

A large, textured, brown eye with a cross in the center of the iris. The eye is rendered in a painterly style with visible brushstrokes. The word "Eyewitnesses" is written in a white, cursive script across the upper part of the eye.

Eyewitnesses

SESSION 4:
1-2 PETER & JUDE

Eyewitnesses Course Plan:

Session 1: Introduction & The Gospel of Mark

Session 2: The Gospels of Matthew & Luke

Session 3: Hebrews & James

Session 4: 1-2 Peter & Jude

Session 5: The Gospel of John & 1-3 John

Session 6: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Prework Discussion

- **1 Peter 2:13-14** "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right."
- Do you think there are any exceptions to this biblical mandate? Why or why not?

1 Peter

Hope in Persecution

Audience:

Verse 1 “To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.”

- = a circular letter addressed to the churches in this region.

“elect exiles of the dispersion” sounds like *Jews* of the dispersion...BUT:

- 1 Peter 2:10 “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people...”
- 1 Peter 4:3 “For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry.”

These verses make it clear that the majority of the recipients were actually Gentile Christians.



Based upon an original created by International Mapping.

Author:

- Some doubt Petrine authorship because:
 - The smooth Greek of the letter
 - 1 and 2 Peter are substantially different (in style and vocabulary)
 - Wholesale persecution was not a problem while Peter was living.
- Peter claims to be the author (1 Peter 1:1), writing through Silvanus (1 Peter 5:12) [as his amanuensis]

Date & Location of Writing:

- Peter wrote the letter from Rome in the 60's.
 - Peter sends greetings to the Christians from Babylon (1 Peter 5:13); Revelation 17:5 uses “Babylon” as a code word for Rome.
 - Peter ended his career in Rome.
 - Peter says that Mark is with him (1 Peter 5:13), and Mark came to Rome to be with Paul by the mid-60s (2 Tim. 4:11; Col. 4:10)

Key Verses: 1 Peter 3:14-17

“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

1 Peter

PERSEVERE THROUGH THE PAIN
TRUSTING IN JESUS'S REIGN

The Priesthood of All Believers

Sprinkled with the Blood

- **1 Peter 1:2** who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.
- **Leviticus 8:30** Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood from the altar and sprinkled them on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments and his sons and their garments

A Holy People

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house[a] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him, will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



The Cornerstone/Capstone



Anti- Roman Rhetoric

The cult of Caesar pushed that he was God.

Submit to Human Authority

1 Peter 2:13-14 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.

Honor the Emperor

1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

1 Peter 5:13

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

2 Peter

Where is the promise of His coming?

Prework Discussion

- **2 Peter 3:13** "...in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."
- When you anticipate the new heavens and earth do you expect replacement or renewal?

2 Peter Authorship:

- 1:1 “Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ...”
- 1:17-18 “For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,’ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.”
- 3:1 “This is now the second letter that I am writing to you...”

2 Peter Authorship Questions:

- Why is the Greek so bad/different (from 1 Peter)?
- Why would Peter use so much of Jude?
- Is this a “last testament”? In that case pseudonymity would be expected.

2 Peter Authorship Responses:

- Why is the Greek so bad/different (from 1 Peter)?
 - 1 Peter was written with Silvanus—maybe 2 Peter was written on his own, or with a different amanuensis.
- Why would Peter use so much of Jude?
 - Why not use a letter that responded to the same issues he was responding to (false teaching)
 - OR: Perhaps Jude used Peter
- Is this a “last testament”? In that case pseudonymity would be expected.
 - Not necessarily...

Key Texts: 2 Peter 3:1-4

“This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, 2 that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles. Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

Key Texts: 2 Peter 3:8-9

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.



2 Peter

DON'T CONFUSE GOD'S PATIENCE FOR POWERLESSNESS

A view of Earth from space, showing the Middle East and surrounding regions. The Earth's curvature is visible, with the horizon line separating the dark blue of the atmosphere from the lighter blue of the sky. The landmasses are in shades of brown and tan, and the oceans are a deep blue. The text is overlaid on the image.

Replacement or Renewal?

Brand-spanking new or purged and perfected?

2 Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

2 Peter 3:5-7

⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷ By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

The New Heavens & Earth

Replacement

- Our work does not ultimately matter
- Our care for creation does not ultimately matter
- If this world is going to be scrapped, why take care of it?

Renewal

- Our work matters (we build for the kingdom)
- Our care for creation reflects God's heart
- If this world is going to be renewed by God in the end, we should be agents of that renewal now.

2 Peter 3:10-13

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Old Testament Stories

Noah

2 Peter 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;

Lot

2 Peter 2:6-10 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless ⁸ (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— ⁹ if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. ¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh^[a] and despise authority.

Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings;

Balaam

2 Peter 2:15-16 They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Bezer,^[a] who loved the wages of wickedness. ¹⁶ But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

Jude

Contend for the faith

Authorship:

- Besides Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus there are:
 - 1. Jude the son of James who was one of the original apostles (Luke 6:16)
 - 2. Judas also called Barsabbas who went with Paul, Barnabas and Silas to Antioch after the Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15:22)
 - 3. Jude listed along with James, Joseph, and Simon as a brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3)




Jude

- This Jude is one of the half-brothers of Jesus (as is James)
- Jude does not spell out his biological connection to Jesus but in humility only calls himself a *servant* of Jesus Christ and brother of James (verse 1)

Jude

- Time of writing not certain
- Place of writing not certain
- It is thought Jude ministered somewhere in Palestine in the A.D. 60s to the A.D.80s
- Occasion: Jude lists the sins of evildoers/false teachers, whom he urges Christians to resist

A dark, rainy street in Paris at night. A red traffic light is illuminated in the center of the frame. The word "Jude" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the top of the image. The street is wet and reflects the lights. In the background, the ornate buildings of Paris line the street, and a large, domed building is visible in the distance. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

Jude

GOD'S GRACE IS NOT A GREEN LIGHT FOR A SINFUL LIFE

³ Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. ⁴ For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude 3-4

- United by addressing false teaching that denies Jesus's Second Coming and promotes a licentious lifestyle.
- Both respond with the principle: Right teaching leads to right living.

2 Peter & Jude

Old Testament Stories

Exodus

Jude 1:5 Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord^{[a](#)} at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

Cain & Korah

Jude 1:11 ¹ Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

Non-Biblical Stories

Why?

- The false teachers likely used these books as scripture so Jude is contradicting them using their extra scripture to make a compelling argument.

Assumption of Moses

Jude 1:8-10 In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. ⁹ But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”^[a] ¹⁰ Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.



See Genesis 5:21-24 for background



Earliest apocalyptic writing



Written 300-100 BC



Includes five separate works, including the Book of Watchers, which expands upon the events of Genesis 6



“1 Enoch has had more influence on the New Testament than has any other apocryphal or pseudepigraphic work.”
(R. H. Charles)

1 Enoch

Enoch

Jude 1:14-16 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”^[a] ¹⁶ These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.