

James 1:2-3

- Our study will take us on a brief journey through each of the books of the Bible.
- Our aim: To impart perspective and the key to each book.
- Our construction: Key word; key verse; Key to Christ.

**I, II III John**

- A. Means: Letters written by John the Apostle even though his name is not mentioned, just “the Elder”.
- a. I John time like the other letters is uncertain but as he wrote Revelation and seemed to have familiarity with the seven churches of Asia then it is assumed to have been written not long after AD 70. John deals with fellowship and love extensively and it being contingent upon being in Christ. I Jn.1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” Fellowship with Christ is conditional i.e. walking according to His word entirely consist with what he recorded the Christ to say in John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”
  - b. II John deals with the error of the progressive element in the church. In no uncertain terms he says to fellowship with such is to be equally guilty of their sin (II Jn.8-11). This is not to say one is to be rude or to avoid without reasonable a reasonable defence, for such is commanded in I Peter 3:15. But having said that, John is being consist with what Paul told the church in Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”.
  - c. III John centres on the over bearing and conceited Diotrophes. The comparison is starkly drawn between this “malicious” and “evil” man and the godly and generous Gaius who, like the “children” ie brethren who spoke highly of him, “walk in the truth” and “in a manner worthy of God”.
- B. Keys to I, II and III John:
- a. Key word: Walk in a manner worthy of God..
  - b. Key Verses: I Jn.1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” II Jn.9 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.” III Jn.4 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”
  - c. Key to Christ: If you love Him you will obey His commands (John 14:15).

**Jude**

- A. Means: Of Jude.
- B. Jude is the brother of James, half-brother to Jesus (Matt.13:55). A non-believer until the resurrection like his brother James. Matthew Henry says: This epistle is addressed to all believers in the gospel. Its design appears to be to guard believers against the false teachers who had begun to creep into the Christian church, and to scatter dangerous tenets, by attempting to lower all Christianity into a merely nominal belief and outward profession of the gospel. Having thus denied the obligations of personal holiness, they taught their disciples to live in sinful courses, at the same time flattering them with the hope of eternal life. The vile character of these seducers is shown, and their sentence is denounced, and the epistle concludes with warnings, admonitions, and counsels to believers.
- C. Jude exhorts and contends that believers must remain steadfast to the faith which he states “faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (v.3). This would mean any revelation that comes along after this is false as Paul said about a different gospel in Galatians 1:6-9 for such is not gospel i.e. good news at all. This would apply to Mormon, Jehovah’s Witness, Adventism, Calvin, Luther, Methodist ad nauseam.
- D. Keys to Jude:
- a. Key word: Contend.
  - b. Key verses: v.3-4 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - c. Key to Christ: The believer is “preserved in Christ” ie saved by the gospel method to abide in Him so “is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (v.24).

## Revelation

- A. Means: From the transliterated word Apocalypse i.e. reveal – Revelation of John
- B. The apostle John on the Island of Patmos writes down what has been revealed by Jesus' "angel". There are four main views as to the events and meaning of Revelation: 1) Futurist which I reject outright for it would have no meaning to John's day seeing as these "things must shortly come to pass". 2) The preterist "things must shortly come to pass". 3) Historical, a. early therefore fulfilled and b. continuous and aligned with futurist, which I reject. 4) Spiritual not actual, just symbolic. As Arthur Ogden [www.aogden.com] says "a pot without a handle" therefore this is open to all kinds of gibberish nonsense such as the Pentecostal and Apostolic movements so rife in so-called Christendom today.
- The position I prefer with evidence is the same as Ogden both early historical and preterist. "The events that were foretold can be found in the history of that day – in the first century. There is little in the book that remains to be fulfilled. However, the message that brought joy, comfort and hope to Christians then is still as fresh and meaningful to us today and every Christian needs that message." [The Avenging of the Apostles and Prophets, Ogden Pub, 1985 ISBN 0-9646497-1-3]
- C. Briefly the book is set in an early date AD 70 because the message deals with the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus' army in that year, for the temple, religion and city are still in full swing in the book and they all fit a pivotal role. It fits with that which should "shortly come to pass". It also deals with the Jews persecution of Christians of which there is not only ample biblical evidence but secular evidence. Jews literally hated Christians so much they were having them put to death as Saul is an early example of carrying out (Acts 7-9). A late date AD 90 deals with Roman persecution of Christians and Emperor Worship but this ignores historical fact that this was quite limited and confined to Rome whereas the Jew took their persecution throughout the empire as recorded by Luke in the book of Acts. [In my humble opinion, the late date is an invention by Jews in order to deflect attention away from their history both biblical and from their own Josephus. One only need see the outrage when you press the point that Jews were responsible for the crucifixion of Christ (Acts 2:36), they yell and scream racism etc. and cry persecution such as remember the xenophobic Holocaust as if to seek sympathy – but facts are facts, my friend.]. This sermon cannot do justice to the position of explaining Revelation except to say a read of Ogden's book is a must for the serious student of God's word. To quote him: "These things are seen in the finishing of the mystery of God (10:7) and the avenging of the apostles and prophets (18:20). Vengeance was called for by the martyred saints from under the altar (6:9-10) and vengeance was given (11:17-18). Of Babylon's destruction it was said, "rejoice over her, thou heaven and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her" (18:20). In the victory celebration taking place in heaven over her destruction, the theme is reflected again: "Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand" (19:1-2). The vengeance anticipated, expected and given leads us to the true theme of the book: The Avenging of the Apostles and Prophets (cf. 18:20) (Ogden, p.24). [In Ogden's book, the appendixes makes for interesting reading regarding the terms used such as Babylon the Great, Daniel's relationship with Revelation, the Domitian Persecution]
- D. Keys to Revelation:
- Key word: Revelation of Christ's vengeance for the death of His apostles and prophets. .
  - Key verses: 1:19 "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter"; 18:20 "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her".
  - Key chapter: 18-22 God's justice will prevail; He will repay; the ungodly will be sent to hell to live eternally with Satan; there is a city and mansion awaiting the saved; you had better take God seriously and if you dare add or subtract from His word "God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book".
  - Key to Christ: "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord" (Romans 12:19).