

I Peter (c. 64AD):

- Written with the Assistance of Sylvanus (Silas)
- Audience
 - o Ethnically Mixed Churches in Asia Minor
 - o Persecuted Christians
 - o Open Letter to All Churches
 - o Written with OT Literacy in Mind
 - Opportunity for Gentile Believers to Understand the Fulfillment in Christ
- Oppressing Agents
 - o Jewish Religious Authorities
 - o Local Pagan Authorities
 - o Local Financial Authorities & Craftsmen
 - o Roman Imperial Authorities (Esp. After 64AD)
- Theodicy: “Theology of Suffering”
 - o Temptation to Deny Christ
 - o Written as an Encouragement to Christians Under Persecution
 - o Practical Instructions for Living in Community
 - o Christians Are Exiles in Foreign Territory

Outline:

Introduction & Psalm of Praise	1:1-12
The Family of God	1:13-2:10
Endurance Testifies to Christ	2:11-4:19
Instructions for Elders	5

Introduction & Psalm of Praise (1:1-12):

- The Chosen People Who Are Exiles
 - o Echo of Abraham (Israel)
 - o New Family & a New Inheritance
 - o Theme: Endurance in Pain
 - Endurance Refines Faith
 - Endurance Evidences Christ
 - Endurance is Rewarded

The Family of God (1:13-2:10):

- Salvation is “Kept for you” in Heaven
 - o OT Was Written in Preparation for the Gospel
 - o OT Prophets Were Its Forerunners (Servants)
 - o Fulfillment of God’s Promise is Certain
 - o Live a Christ-Like Life Before Others
 - Let Grace & Hope Preserve You in Faith & Holiness

The Family of God (Cont.):

- Dedicate Yourselves to Spiritual Maturity
 - o Set Aside All that is Sinful
 - o Crave That Which is of God
 - o Recognize that You Are a New & United People
 - Royal Priesthood (2:5-10)

Endurance Testifies to Christ (2:11-4:19):

- Live Example Lives Before & Among the Pagans
 - o "...they may glorify God on the day" (2:12)
 - o Be Law Abiding
 - o Do Not Abuse Your Freedom in Christ
 - o Show Respect to Everyone
- Change Society by Humbling Yourselves (Ref. 2:18-21)
 - o Slaves Be Humble Before Your Masters
 - o Wives Be Humble Before Your Husbands
 - o Husbands Be Humble Before Your Wives
 - o Church Members Be Humble to Each Other
 - o Honor Christ By Being Humble
- Do Not Fear the Persecutors of This World
 - o If You Are Persecuted for Christ You Are Blessed
 - o Always Be Prepared to Give a Testimony of Christ (Gentleness & Respect)
- Live For God as His People
 - o Put Away All Appearances of Paganism
 - o Love Each Other Deeply
 - o Offer Hospitality to Each Other
 - o Use Your Gifts for the Betterment of All
- Do Not Be Surprised by Persecution
 - o Remember the Example of Christ
 - o Rejoice in Suffering
 - o Continue to Do Good

Instructions for Elders (5):

- Instructions to Elders
 - o Glorify God Through Caring for His People
 - o Younger Believers Honor Your Elders
 - o Clothe Yourselves in Humility
 - o Resist All Temptation
- Final Greetings

II Peter (c. 67AD):

- Noticeably Different Style from I Peter
 - o No Longer Scribed by Sylvanus?
 - o Difference of Subject Matter
 - o Influence of Paul’s Epistles
- Audience
 - o Trad: Open Letter Addressing the Concerns of the Churches in Asia Minor
 - o Potentially Different Direct Recipients
 - o Potentially Same Congregation(s) as Jude
 - Content Similarities
- Setting
 - o Peter is Aware of his Approaching Death
 - o Potentially Imprisoned
 - o Addressing False Teachers
 - Denying Salvation Through Christ
 - Denying the Return of Christ
 - o Offering a Final Witness Before His Death

Outline:

Charge to Spiritual Growth	Ch.1
Know False Teachers by Their Testimony	2
Restoring Biblical Doctrine	3

Charge to Spiritual Growth (1):

- God’s Invitation to Participate in the Divine Nature
 - o Equipping for Growth & Strength
 - o Instruction to Reliance on God’s Provision
 - Through His Promises
 - o Requires A Commitment to Develop
 - Sequential Order of Maturity
 - Faith, Goodness, Knowledge, Godliness, Mutual Affection, Agape
- Authority of Scripture
 - o The Apostles as Eyewitnesses to the Gospel
Ex: “This is my son...” (1:17)
 - o Prophetic Proofs from the OT
 - o Prophecy Has Its Origin in God Alone (1:21)

Know False Teachers by Their Testimony (2):

- Echo of OT False Prophets
- Denial of Christ in Favor of Greed
- Motivated by Sensual Gratification
- God will Rescue the Godly & Condemn the False

Restoring Biblical Doctrine (3):

- False Teachers Deny the Day of the Lord
 - o Immoral Living Results
- Many will Ignore Christ's Return
 - o Drift Into Worldliness Through Willful Disbelief
 - o God will Fulfill His Promise
 - o Return will Come During an Unsuspected Time
- Live Holy Lives to Bring God
 - o As if it Could Be Tomorrow
 - o Look Forward to the Day of the Lord
 - o Renew Yourselves to Holiness
 - o Paul's Writings are Confusing for the Uneducated
 - o Continue to Crave & Grow in the Things of God

The Apostle John(c. 6-100AD):

Actual: "Jonah" (Dove)

- Galilean Jew
 - o Son of Zebedee Brother of James (Jacob) (Sons of Thunder)
 - o Fisherman by Trade
 - o Originally a Follower of John the Baptist
 - o Trad: Oldest Lived Apostle & Only to Die of Natural Causes
 - o Both Brothers Became Part of Jesus' Inner Circle
 - o "Disciple whom Jesus loved..."
 - o Was Present at the Crucifixion
 - o Appointed Caregiver of Mary (Mother of Jesus)
- Apostle
 - o Arrested & Oppressed by the Sanhedrin
 - o Ministered in Samaria to New Converts
 - o Present in the Council of Jerusalem
 - o Leader in the Church of Ephesus
 - o Imprisoned in Patmos by Domitian
 - Wrote Revelation in Prison
 - Released upon Domitian's Death
 - o Returned to Ephesus & Remained Until Death

I John (c. Between 80-90AD):

- Unsigned But Attributed to John the Apostle
 - o “The Elder”
 - o Similar in Style & Vocabulary to the Gospel
 - o Written in Ephesus After Rev. & Gospel
 - o More Poetic Sermon than Epistle in Format
 - o Functional Commentary on Jn. Chs. 13-17
- Rise of Gnosticism Within the Church
 - o John is in an Overseers Capacity Among Local House Churches
 - o Addresses Matters of Jesus’ Humanity & Messiahship
- Expository Sermon
 - o Life in Community with Christ
 - o Truth of Scripture & the Gospel
 - o Defining & Exhorting Agape
 - o Argument in Poetic Cycles

Heptadic Structures:

7 Purposes for This Epistle	1:3-4; 2:1, 13-17, 21-26; 5:13
7 Tests of Regeneration	1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9; 4:20
7 Traits of the Redeemed	2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18
7 Tests of Honesty	1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 22; 4:20; 5:10

Instruction to Put to the Test:

That Which We Profess	1:5-2:11
The Desires of the Heart	2:12-2:17
The Doctrine That is Preached	2:18-2:28
The Conduct of the People	2:29-3:24
The Spirits of Prophecy	4:1-4:6
The Motives of Conduct	4:7-4:21
The Testimony of New Birth	5:1-5:21

Contrasts:

Light	vs.	Darkness	1:5-2:11
God	vs.	The World	2:12-2:17
Christ	vs.	Antichrist	2:18-2:28
Holy Spirit	vs.	Deceitful Spirits (False Prophecy)	4:1-4:6
Agape	vs.	Fake Affections	4:7-4:21
Family of God	vs.	The Unsavd	5:1-5:21

Core Doctrinal Elements:

We Believe in Christ 3:23
 We Love Each Other
Love for the Neighbor 3:17-18
The Sacrifice of Jesus 4:10-11

Core Element for Practical Christian Living:

“Perfect love casts out fear.” 4:18

II John:

- Written to the Lady of a House Church
 - o Unsigned (1 Chapter in Length)
 - o Probably a Church in Ephesus
 - o Instructions on Implementation of I Jn. In the Home (Family) Setting
 - o Links Agape with Obedience to Jesus’ Commands (Foundational Virtue)

Outline:

Following the Example of Love 4-5
The Expression of Love 6
Warning Against False Teaching 11-12

- Link of Guilt with Those Who Host Them

Warning Against False Love 10-11
Final Greetings 12-13

III John:

- Written to Gaius “Lord”
 - o Host of a Local House Church
 - o Instruction to Receive Evangelists with Hospitality
 - o Warning Against a Local Troublemaker (Diotrephes “Nourished by Zeus”)

Outline:

Service in Truth and Love 2-8
Personal Evil Rooted in Pride 9-11
Commendation of Demetrius 12
Final Greetings 13-14
