

b. Extended notes

(1) Chapter summaries:

2 Peter:

1. The promises and gifts of God, the superiority of the word of God.
2. Prediction of coming of false teachers
3. Warnings regarding the second coming and the character of Christian life in that light.

Jude: In summary form he warns of the coming of apostates (3-4), speaks of their judgment (5-7) their character (8-16), and the duty of believers in light of the same. He closes with one of the most familiar benedictions.

(2) Points for further study:

- things to be remembered in Peter
- nature of the final catastrophe (3)
- character of faith and love in Jude.

c. Summary and conclusion:

Both are important books although the segments discussing the false teachers, etc., are a bit depressing. 2 Peter chapter 1 is, on the other hand, one of the most encouraging chapters in the Epistles. The practical advice that both give in the light of the Lord's coming and our responsibilities to be faithful is very pointed.

5. The Letters of John

a. An overview:

Allusions to 1 John begin as early as Polycarp (AD 95) and Papias (early second century); Irenaeus (late third century) was the first to attribute it to the Apostle John, "author of the fourth Gospel". The testimony of the early church was unanimous on this point and this unanimity has basically continued to the present day!

Like Hebrews 1 John is anonymous. It contains some clues to the author's identity, however. The opening (1:1-4) seems to have been written to authenticate the apostleship of the author (the "we" does not refer to the general Christian public but to the author's personal experience, despite the claims of some scholars). First John has an unmistakable air of authority--the author clearly expects his readers to pay attention and to obey. It is closely tied to the Gospel by parallels of thought and even verbal parallels. Differences between them can be explained by their different purpose and forms. There is, therefore, no decisive reason for denying the Johanne authorship to first John.