Believers' Position and Duties.

Ch. 2. (cont.)

(1) Honourable and holy as the people of God, and should show forth praise unto their divine deliverer # 1Pe 2:9,10

(2) As strangers and pilgrims abstaining from sensuality # 1Pe 2:11

(3) Civil and social duties: Irreproachable conduct before the world, obedience to the powers that be, thus silencing hostile criticism # 1Pe 2:12-15

(4) General good citizenship # 1Pe 2:16,17

(5) Duties in the household of faith.

(a) Of servants to be obedient and patient, even when suffering wrongfully; thus pleasing God # 1Pe 2:18-20

(b) Considering Christ, the model sufferer and sin-bearer # 1Pe 2:21-25

Ch. 3.

(c) Of wives, to be chaste, and adorned with spiritual graces # 1Pe 3:1-6

(d) Of husbands, to be considerate of their wives # 1Pe 3:7

(e) Of all, to be compassionate, pitiful, courteous, and forgiving # 1Pe 3:8,9

(f) Remembering that long life and answers to prayer are promised to those who bridle their tongues, forsake evil, do good and live peaceably # 1Pe 3:10-13

PART IV. Instructions and Encouragements respecting Suffering.

Ch. 3. (Cont.)

(1) Suffering for righteousness' sake is a cause for rejoicing, not fear, and should be accompanied by a readiness to testify concerning Christian experience, and a good life # 1Pe 3:14-17

(2) The example of Christ's vicarious suffering, spiritual work, and his exaltation # 1Pe 3:18-22

Ch. 4.

(3) The sacrificial sufferings of Christ call for self-denial, consecration to God, and the abandonment of all former sensual excesses # 1Pe 4:1-3

(4) Parenthesis, instructions concerning the practical duties of the Christian life which glorify God # 1Pe 4:7-11

(5) Fiery trials not to be regarded as strange, but to be endured joyfully # 1Pe 4:12

(6) Suffering with and for Christ, to be endured joyfully, knowing that it leads to spiritual glory # 1Pe 4:13,14

(7) Never to suffer as evil doers, but when called to suffer as Christians, glorify God, and commit their souls into his keeping # 1Pe 4:15-19

PART V. Final Exhortations and Warnings.

Ch. 5.

(1) To the elders of the church respecting the spirit in which the flock is to be fed # 1Pe 5:1-4

(2) To both the young and old enjoining humility and trustfulness # 1Pe 5:5-7

(3) Warnings against the devil # 1Pe 5:8,9

(4) Benediction and greetings # 1Pe 5:10-14

THE CHRIST OF PETER

Source of hope # 1Pe 1:3

Sacrificial lamb # 1Pe 1:19

Chief corner stone # 1Pe 2:6

Perfect example # 1Pe 2:21

Ideal sufferer # 1Pe 2:23

Sin-bearer # 1Pe 2:24

Shepherd of souls # 1Pe 2:25

Exalted Lord # 1Pe 3:22

SEVEN PRECIOUS THINGS, In Peter's epistles:

The fiery trials # 1Pe 1:7

The blood of Christ # 1Pe 1:19

The living stone # 1Pe 2:4

Christ himself # 1Pe 2:6

The meek and quiet spirit # 1Pe 3:4

The believer's faith # 2Pe 1:1

The divine promises # 2Pe 1:4

2 PETER

WRITER, The Apostle Peter # 2Pe 1:1

DATE. Written probably between 64 and 70 A.D.

CENTRAL THEME. A warning against corrupt teachers and scoffers. In order to counteract the influence of false doctrine, great emphasis is laid upon the Word of God and the certainty of the fulfillment of the divine promises.

KEY TEXT

2Pe 3:1

A PARALLEL, Between II Timothy and II Peter.

In these epistles each of the writers refers to the fact that his end is near. # 2Ti 4:6 2Pe 1:14

Both writers predict perilous times for the church.

- (a) The prevalence of false teaching # 2Ti 3:13 4:3 2Pe 2:1
- (b) The general corruption of society # 2Ti 3:1-7 2Pe 2:10-22
- (c) The coming apostasies # 2Ti 4:3,4 2Pe 2:2,20-22

SYNOPSIS.

The Salutation # 2Pe 1:1,2

PART I. The Spiritual Life.

Ch. 1.

- (1) The Call to # 2Pe 1:3
- (2) Secured through the precious promises # 2Pe 1:4
- (3) Seven essential steps in its development and fruitfulness # 2Pe 1:5-8
- (4) Final destiny of # 2Pe 1:10,11
- (5) A farewell reminder # 2Pe 1:12-15
- (6) A glorious experience in # 2Pe 1:16-18
- (7) The divine origin and illuminating power of the Scriptures # 2Pe 1:19-21

PART II. False Teachers, their Corrupt Characters and Doctrines.

Ch. 2.

- (1) Their heresies and denial of Christ # 2Pe 2:1
- (2) Their popularity, evil influence, covetousness and hypocrisy # 2Pe 2:2,3

(3) The unsparing judgments of God visited upon the fallen angels, the ante-diluvians, and Sodom and Gomorrhah, were warnings to the ungodly # 2Pe 2:4-6

(4) The divine deliverance of the righteous and the reservation of the wicked for future judgment # 2Pe 2:7-9

(5) Further description of these apostate teachers, their characteristics, work and fate.

(a) Their sensuality, presumption, grossness and excesses # 2Pe 2:10-13

(b) Their pernicious influence and apostasy because of avarice # 2Pe 2:14-16

(c) Their emptiness, instability and future fate # 2Pe 2:17

(d) Their high-sounding words, accompanied by sensual living, promise men liberty; but result in the bondage of corruption # 2Pe 2:18,19

(e) Their apostasy and utter depravity # 2Pe 2:20-22

PART III. Predictions concerning Scoffers, the Coming of the Day of the Lord, and an Exhortation to Steadfastness.

Ch. 3.

(1) The purpose of the epistle # 2Pe 3:1,2

(2) The scoffers' challenge # 2Pe 3:3,4

(3) The ignorance of the Challengers.

(a) Concerning the Old Testament Scriptures # 2Pe 3:5,6

(b) In respect to the reservation of the present world for fiery judgment # 2Pe 3:7

(4) The explanation of the divine delays

(a) The length of God's day # 2Pe 3:8

(b) Divine mercy postpones the penalties # 2Pe 3:9

(5) The certainty of the coming of the day of the Lord # 2Pe 3:10

(6) The believer's attitude and hope # 2Pe 3:11-14

(7) A commendation of Paul's epistles and a warning against wresting the Scriptures # 2Pe 3:15,16

(8) An exhortation to steadfastness and spiritual growth # 2Pe 3:17,18

1 JOHN

WRITER, The Apostle John.

PLACE AND DATE UNCERTAIN. Probably written from Ephesus near the end of the first century.

TO WHOM ADDRESSED. Apparently to the church at large, as it has no greetings, farewells or other personal allusions; hence it belongs to the "general epistles."

It calls believers by affectionate titles, as "LITTLE CHILDREN," # 1Jo 2:1,18,28 3:7,18 4:4 5:21 and "BELOVED." # 1Jo 3:2,21 4:1,7,11

PURPOSES. The writer mentions four reasons for writing this epistle to Believers.

Viz: To add to their joy # 1Jo 1:4 to guard them against sin # 1Jo 2:1 to warn them against false teachers # 1Jo 2:26 to strengthen their faith in Christ and assure them of eternal life # 1Jo 5:13

KEY WORDS, "Fellowship," "Know," "Love."

CENTRAL THEME, God is Life, Light, and Righteous Love. His character calls for holy living and brotherly love on the part of believers.

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS.

This may be entitled, "The Epistle of Certainties."

It opens with a positive statement of experimental knowledge of Christ # 1Jo 1:1-3

It lays great stress upon the spiritual knowledge obtainable by believers. The word "Know," or its equivalent, appears over thirty times. We have selected seven important instances where the words "We know," appear.

"We Know"

(1) That a righteous life indicates regeneration # 1Jo 2:29 5:18

(2) That we shall be like Christ at his coming # 1Jo 3:2

(3) That Christ came to take away our sins # 1Jo 3:5

(4) That brotherly love indicates that we have passed from death unto life # 1Jo 3:14

(5) That he abideth in us by the witness of the Spirit # 1Jo 3:24

(6) That we have eternal life # 1Jo 5:13

(7) That our prayers are answered # 1Jo 5:15

SYNOPSIS.

PART I. God is Life and Light.

Ch. 1.

- (1) Manifested in Christ # 1Jo 1:1,2
- (2) The purpose of the epistle # 1Jo 1:3,4
- (3) Conditions of divine fellowship.
 - (a) Walking in the light # 1Jo 1:5-7
 - (b) Confession of sin # 1Jo 1:8-10
- Ch. 2.
 - (c) Acceptance of Christ as advocate and propitiatory sacrifice # 1Jo 2:1,2
- (4) Obedience the test of fellowship.
 - (a) Following Christ's example # 1Jo 2:3-6
 - (b) Obedience to the new commandment of love, is abiding in the light # 1Jo 2:7-11
- (5) A message to different classes of believers concerning spiritual knowledge and overcoming the wicked one # 1Jo 2:12-14
- (6) A warning against the love of the world # 1Jo 2:15-17
- (7) The rise of antichrists, their apostasy, and denial of Christ, is a sign of the last time # 1Jo 2:18-23
- (8) An exhortation to abide in the truth, with the assurance that the divine anointing will give all needed instruction # 1Jo 2:24-27
- (9) Abiding gives confidence, and righteousness is a mark of the new birth # 1Jo 2:28,29

PART II. God is Righteous Love.

Ch. 3.

- (1) His love manifested in the exaltation of believers to sonship # 1Jo 3:1,2
- (2) The test of sonship is righteous living # 1Jo 3:10
- (3) Brotherly love the distinguishing mark of spiritual life # 1Jo 3:11-15
- (4) Love manifests itself in sacrifice, not in words only # 1Jo 3:16-18
- (5) The outcome of love is assurance and answered prayer # 1Jo 3:19-22
- (6) Faith and brotherly love essential to fellowship with God # 1Jo 3:23,24

Ch. 4.

- (7) Parenthesis. The spirits of truth and error in the world and the methods of testing them
 - (a) Their attitude toward the incarnation of Christ determines their origin and character # 1Jo 4:1-3
 - (b) The world-marks of antichrists # 1Jo 3:4-6

- (8) The divine love.
 - (a) In the human heart indicates regeneration # 1Jo 4:7
 - (b) Manifested in the incarnation and sacrificial work of Christ # 1Jo 4:8-10
 - (c) Indwelling in believers begets brotherly love, and inspires testimony concerning Christ as Saviour of mankind # 1Jo 4:11-16
 - (d) When perfected gives assurance and casts out fear # 1Jo 4:17,18
 - (e) Kindles love to God and brotherly love # 1Jo 4:19-21

PART III. Faith and Love the Overcoming Principles in the Conflict with the World and All Evil Powers.

Ch. 5.

- (1) The love-life of obedience # 1Jo 5:1-3
- (2) The victory of faith # 1Jo 5:4,5
- (3) The divine witnesses in earth and heaven # 1Jo 5:6-9
- (4) The witness of the Spirit # 1Jo 5:10
- (5) The gift of eternal life through the Son of God # 1Jo 5:11-13
- (6) The certainty of answered prayer # 1Jo 5:14,15
- (7) Dealing with the sinful brother # 1Jo 5:16
- (8) The believer's four-fold knowledge # 1Jo 5:18-20

2 JOHN

WRITER, The Apostle John.

TO WHOM ADDRESSED, To the "Elect lady and her children." Some think this refers to a Christian matron and her family living in Ephesus, others that a church and its members are personified. If the first supposition is correct, this is the only book in the New Testament addressed to a woman.

EMPHATIC WORDS. "Love," which occurs four times, and "Truth, five times.

PURPOSE. The epistle was apparently written to warn friends against heresy and association with false teachers # 2Jo 1:7-11

SYNOPSIS.

Main theme, a discourse on truth and error.

I. Divine Truth in its relation to believers.

- (a) Unites them in fellowship # 2Jo 1:1
- (b) Eternally dwells in them # 2Jo 1:2
- (c) In connection with love, characterizes the spirit of their greetings # 2Jo 1:3
- (d) Loving obedience to, the pathway in which they walk # 2Jo 1:4-6

II. Worldly Error.

- (a) Has many deceitful advocates # 2Jo 1:7
- (b) Denies the incarnation of Christ # 2Jo 1:7
- (c) Must be guarded against # 2Jo 1:8
- (d) Departs from the teachings of Christ # 2Jo 1:9
- (e) The peril of fellowship with its followers # 2Jo 1:10,11

III. Concluding words # 2Jo 1:12,13

3 JOHN

WRITER, The Apostle John.

ADDRESSED, To Gaius # 3Jo 1:1

KEY NOTE. Christian hospitality.

KEY VERSE

3Jo 1:8

SYNOPSIS. The subject-matter centres around three characters, Gaius, Diotrephes and Demetrius, and some itinerant evangelists.

I. Gaius, to whom the epistle was written.

(1) The identity of this man.

This cannot be positively determined. There are several persons by this name mentioned in the New Testament. The one spoken of by Paul, # Ro 16:23 may very likely be the same man to whom John writes but it is entirely uncertain.

(2) Characteristics of,

- (a) Worthy of the affection of John # 3Jo 1:1,2
- (b) A consistent Christian, walking in the truth # 3Jo 1:3,4
- (c) Given to hospitality # 3Jo 1:5,6

II. Diotrephes, apparently a leading man in the church.

- (a) Ambitious and bigoted # 3Jo 1:9
- (b) Assuming to be an over-lord of the vineyard, will receive a merited rebuke from the apostle when he comes # 3Jo 1:10

III. Demetrius, In contrast to Diotrephes, a model churchman of excellent reputation. # 3Jo 1:12

IV. Christian evangelists.

- (a) Itinerant spiritual labourers, rendering gratuitous service for Christ's sake # 3Jo 1:7
- (b) Worthy of hearty welcome and hospitality although bitterly opposed by the arrogant Diotrephes # 3Jo 1:8-11

V. The closing salutation.

3Jo 1:13,14

JUDE

WRITER, Probably Jude, the brother of James. If this is true he may have been a brother of our Lord. # Mr 6:3 Gal 1:19

The Lord's brothers did not believe in him at first, # Joh 7:5; but after his resurrection they became his followers. # Ac 1:14

It is possible that Jude, because of his early unbelief, felt that he was not worthy to sign himself as brother of Jesus, so in writing the epistle he called himself a servant Jude 1

MAIN PURPOSE. The epistle was evidently written especially to warn the church against immoral teachers and alarming heresies which were endangering the faith of believers.

KEY VERSES

Jude 3,4

SYNOPSIS.

- (1) The salutation # Jude 1,2
- (2) The occasion of the epistle and an exhortation concerning the defense of the faith, because of the invasion of immoral and heretical teachers # Jude 3,4
- (3) Warnings from God's dealings with sinners in the past.
 - (a) The punishment of Israel for unbelief # Jude 5
 - (b) The fate of the fallen angels and the corrupt Sodomites # Jude 6,7
- (4) The characteristics of the depraved teachers described, and a woe pronounced upon them # Jude 8-13
- (5) References to prophecies.
 - (a) Of Enoch, who foretold the doom of ungodly men # Jude 14-16
 - (b) Of the apostles, concerning mockers in the last days # Jude 17-19
- (6) A summary of Christian duties:
 - (a) Mutual edification and prayerfulness # Jude 20
 - (b) Love toward God and trust in Christ for eternal salvation # Jude 21
 - (c) Activity in soul-winning # Jude 22,23
- (7) The benediction # Jude 24,25

REVELATION

WRITER, The Apostle John.

PLACE. Probably the Island of Patmos, off the western coast of Asia Minor, where John was banished "for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

DATE, uncertain; according to traditional opinion about A.D. 96

AUTHORITY. It is declared to be the revelation of Jesus Christ # Re 1:1

METHODS OF INTERPRETATION. These have been exceedingly varied, and often fantastic. Hundreds of volumes have been written upon this book, not one of which has been generally satisfactory.

This is due to the widely diversified opinions concerning its meaning and teachings. There have been three principal schools of thought which have dealt with the subject matter.

- (1) The Preterists, who believe that the prophecies of Revelation have already been fulfilled.
- (2) The Futurists who hold that the book contains a forecast of universal history.
- (3) The Eclectics, who lay stress upon the spiritual elements of the book, and do not attempt to dogmatize upon the meaning of the details of the more mysterious visions. They believe that there are three classes of passages in the Apocalypse. Those that are very clear in their spiritual teaching; those that are more mysterious, and yet contain an element of truth which is instructive; and finally there are some of the visions that are so veiled, that it is futile from our present standpoint of knowledge to give any positive interpretation of them. It is probable that some of the prophecies contain two elements, the near and the far. The former referring especially to the events during John's time, or in the immediate future; the latter, dealing with events of coming ages.

PECULIAR FEATURES.

(1) The Apocalypse is the only book in the Bible that contains a special promise to obedient readers # Re 1:3

and at the same time pronounces a curse upon those who tamper with its contents # Re 22:18,19

(2) The number Seven is the ruling number of the book; as: Seven candlesticks, churches, seals, trumpets, thunders, vials, Spirits, star, etc.

(3) The closing chapters of Revelation contain a striking contrast to the opening chapters of Genesis. Genesis speaks of the creation of the sun, the entrance of sin into the world, the curse pronounced, Satan's triumph, the exclusion from the "tree of life."

Revelation tells of a place where there will be no need of the sun, sin banished, no more curse,

Satan overthrown, admission to the "tree of life."

PLAN OF STUDY.

Although this book has often been neglected because of its mysterious character, yet there are many viewpoints from which it may be profitably studied without any attempt at dogmatic or arbitrary interpretation. If the book is written in code, we make no claim of having discovered a key that will unlock all its mysteries. We simply suggest the following subject as a profitable one to pursue.

SUGGESTED THEME, The moral and Spiritual Conflict of the Ages.

CENTRAL FIGURE, The Lamb. At last victor over all the allied powers of evil. The Lamb is mentioned about thirty times.

EPOCHAL EVENTS. There are many such events in the book, we suggest two, which should be kept in mind in studying the visions.

(1) The birth of the man child, regarded by many as the incarnation of Jesus Christ, Ch. 12.
Re 12:1-17

(2) The sounding of the seventh trumpet which heralded his world-wide victory. # Re 11:15

SYNOPSIS.

The book may be divided into a series of visions, some of which are partly or wholly veiled, others are comparatively clear in their teachings. It is not always possible to tell just where one vision ends and another begins, but for convenience they may be studied under various numbers, according to the view point of the student.

Ch. 1.

(1) Introduction and promise to obedient readers # Re 1:1-3

(2) Salutation of John and of the glorified Christ # Re 1:4-8

VISION I

(1) Of the glorified Christ # Re 1:9-16

(2) His command to write to the seven churches # Re 1:19

(3) The message to the churches Chs. 2,3. # Re 2:1 - 3:1

Ch. 2.

(a) To Ephesus, the backslidden church, persistent in service, strong in discipline, but with love growing cold # Re 2:1-7

(b) To Smyrna, the poor but truly rich church, facing a period of persecution # Re 2:8-11

(c) To Pergamos, the church of evil surroundings, steadfast, but infected with heresy
Re 2:12-17

(d) To Thyatira, the church of good works but harbouring a false prophetess # Re 2:18-29

Ch. 3.

(e) To Sardis, the dying church #Re 3:1-6

(f) To Philadelphia, the weak, but faithful church # Re 3:7-13

(g) To Laodicea, the lukewarm, self-satisfied church, boasting of her wealth while poor and miserable and blind # Re 3:14-22

Recurrent thought, the promises to overcome

VISION II. Partly Veiled.

Ch. 4.

(1) The vision of God in heaven upon his throne, the creator of the universe, receiving the worship of the living creatures and the four and twenty elders # Re 4:1-11

Ch. 5.

(2) The opening of the Seven-sealed Book by the Lamb, the singing of the New Song, and the universal worship of the Lamb. Conjectural interpretation--Christ in his redemptive office alone can unlock the deepest divine mysteries.

Ch. 6.

(3) The opening of the six seals, (veiled) # Re 6:1-17

There have been many widely different interpretations; it is not worth while to add another. One clear lesson, # Re 6:9-11

the saints tested by divine delays.

VISION III. Partly veiled.

Ch. 7.

Suggested thought, God's protection of his chosen people. # Re 7:1-8

VISION IV.

Ch. 7.

Comforting Assurances.

(a) The innumerable host of the redeemed # Re 7:9,10

(b) The means by which they appear in God's presence # Re 7:13-15

(c) Their activities and eternal felicity # Re 7:15-17

VISION V. Partly veiled.

Ch. 8.

Momentous event, the opening of the seventh seal, causing silence in heaven # Re 8:1

Possible explanation, That all the harps and the voices of the angels were stilled by the fact, that during the period of the seventh seal Christ was to leave for his earthly mission. This is not purely imaginary. The fullness of time was evidently approaching, "There shall be delay no longer," # Re

10:6

If this conjecture is correct, here in ch. 8.1, we are at the very sources of the divine plan of salvation and we shall see the events focusing toward the birth of the MAN CHILD in the 12th chapter. # Re 8.1 12:1

In chapter 8, verses 3, 4, the thought appears to be, that the prayers of the saints are ascending to God, for the coming of the messianic kingdom. # Re 8:3,4

Ch. 9.

Then follows a veiled portion of the vision, the sounding of the six trumpets in chapters 8 and 9, apparently announcing impending judgments. # Re 8:1 - 9:1

Chs. 10 and 11.

VISION VI. Partly veiled.

We can say no more than that the events seem to be moving forward toward the great consummation. This is indicated by the announcement of the mighty angel, # Re 10:5-7

that there shall be delay no longer (R.V.) but that the good tiding spoken of by the prophets are about to be fulfilled. Among so many different opinions it is hazardous to suggest any interpretation of the "little book" in Chapter 10, and the "two witnesses," in chapter 11.

Re 10:1 - 11:1

Possibly as these immediately precede the vision of the birth of the man child in chapter 12, they may refer to the prophetic period prior to the coming of Christ. In our studies we suggest that chapters 12-20, contain partly veiled visions connected with the great messianic conflict.

VISION VII.

Chs. 12 and 13.

The great epochal event, The birth of the man child, Christ, and the simultaneous manifestation of the Satanic powers arrayed to destroy him. The justification for this view-point is, that during Christ's earthly life the powers of darkness were in frenzied activity. Note the attempt of Herod to destroy the child, the numerous cases of demoniacal possession, and the malignant persecution which resulted in Christ's crucifixion. We are not seeking to give any detailed interpretation of the mysteries, but call attention to the spiritual weapons by which the victory was to be won

Re 12:11

VISION VIII. Partly veiled.

Ch. 14.

Without strained interpretation, it is possible to regard this chapter as a prophetic summary of the coming conflict between the Lamb and his enemies. If this view point is accepted, in the first five verses the one hundred and forty-four thousand would represent the ancient worthies of the old dispensation. # Re 14:1-5

Verses 6 and 7, would refer to the opening up of the world-wide missionary campaign.

Re 14:6,7

Verses 8-11 the preliminary announcement of the final victory # Re 14:8-11

Verses 12, 13, the blessedness of the holy dead. # Re 14:12,13

VISION IX. Partly veiled.

Ch. 14.

The harvest and vintage of grapes # Re 14:16-20

VISION X. Partly veiled.

Ch. 15.

(1) The early victors and their song # Re 15:1-4

(2) The Seven Angels and the golden vials # Re 15:5-8

Ch. 16.

The outpouring of the seven vials of wrath # Re 16:1-21

VISION XI. Veiled.

Chs. 17, 18

The doom of Babylon, the harlot city, and the enemies of the Lamb which he shall overcome.
Re 17:1 - 18:1

VISION XII.

Ch. 19.

(1) The hallelujah chorus in heaven celebrating the spiritual victory # Re 19:1-6

(2) The marriage of the Lamb # Re 19:7-9

VISION XIII.

(1) Christ, the spiritual conqueror, upon the white horse, smites the nations with the Sword of the Spirit. #Re 19:11-16

(2) Partly veiled. The beast, and the false prophet and their allies overcome by Christ.

VISION XIV. Partly veiled.

Ch. 20.

(1) The binding of Satan # Re 20:1-3

(2) The first resurrection # Re 20:4-6

(3) Satan loosed and his evil activity # Re 20:7-9

(4) The doom of Satan, the beast, and the false prophet # Re 20:10

(5) The last judgment # Re 20:11-15

VISION XV.

Chs. 21-22

The new heaven and the new earth The holy city, a type of the church, the Lamb's wife

Re 21:1 - 22:1

Ch. 21. Characteristics of.

Heavenly origin # Re 21:2
radiant # Re 21:11
separated and protected # Re 21:12
accessible # Re 21:13
sure foundations # Re 21:14
immovable # Re 21:16
beautifully adorned # Re 21:18-21
having a spiritual temple # Re 21:22
divinely illuminated # Re 21:23-25
glorified # Re 21:26
undefiled # Re 21:27

Ch. 22. Paradise restored. Distinguishing marks of,

The river of life # Re 22:1
the tree of life # Re 22:2
removal of the curse # Re 22:3
the beatific vision and the divine impress upon saints # Re 22:4
eternal day and saints dominion # Re 22:5
The last teachings, faithful and true # Re 22:6
emphasize the speedy coming of the Lord # Re 22:7
God only to be worshipped # Re 22:8,9
character tends to final permanence # Re 22:11
the last promise # Re 22:14
the last invitation # Re 22:17
the last warning # Re 22:18,19
Benediction and prayer # Re 22:21