### Hebrews

## Chapter 13

1Love for the brothers should live within you, 2and don’t forget [to show] love for strangers [too] – since some people were privileged to show hospitality to [God’s] messengers – without realizing it!  
  
  
3And remember those who are in prison… Act as if you’re locked up with them!  
  
  
Also, rememberAlso, remember<sup class="difference">[Syr] those who are being persecuted… Because you’re only human too!  
  
  
4Marriage is honorable for all [people], and [marriage] beds are clean – but God will judge sexually immoral ones and adulterers.  
  
  
5Don’t be the sort who loves wealth… Instead just be satisfied with what you have, because Jehovah promised:  
  
 ‘I won’t forget you and I’ll never leave you.’ [Joshua 1:5]  
  
6Yes, let’s confidently say:  
  
 ‘Jehovah is my helper, so I will not fear;  
 For what can man do to me?’  
 [Psalm 118:6]  
  
  
7Remember your shepherdsRemember your shepherds<sup class="difference">[Syr] who teach you God’s word. Then, as you see the results of their conduct, copy their faithfulness.  
  
  
8[Remember that] Jesus the Anointed One was the same yesterday as he is today, and [the same] as he will be throughout the ages... 9So, don’t allow yourselves to be misled by various strange teachings.  
  
[Speaking of which], it’s better for [your] hearts to be strengthened by [God’s] loving care than by anything that you might eat (for it didn’t help those who went that way). 10Instead, we have an ‘Altar’ [we may eat from] that even those who serve in the Tent can’t eat from!  
  
  
11Also, just like how the High Priest [in the Temple] carries the blood of [sacrificial] animals into the Holy Place to serve as sin offerings, and the bodies are then burned up outside the camp afterwards, 12Jesus suffered outside of the [city] gate to make people holy with his blood...  
  
13Therefore, let’s all go to him outside of the camp, bearing all the bad things that were said about him 14(for we don’t have a permanent city here – instead, we expect the one prepared for us).  
  
15Then, through him, continuously offer God the ‘sacrifice’ of praise – that is, the ‘fruit’ from our lips, praising His Name!  
  
  
16And don’t forget [to practice] compassion and association with the poor,And don’t forget [to practice] compassion and association with the poor,<sup class="difference">[Syr] because a man can please God because a man can please God<sup class="difference">[Syr] through such ‘sacrifices.’  
  
  
17Also, have confidence in your shepherds,Also, have confidence in your shepherds,<sup class="difference">[Syr] and listen to them – because they’re watching over your lives like a man who has to give an explanation [to his superior]! May they do this with joy, and not with groaning, because that wouldn’t be better for you.  
  
  
18Pray for us! For we’re confident that we have good character, since we want to act properly in everything. 19And I especially want to ask you to do this, so I can return to you soon!  
  
  
20Now, may the God of peace who raised the great Shepherd from the house of the dead (our Lord Jesus), thanks to the blood of the age-long Sacred Agreement, 21make you accomplish every good work, do His will, and among you all, do something good [in his sight].  
  
Through Jesus the Anointed One, praised into the ages of ages…  
  
May it be so!  
  
  
[P.S.]  
  
22Now, I ask you, my brothers, ponder over my message of encouragement, because I really haven’t written very much.  
  
  
[P.P.S.]  
  
23O yes... I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released, and if he gets here soon, I’ll come to see you with him.  
  
24Give [my] greetings to all your shepherds and to all the Holy Ones.  
  
All the [believers in] Italy [also] send you their greetings.  
  
25May [God’s] loving kindness be with you all!  
  
May it be so!

# James

James is a letter for general circulation to the Christian congregations.  
  
Although it’s attributed to someone named ‘James,’ it’s unclear exactly which James it is, since there were several. Traditionally, it’s understood to be the James who’s the brother of Jude and half-brother of Jesus.  
  
The letter was probably first written in Aramaic before being translated into Greek. We don’t really know when it was written, but it must have been sometime before 66 CE, when the Roman invasion came to Jerusalem.  
  
Some have doubted the authenticity of this book. Why? Well, unlike Paul, the writer may appear to be a staunch defender of the Old Law and its customs (James 2:8-11). Also, it lacks some Christian terms. Further, it was one of the last books to enter the Bible canon.  
  
However, if there was a real person named James who was an Apostle to the Jews in JeruSalem, then his terms and subject matter would certainly have reflected the life of Jewish Christians, as Jewish Temple worship was still operating. Further, claims that he defended the Old Law are missing the point of his argument, as it only looks that way if his words are taken out of context.