

Lesson 8 – Other Epistles: *Hebrews and James*

A. Hebrews

1. Author: Unknown
2. Readers: Jewish Christians
3. Time of Writing: Unknown but appears to have been before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
4. Purpose and Themes: Exhortation to Jewish Christians to maintain their faith despite persecution
 - Superiority of Christ in regard to:
 - a) Sacrifice
 - b) Priesthood
 - c) Revelation
 - d) Leadership
 - e) Position
 - f) Covenant
 - Endurance in the face of hardship
 - Role of maturity and discipline
5. Outline. Fill in the titles using the answers provided, and choose a best verse.

Reference	Best Title	Best verse	Possible Answers
1:1-4			<i>Superiority of Christ's Priesthood</i>
1:5 – 2:18			<i>Superiority of Christ's Sacrifice</i>
3:1 – 4:13			<i>Superiority to the Prophets</i>
4:14 – 7:28			<i>Exhortation to Endure</i>
8:1 - 13			<i>Superiority of Christ over Angels</i>
9:1 – 10:18			<i>Discipline and an Unshakeable Kingdom</i>
10:19-39			<i>Faith Defined and Exemplified</i>
11:1-40			<i>Superiority of Christ over Moses</i>
12:1-29			<i>Exhortation to Love</i>
13:1-25			<i>Superiority of Christ's Covenant</i>

6. Find a passage that illustrates Christ's superiority (use the completed outline above to help):
 - Over Angels e.g. Hebrews 1:7-8
 - Over Moses
 - As a Priest
 - As a Sacrifice
 - As a Covenant Giver
7. Find the following passages of exhortation and encouragement
 - _____ "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"
 - _____ exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."
 - _____ "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another"

- _____ “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”
- _____ “We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf”
- _____ “he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”
- _____ “Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.”
- _____ “Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed”

8. Other Key Verses– Be prepared to identify them by chapter:

- Hebrews 1:1-2
- Hebrews 2:10-12
- Hebrews 4:12-13
- Hebrews 5:13-14
- Hebrews 7:11-14
- Hebrews 8:6-7, 13
- Hebrews 9:15-17
- Hebrews 10:3-4
- Hebrews 10:26-31
- Hebrews 11:6
- Hebrews 12:22-24
- Hebrews 13:7, 17

B. James

1. Author: James, brother of Jesus (and see Mt 13:54-58; Gal 1:18-19, 2:9; Acts 15:13)
2. Readers: “Twelve tribes of the Dispersion” – Christians, figuratively scattered in the world
3. Time of Writing: After the “dispersion” of Christians (Acts 8:1); After 44 AD
4. Purpose & Themes: Practical advice on how to live, consistent with our faith.
5. Outline. Match the section descriptions with the references from James.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Section Description</u>
_____ 1:1-27	a. True Religion: Stability, Endurance, Doing...
_____ 2:1-3:12	b. True Wisdom: Defined, & expressed in life’s affairs and relationships
_____ 3:13-5:20	c. True Faith: not discriminating, working, controlling the tongue...

6. Find the chapter in James from which these quotations are taken.

- _____ “For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”
- _____ “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
- _____ “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”
- _____ “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”