

Brentwood Bible Fellowship  
Reading thru the New Testament  
2017

Week 48

II Peter 1-2, Jude, Revelation 1-2

Key Verses:

*But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.*

*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

*II Peter 3:8-9*

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

*Revelation 1:8*

*NAS Version*

November 27 - December 3

Monday II Peter 2 - The rise of false teachers

Tuesday II Peter 3 - Be prepared for the coming Day of the Lord

Wednesday Jude - The danger of, and defense against, apostasy

Thursday Revelation 1 - The vision of Christ

Friday Revelation 2 - Letters to the churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos,  
and Thyatira

Saturday - Review

Sunday – Review

## Introduction to **Jude**

The Author: Jude, the half-brother of Jesus and full brother of James

The Date: 68 A.D.

Jude seems to have been written after II Peter, being very similar in content to II Peter. It was written prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., otherwise it would have been included in the judgements mentioned in verses 5-7. So, the probable date would seem to be 68 A.D.

The Audience: Jude seems to have written to a similar group of Palestinian readers as Peter, located in Asia Minor. Much of what he wrote was to combat the threat of a rising gnostic heresy.

Jude came from a very influential family in the Jerusalem church. Jude and his brothers did not become believers of the deity of their half-brother Jesus until following Jesus resurrection. James his brother then rose to prominence as the leader of the Jerusalem church until he was martyred in 62 A.D. After the death of James, their brother Simeon replaced him as the head of the Jerusalem church. So, Jude, the brother of James and Simeon and half-brother of Jesus was most likely very influential in the early church.

Purpose: The teaching of Jude was probably, the importance of truth in love in the day of apostasy. His goal was to alert the faithful believers of the danger arising within the church from false teachers who were undermining the teaching of the grace of God.

The Theme: Teaching the truth in love in days of Apostasy.

Key verses: Jude 3

# Introduction to **Revelation**

The Author: The Apostle John

The Date: 95/96 A.D.

John was banished to the Island of Patmos by Domitian. He was released by Nerva (96 A.D.). The best historical evidence says John wrote Revelation between 95-96 A.D.

**The Political setting:** It was a time of political unrest following Nero's suicide in 68 A.D. A time of conflict between the senate and three short lived emperors followed. Vespasian gained control and his position as emperor was followed by his two sons, Titus and Domitian. Vespasian and Titus were popular rulers, Domitian was not. Domitian restored the temples and positions of the older Gods and suppressed the new proselytizing religions, such as Christianity. Ultimately, he demanded worship for himself. He was to be addressed as "Lord, God." The empire was then united under this false religion.

**Christian Persecution:** Persecution was taking place in the empire. John was banished to the Island of Patmos, most likely due to his refusal to worship Domitian. His example would have great influence on the churches throughout the area.

**Methods of interpreting Revelation:**

1. **The Spiritualizing or Idealist method** - This view sees Revelation as an allegory of the conflict between the church and the force of evil in all ages. As such, the book would have no definite message but would be an encouragement to all ages to continue the battle for righteousness. Revelation, then, practically tells nothing that is not already revealed. This view overlooks the claims of the book to be a prophecy and that it looks specifically to the second coming of Christ and to the events leading up to it.
2. **The Preterist method** - This method holds that most of Revelation has been fulfilled. The first part (Chaps. 4-11) in victory over Jewish enemies and the second part (Chaps. 12-19) in the victory over pagan enemies. Chapters 20-22 are seen as the church's present triumph and power. This method requires extensive allegorization, it entirely disregards the time periods of the book and it waters down the second coming with its resplendent glory. To perceive of Satan as being chained during this age is most difficult, and besides, contradicts the rest of the New Testament.

3. The Continuous-History method - The continuous-history view holds that the book covers the whole history of the church from its origin to the end of time.
4. The Futuristic or Eschatological method - After the dark ages, this method was revived. It is the basic view of pre-millennialist today.  
The futurist view holds that the book relates mainly to things which are yet to come, chapters 4-22 being concerned completely with events just prior to the second coming, the Millennium and the eternal state. (This is the view I follow and the view we will follow as we read the book of Revelation)

The Theme: The purpose or theme of Revelation is the coming and Glory of Christ. This is seen in his present work of directing the churches and in his future work of judging the world and bringing everlasting righteousness.

The purpose of Revelation is threefold:

- 1) It was written as an encouragement for the churches of Asia undergoing persecution at that time.
- 2) It was given to give prophecy concerning the manner in which Christ will eventually deal with the nations, judge the world of sin, establish His earthly kingdom and bring everlasting righteousness.
- 3) The third purpose was for the Holy Spirit to complete the giving of scripture, to show the termination and fulfillment of God's promises and covenants with man.

Key verses: Revelation 1:19; 19:11-16

Key Chapters: Revelation 19-22

(Most notes for the Introduction to Revelation, as well as the majority of previews written for this study of the New Testament, were taken from the Bible Workbook notes of Western Seminary, written by Dr. Stanley A. Ellison.)

## Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

### II Peter 2-3; Jude; Revelation 1-2

#### Week Forty-Eight

#### II Peter 2

1. II Peter 2:1-3 Peter warns of false teachers, many of whose heresies are still evident within the world today. What is it about the false teachers that appeals to their audiences to draw them away from the truth?
2. II Peter 2:4-10 List the examples Peter gives of past heretical groups or cultures and how did God deal with each one of them? What did God do for those who lived amongst the wicked cultures, but remained faithful to the truth? What are God's plans for the godly and for the ungodly according to verses 9-10?
3. II Peter 2:10b-22 From each of the listed verse, name the quality which best describes the false teachers.

V. 11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 15-16 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

V. 21-22 \_\_\_\_\_

The story of Balaam comes from Numbers 22. Specifically look at the passage from verse 21 and following. This is a great story of Balaam and the talking donkey.

Note that in verses 21-22 it appears that the false teachers had come to a knowledge of the truth, when in reality they never did. A dog which is cleaned up and dressed in a nice little human type of costume is still a dog. A pig which is washed and is nice and clean to be shown at the fair is still a pig. Both the dog and the pig, when given the opportunity will return to their old nature. Professing Christians who demonstrate no lasting evidence of their faith and

return to their old activities when given the chance, were probably never true believers to begin with.

## **II Peter 3**

1. I Peter 3:1-2 What does Peter say is the purpose of this letter?
2. II Peter 3:3-7 What did the mocker claim concerning the coming of the Lord? What was the problem with their rational concerning the second coming of Christ? What did they deny in verses 5-6? How will it be destroyed in the future?
3. II Peter 3:8-9 Why hasn't God brought judgement on the world yet? Who or what is he waiting for?
4. II Peter 3:11-13 The Day of the Lord will come unexpectedly as a thief in the night. The description of the destruction of the world by fire, an atomic like explosion of utter destruction will take place at the end of the Day of the Lord, at the end of the Millennial kingdom. The question Peter raises is, that knowing of this complete destruction of the earth, what types of individuals should we be? How should this knowledge impact our actions?  
  
According to verse 13, it does not appear that God will simply remake this old earth, but that He will create an entirely new heavens and earth where we will dwell for eternity.
5. II Peter 3:14 Knowing what Peter has just informed us of, how should that impact our lives?
6. II Peter 3:15-16 What is the result of the patience of the Lord? For whom? What commendation does Peter give to Paul? What should that tell us concerning the authority of Paul's letters?
7. II Peter 3:17-18 What two admonitions did Peter give to his readers in these two verses? How do those admonitions apply to us?

## **Jude**

1. Jude 1-2 Though a brother of James and half-brother of Jesus, Jude properly assumes the position of a bond-servant of Jesus. When you define yourself in relationship to Jesus, how do you define yourself? How do you define yourself relative to

your relationship with God the Father? Is your understanding of how you relate to Jesus and the Father important? Why or why not?

2. Jude 3-4 What was Jude's concern regarding the faith of his readers? What was the problem, the basis for the doctrinal error, of those who had crept into the church to spread their heresy?
3. Jude 5-7 What judgement did God bring on the three apostate examples taken from the Old Testament? (Note that Jude and II Peter are similar in much of their teaching.) What was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah?
4. Jude 8-13 Wow! This is a heavy passage of judgement on the false teachers. How does the example of Michael the Archangel relate to these false teachers? List the basic problems advocated by the heretical teachers in this passage of scriptures.
5. Jude 14-16 These heretical individuals existed clear back to the time of Enoch, prior to the flood. What were their faults in verse 16?
6. Jude 17-19 Remember the apostles' warnings. See II Peter 3:3-4; II Timothy 3:3-9

What will result from listening to the teachings of these individuals? See verse 19

7. Jude 20- 21 What four things did Jude say we are to do, to keep ourselves righteous in this unholy world?
8. Jude 22-23 What three things did Jude say we are to do on behalf of others? What are some things we can do to accomplish these things at BBF?
9. Jude 24-25 Who is it that keeps us strong in this unholy world? Take a few minutes to praise God and thank Him for his support and faithfulness!

## **Revelation 1**

1. Revelation 1:1-2 This is the revelation of who? Who gave it to Him to share? Who carried the message and who received it? For what purpose was the revelation given?
2. Revelation 1:3 According to verse 3, should the book of Revelation be read and studied, or ignored as too difficult to understand? What can the one who reads it and understands it expect according to this verse? (So here we go as we dive into this great book concerning the things to come.)

3. Revelation 1:4-8 The message goes out to the seven churches in Asia. The seven Spirits in verse four are most often identified as the Holy Spirit. With the eternal one in verse four, and with Jesus Christ in verse five, the seven Spirits complete the trinity within the context of our passage.

What three things do we learn about Jesus in verse 5?

What has Jesus accomplished on the behalf of the believer in verses 5-6?

What does it mean when Jesus calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega?

How will Jesus return, and who will see Him come?

4. Revelation 1:9-11 Where was John when he received the message of the Revelation? What responsibility was John given in verse 11?

5. Revelation 1:12-16 The seven golden lampstands represent the seven churches of Asia. John saw an image of Jesus. How do you normally envision Jesus when you think of Him? Does your image look anything like the one who is described here? How is He different? The seven stars represent the seven angels. Out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword. (See Hebrews 4:12 for a cross-reference) Wow! What an amazing vision of Jesus in glory! He is no longer seen as the suffering servant! How would you define Jesus according to the image of Him we are given in Revelation 1?

6. Revelation 1:17-18 What is Jesus alluding to when He says 1) He is the first and the last? 2) He is the living one who was dead and now is alive forevermore? 3) He holds the Keys to death and hades?

7. Revelation 1:19-20 Explain what John is instructed to write according to verse 19. In verse 20, Jesus gave the answer as to what the seven stars and the seven lampstands represented.

Chapters 2-3 Relate to the Seven Churches of Asia. Some view the churches as a literal message addressed just to the churches addressed in the passages. Other interpreters view the churches as literal to the churches addressed here, as well as symbolic of many churches throughout the church age. Others view the churches as literal as well as symbolic of various times or ages throughout the church age.

As you read about the seven churches of Asia, list the areas where the various churches have failed. List the blessing Jesus promises to those who overcome.



At this moment in time, where do you think that you fit as an individual? When Jesus comes back, where would you desire to be? If you are not sure how you are doing at this moment, what might you need to do to be more in line with the will and blessing of Jesus?

## **Revelation 2**

### 1. Revelation 2:1-7 Message to the Church of Ephesus

Revelation 2:1 The angel comes from the word for messenger. The angel may either be an angel given responsibility for the church of Ephesus, or it may be God's messenger or the pastor/elder at the church of Ephesus.

Revelation 2:2-3 List the commendation or positive things Jesus had to say concerning the church of Ephesus in these verse? That sounds pretty good doesn't it?

Revelation 2:4 What was Jesus complaint against the church? What does that mean?

Revelation 2:5 What does Jesus say they must do so they will not be removed as a church; that is, to have their light snuffed out.

Revelation 2:6 The Nicolaitans were supposedly Christians, but lived immoral lifestyles. So, an immoral cult. The Ephesians were most likely morally pure in their teaching and actions. They had just lost their first love. Do you remember your first love when you first met Jesus Christ?

Revelation 2:7 What is the message of verse 7 to those who hear the message?

### 2. Revelation 2:8-11 Message to the Church of Smyrna

1. Revelation 2:8 Another description of Jesus. The first and the last. (The eternal one) The one who was dead and has come to life. (The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus)

2. Revelation 2:9-10 Smyrna is only one of the two churches who are honored for their actions. What will the church of Smyrna undergo. Who is it who will persecute them? What will the faithful receive after they have died?

3. Revelation 2:11 What blessing is promised to those who overcome?

### 3. Revelation 2:12-17 Message to the Church of Pergamum

1. Revelation 2:12 Who is the one with the sharp two edged sword? What is it?  
(See Revelation 1:16)
  2. Revelation 2:13 What commendation did Pergamum receive from Jesus?
  3. Revelation 2:14-15 What was it that Jesus held against the church of Pergamum? Do these issues sound anything like churches in America?
  4. Revelation 2:16 What did Jesus say He would do if the people in the church of Pergamum did not repent? If a church in America is acting in the same way as the church of Pergamum, might they expect the same action from Jesus toward them?
  5. Revelation 2:17 What did Jesus promise for those who were overcomers?
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4. Revelation 2:18-29 Message to the Church of Thyatira
    1. Revelation 2:18 The message is again from the Son of God. The description comes from Revelation 1:21 and following.
    2. Revelation 2:19 List the positive qualities Jesus named concerning the church of Thyatira.
    3. Revelation 2:20-23 What is it that Jesus held against the church of Thyatira? What will be the result as a result of their sin and immorality if they do not repent? Was Jesus unfair or did he give Jezebel an opportunity to repent? Did Jesus even need to give Jezebel and her followers the opportunity to repent? Why or why not?
    4. Revelation 2:24 What did Jesus say He would do to those who did not follow the immoral actions of the followers of Jezebel? What does this teach us concerning the church as a whole?
    5. Revelation 2:25-29 What does Jesus promise to those who overcome?