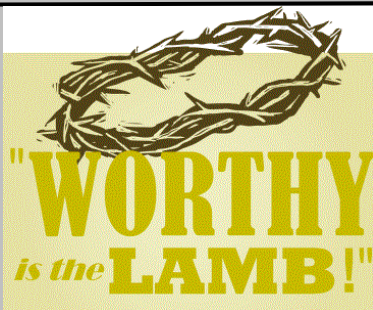




THIS WEEK

The last set of letters in the Bible contains the General Epistles. They were written by a variety of authors and often to a wider group of readers rather than to congregations in specific places or to individuals. We will also include the book of Revelation in our overview. Finally, we will respond to a few contemporary criticisms of the Bible.

KEY IDEAS



Worthy is the Lamb
who was slain, to receive
power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory
and praise!
Revelation 5:12

Session 8: General Epistles, Revelation, and Contemporary Criticism of Scripture

QUESTION 1: HEBREWS

Read [Hebrews 10:19-39](#). Hebrews warns about the severe punishment awaiting those who turn away from Jesus. How can this passage help when you are tempted to drift away from Bible reading, devotions, prayer or worship attendance? How does it motivate you to reach out to those who seem to be slipping from the faith?

QUESTION 2: PETER'S EPISTLES

Read [1 Peter 1:10-12](#). Peter wrote to warn us about false shepherds, to prepare us for times of persecution, and to teach us about the writing of the Scriptures. How does it change our reading of the Old Testament to understand that the prophets who wrote it “searched intently and with the greatest care” and that “they were not serving themselves but you”?

QUESTION 3: JOHN'S EPISTLES

Read [2 John 4-6](#) and [3 John 4](#). John's letters combat the false teaching that Jesus did not come in the flesh, that the body is evil, and that it does not matter what we do with these bodies. What is John's great desire for his “children”?

QUESTION 4: JUDE

Read [Jude 22-25](#). What two attitudes does Jude encourage when we encounter those struggling with sin? What is our confidence as we wait for Jesus' return?

QUESTION 5: REVELATION

Read [Revelation 19:11-16](#). Jesus is the rider on the white horse who returns on Judgment Day, conquers all enemies, and removes sin, death, and Satan from his creation. What comfort can you find in reading a book like Revelation?

QUESTION 6: BIBLE CRITICISMS

What criticisms have you heard leveled against the authenticity of the Bible?

QUESTION 7: BIBLE CRITICISMS

Explain how the differing Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection might fit together. How are the differing accounts actually evidence of authenticity?

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