

**INTRODUCTION:**

- 1) TODAY WE WILL BE LOOKING AT *HEBREWS, JAMES, 1 PETER, LETTERS TO SUFFERING BELIEVERS*

**THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:**

- 1) HEBREWS
- 2) JAMES
- 3) 1 PETER

**PART 1 – HEBREWS:**

**Q 1) WHY DID MANY JEWS FACE STRUGGLES WITH JUDAISM?**

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**Q 2) WHAT WAS COMING ON JEWS WHO REJECTED THE MESSIAH?**

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**Q 3) WHO WROTE HEBREWS?**

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**Q 4) WHAT ARE THREE REASONS THAT POINT AWAY FROM PAUL AS THE WRITER OF HEBREWS?**

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**Q 5) WHEN WAS HEBREWS WRITTEN?**

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**Q 6) ACCORDING TO THE TRADITIONAL VIEW, WHO WAS HEBREWS WRITTEN TO?**

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**OUTLINE OF HEBREWS...**

- I. Jesus is a Superior Revealer & Leader, 1:1–4:13
  - A. He is superior to the prophets (1:1–3)
  - B. He is superior to the angels (1:4–14; 2:5–18)  
First warning: Neglect (2:1–4)
  - C. He is superior to Moses (3:1–6)  
Second warning: Unbelief (3:7–19)
  - D. He is superior to Joshua (4:2–10)  
Third warning: Unbelief (4:1, 11–13)
- II. Jesus is a Superior Mediator & Priest, 4:14–10:18
  - A. He is superior to Aaron (4:14–5:10)  
Fourth warning: Immaturity (5:11–6:20)
  - B. He is superior to the Levites (7:1–28)
  - C. His covenant is superior (8)
  - D. His sanctuary is superior (9:1–12)
  - E. His sacrifice is superior (9:13–10:18)
- III. Following Jesus Requires Faith, 10:19–13:21
  - A. Faith is the key to perseverance (10:19–25)  
Fifth warning: The danger of not persevering to the end (10:26–31)
  - B. Faith has always been the way people please God (10:32–11:40)
  - C. Faith helps us endure discipline (12:1–13)  
Sixth warning: Turning away (12:14–17)
  - D. Faith unites us with the Father, Jesus, and all in heaven (12:18–24)  
Seventh warning: Refusal (12:25–29)
  - E. Faith enables us to live holy, godly lives (13:1–21)
- IV. Conclusion and Greetings, 13:22–25

FIGURE 1)

“Let us” Passages	Hebrews
“ <i>Let us</i> be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it (God’s rest).”	4:1
“ <i>Let us</i> , therefore, make every effort to enter that rest.”	4:11
“ <i>Let us</i> hold firmly to the faith we profess.”	4:14
“ <i>Let us</i> then approach the throne of grace with confidence.”	4:16
“ <i>Let us</i> leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.”	6:1
“ <i>Let us</i> draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.”	10:22
“ <i>Let us</i> hold unswervingly to the hope we profess.”	10:23
“ <i>Let us</i> consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”	10:24
“ <i>Let us</i> not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.”	10:25
“ <i>Let us</i> encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”	10:25
“ <i>Let us</i> throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.”	12:1
“ <i>Let us</i> run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”	12:1
“ <i>Let us</i> fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.”	12:2
“ <i>Let us</i> be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.”	12:28
“ <i>Let us</i> , then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.”	13:13
“ <i>Let us</i> continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise.”	13:15

**PART 2 – JAMES:**

**Q 7) WHO WAS THE BOOK OF JAMES WRITTEN FOR?**

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**Q 8) WHO WAS THE BOOK OF JAMES WRITTEN TO?**

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**Q 9) LIST THE THREE REASONS WHY JAMES WROTE HIS EPISTLE...**

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**Q 10) WHAT TWO KINDS OF OLD TESTAMENT WRITINGS DOES JAMES REFLECT?**

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**Q 11) WHEN WAS THE BOOK OF JAMES WRITTEN?**

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**Q 12) WHO DO MOST BIBLE TEACHERS AGREE WROTE THE BOOK OF JAMES?**

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**OUTLINE OF JAMES...**

- I. Greeting, 1:1
- II. Face Trials and Temptations, 1:2–18
  - A. Recognize their purpose (1:2–4)
  - B. Pray for wisdom to face them (1:5–8)
  - C. Rejoice in their result (1:9–12)
  - D. Discern the source of temptation (1:13–18)
- III. Hear the Word and Obey It, 1:19–27
- IV. Be Impartial: Do Not Show Favoritism, 2:1–13
- V. Prove Faith through Deeds, 2:14–26
- VI. Recognize and Avoid Sin, 3:1–5:6
  - A. The tongue (3:1–12)
  - B. Two kinds of wisdom: from below and from above (3:13–18)
  - C. Two attitudes: loving the world and loving God (4:1–10)
  - D. Slandering a brother (4:11–12)
  - E. Boasting about tomorrow (4:13–17)
  - F. Selfish wealth (5:1–6)
- VII. Live by God's Standards, 5:7–20
  - A. Be patient in suffering (5:7–11)
  - B. Be honest: Let yes mean yes (5:12)
  - C. Practice prayer for the sick (5:13–18)
  - D. Try to bring back those who wander from the faith (5:19–20)

**PART 3 – 1 PETER:**

**Q 13) WHO HELPED WRITE 1 PETER?**

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**FIGURE 2)**



**Q 14) WHAT IS THE MAJOR THEME OF 1 PETER?**

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**FIGURE 3)**

Five Themes Common to 1 Peter and Acts (Barclay 1976, 140–141)		
	Peter's Sermons in Acts (Purkiser 1974, 170–171)	1 Peter
1. Jesus, the prophesied Messiah, has come. A new age has dawned.	2:14–16; 3:13; 4:11; 10:34–43	1:3, 10–12; 4:7
2. Salvation is possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.	2:20–31; 3:13–14; 10:43	1:20–21; 2:21–25
3. By the Resurrection, Jesus is exalted to the right hand of God. He is the head of the New Israel.	2:22–26; 3:13; 4:11; 5:30–31; 10:39–42	1:21; 2:7; 2:24; 3:22
4. Christ will soon come again to judge the living and the dead.	3:19–23; 10:42	1:5, 7, 13; 4:5, 13, 17–18; 5:1, 4
5. All should repent of their sins and accept forgiveness, eternal life, and the Holy Spirit.	2:38–39; 3:19; 5:31; 10:42	1:13–25; 2:1–3; 4:1–5

**OUTLINE OF 1 PETER...**

- I. Greeting, 1:1–2
- II. The Believer's Relationship to God, 1:3–2:10
  - A. Our suffering proves that our faith is real as we wait for Jesus to return (1:3–12).
  - B. We live holy lives because He is holy (1:13–2:3).
  - C. We are living stones, built into a spiritual temple for God (2:4–10).
- III. The Believer's Relationship to Others, 2:11–3:12
  - A. All should submit to rulers, even if this brings suffering (2:11–17).
  - B. Slaves should submit to masters, even if this brings suffering (2:18–20).
  - C. All should follow Christ's example of suffering (2:21–25).
  - D. Wives should submit to their husbands (3:1–6).
  - E. Husbands should be kind to their wives (3:7).
  - F. All should be loving and humble (3:8–12).

**OUTLINE OF 1 PETER (CONTINUED)...**

- IV. The Believer's Relationship to Suffering, 3:13–4:19
  - A. Suffering should result from doing good following Christ's example (3:13–22).
  - B. Suffering kills our desire for sin and helps us live for God (4:1–11).
  - C. Suffering may be God's will for us (4:12–19).
- V. The Relationship between the Young and the Old, 5:1–11
- VI. Conclusion, 5:12–14

**FIGURE 4)**

Believers	Unbelievers	1 Peter
Are obedient children, called to be holy as God is holy	Conform to evil desires and live in ignorance	1:14–16
Abstain from evil desires; crave pure spiritual milk to mature in salvation; glorify God with their good deeds	Engage in malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander	2:1–3, 11–12
Are being built into a spiritual house	Reject the living Stone	2:4–8
Are a chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, people belonging to God	Destined to stumble and disobey the gospel message	2:8–9
Have been called by God into His light	Live in darkness	2:9
Have received mercy	Have not received mercy	2:10
Silence foolish talk by doing good	Engage in ignorant talk	2:15
Have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer	Are like sheep going astray	2:25
Live in harmony; are sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; return blessing for evil	Repay evil for evil and insult for insult	3:8–9
"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer."	"The face of the Lord is against those who do evil."	3:12
Keep a clear conscience; answer criticism with gentleness and respect	Slander; speak maliciously against godly behavior	3:16
Live according to God's will	Live according to sinful desires	4:2
No longer give in to sinful desires, but choose to live according to God in regard to the spirit	Choose to live in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and idolatry; plunge into a "flood of dissipation"; heap abuse on believers	4:3–6
Suffer insults because of the name of Christ	Suffer as murderers, thieves, criminals, or meddlers	4:14–15
Are clothed with humility and receive God's grace	Are proud and experience God's opposition	5:5

**HOMEWORK FOR THE WEEK:**

Study the "Let Us" passages in Hebrews (**Figure 1, page 3 of your worksheet**) or the "Believers" "Unbelievers" contrasts in 1 Peter (**Figure 4, page 7 of your worksheet**)...

