

The Other Letters Series covers *Hebrews*; *First and Second Peter*; *First, Second and Third John*; and, *Jude*. All the letters written by Paul are in the Paul’s Letters Series, while *James* is in the James Series and *Revelation* is in the Revelation Series.

Surprisingly little information is known about the letters in this series. The exact dates of all of them are unknown, and the author of *Hebrews* is both unknown and disputed. The target audiences of the letters are broadly described, if described at all.

Based on information from the *NIV Archaeological Study Bible*, the dates of these letters might be:

<i>Hebrews</i>	60-70 AD
<i>1 Peter</i>	60-64 AD
<i>2 Peter</i>	64-68 AD
<i>Jude</i>	60-68 AD
<i>1 John</i>	85-95 AD
<i>2 John</i>	85-95 AD
<i>3 John</i>	85-95 AD

Using this information, the episodes of this series are placed in this chronological order rather than the order they’re presented in the New Testament. This chronological order has two benefits: *2 Peter* and *Jude*, which have many similarities, are now placed next to one another, and all the letters of John are placed last.

Although these letters are written by four different authors over more than three decades, they address three common problems: false teachers, Christians abandoning Christianity, and the abandonment of basic principles given by Jesus. Persecution seems to be a rising problem, too.

As you read these letters, watch for these themes and for the solutions to them proposed by the authors: faithfulness to true doctrine and to the apostles, correct behavior, and love.

Another thing to watch is the developing attitude and teachings of two of the authors as they aged. Peter is no longer impetuous, but is wise and thoughtful. John is even more convinced that love and Jesus are the two answers to almost every question.

The first episode in this series, “Elephant in the Room,” is purposely very anachronistic and playful. It is written that way to grab your attention and point you to a very real, common

problem of the early churches. It was difficult to bring in new believers, but even harder to keep them and train them to be effective disciple-makers.

A big factor in the growth of the churches was the writings that became the New Testament, writings such as these letters. These did not become widely circulated until late in the first century. Prior to that time, the churches surely struggled to grow and maintain good, consistent doctrine.