

Adult Studies
September 12, 2021

“Bible 101”

- I) Asking the “Bible 101” Questions
 - A) Who was the writer?
 - B) What was the date?
 - C) Where was the place?
 - D) What was the occasion?
 - E) “Most of the best scholarship we have...”
- II) Reading the Bible on Two Levels
 - A) Then and Now
 - B) There and Here
 - C) “Reading someone else’s mail”
- III) Crossing the hermeneutical bridge
 - A) What is “hermeneutics”?
- IV) This Session’s Books
 - A) **Hebrews:** Most of the best scholarship we have believes that the book of Hebrews may have been written during a time of persecution for the church; some say in the sixties (Nero) some say in the nineties (Domitian). The author is not known with certainty, nor is the specific audience. (Early tradition assigned authorship to Paul.) Some say Hebrews is a sermon.
 - B) **James:** Most of the best scholarship we have believes that the book of James was written in the last third of the first century, though some say it was written in the early sixties by James, the brother of Jesus.
 - C) **First and Second Peter:** Most of the best scholarship we have believes that if First Peter was written by the apostle Peter, it would have been written in the sixties, but if by a later disciple writing in the name of Peter, in the late first century. Second Peter appears to have been written in the early second century. (Are the attributions of authorship pseudonymous?)
 - D) **First, Second and Third John:** Most of the best scholarship we have believes that First John was written around 100, by a writer in the Johannine tradition. Second and Third John may have been written by the same person around the same time.
 - E) **Jude:** Most of the best scholarship we have believes that Jude may have been written in the late first century. Jude 1:1 identifies the author as “the brother of James.” Is that literal identification or a later association?
 - F) **Revelation:** Most of the best scholarship we have believes that the Revelation may have been written in the nineties, by a writer who is identified as “John”, to churches in Asia Minor, undergoing persecution, perhaps at the hands of Domitian.
- V) An important word: *Pseudonymity*