

Lesson 10 – John’s Letters: *I, II, III John, Revelation*

A. I John

1. Author – John, based on style & similarity (e.g. Jn 1:1 to I Jn 1:1, and Jn 20:31 to I Jn 5:13)
2. Audience & Date: Christians in the late first Century
3. Themes/Uniquenesses: Typical John style, recurring threads. “We know” used 13 times.
4. Purpose (I John 5:13) – to counter false teaching about Jesus and to emphasize the certainty of their faith and salvation (life)
5. Outline – Match the section descriptions with the references from I John.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Section Description</u>
___ 1:1-4	a. Conclusion: praying and avoiding sin
___ 1:5-2:29	b. Walking in the Light: conduct, relationships, separation from World, Truth
___ 3:1-4:21	c. Historical manifestation of the ‘Life’
___ 5:1-13	d. Belief exercised: keeping commandments, believing witnesses
___ 5:14-21	e. Abiding in Love: as children of God; shown in loving brethren

6. Use the outline above to find the chapter in I John in which these verses are found:
 - ___ “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”
 - ___ “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.”
 - ___ “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”
 - ___ “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

B. II John

1. Author – John
2. Audience & Date: the “Elect Lady,” late in the first century
3. Purpose: Encourage faithful opposition to false teaching
4. Key verse (9): “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

C. III John

1. Author – John
2. Audience & Date: Gaius, a leader of a church, late in the first century
3. Purpose: Provide instructions about support of faithful brethren and other matters.
4. Key verse (4): “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

D. Revelation Overview

1. Author: John, the Apostle (1:1,2,4)
2. Readers: Seven churches in Asia (1:4, and see the list in chapters 2 & 3).
3. Time of Writing: 64-68 AD (associated with Nero) or 90-96 AD (associated with Domitian)
 - Evidence for later date: state of Ephesus church
 - Wide-spread persecution; Laodicea destroyed in 60 AD (rebuilt w/o help)

- Emperor worship stronger under Domitian.
4. Purpose: Written to 1st Century Christians for their comfort & encouragement in persecution, but also a message of hope for all who endure trials.
 5. Themes: Jesus is Victorious; and Rome is Destroyed (14:8; 18:2)
 - Pictures of Jesus: Worthy Lion/Lamb (5); Victorious rider (6); Bridegroom (19); Victorious Warrior (19); Judge (20).
 - The scale of persecution matches Roman persecution (as in I Peter) and history of Rome's loss of power. The "Great city" (17:18) fits Rome better than Jerusalem. (see Dan 2:44.)
 6. Style: Revelation is similar to the Old Testament books: Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah.
 - Do the prophets identify their writings as 'visions' or 'dreams' (Dan 7:1; Ezek. 1:1; Zech 1:8; Rev 1:10; 9:17)?
 - Do the prophets indicate that the images are symbolic of something else (Dan 4:18; 7:15-18; Zech 1:18-21; Rev 1:20; 17:15-18.)?
 - Are interpretations of the visions always known (Dan 4:18)?
 7. Outline – Match the section descriptions with the references from Revelation.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Section Description</u>
___ 1:1-3:32	a. The Seven bowls of wrath (sent from the temple)
___ 4:1-7:17	b. Christ among the churches (lampstands)
___ 8:1-11:19	c. The fall of the great Harlot and the Beasts
___ 12:1-14:20	d. The Seven Trumpets of Judgment
___ 15:1-16:21	e. The Lamb and the Book with Seven Seals (plus interlude)
___ 17:1-19:21	f. Final Admonitions & Encouragements
___ 20:1-22:5	g. The Dragon cast down; Judgment and the New Jerusalem
___ 22:6-21	h. The Woman & Man Child (Dragon, Sea & Earth Beasts); Victorious Lamb
 8. Use the outline above to find the chapter in Revelation from which these quotations are taken.
 - ___ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John...
 - ___ ...Behold, in the midst of the throne...stood a Lamb as though it had been slain.
 - ___ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

E. Message and Application of Revelation

1. What were some of the challenges the churches of Asia were facing?
 - Persecution from without? (2:9-10; 2:13; 3:10)
 - Immorality within? (2:20-21)
 - False Teaching & Religious Imposters? (2:2; 2:14-15)
 - Apathy? (2:4; 3:1-2; 3:16-17)
2. Based on the scenes in the Revelation, should the Christians expect a period of waiting and enduring? (e.g. 6:9-10; 7:14; 11:7-11; 12:13, 17; 13:7-8; 13:15; 14:13;
3. Was there a message for non-Christians in the calamities on earth (9:20-21; 16:9-10; 17:8)?
4. Is there more "behind the scenes" than we can see (e.g. 12:7-9)?
5. How certain is the victory (17:14; 19:19-21; 20:9-10)?