Lesson 12 · The Later Apostles

Main sentence

God's promise “will be fulfilled”

Scope

- AD 62 – 100 · Hebrews, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Mark, Jude, Revelation, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, John
- Paul Released and Rearrested · AD 62–67
- The Fall of Jerusalem · AD 66–70
- John · AD 90–100

Before & after

- Previous: God's promise “goes to all nations”
- **This lesson: God's promise “will be fulfilled”**

Discussion

- In 2 Tim 4:7 Paul says, “I have finished the race.” As he looks back on his life, what does he value most? Compare Phil 3:7–14.
- Of the seven letters to the seven churches, which one sounds most like the church today? Which sounds most like you?
- From Gen 3:15 to Rev 22:20, the whole Bible tells one promise. In a sentence or two, how would you explain that promise to a friend who has never read the Bible?

Person

John

Key verse

Rev 21:3–4

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them… He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Five key events

1 · Paul's Last Letter

- Released, Paul writes 1 Timothy and Titus, teaching how to order the church
- Arrested again, he writes 2 Timothy: “I have fought the good fight.” He is martyred in Rome around AD 67

2 · Peter and Mark

- Nero's persecution comes
- Peter writes to the scattered believers: “the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold.” Mark writes down the gospel Peter preached
- Peter is martyred in Rome

3 · The Fall of Jerusalem

- In AD 70 the Roman army burns the temple, just as Jesus had foretold: “There will not be left here one stone upon another.” The sacrifices cease
- The old order has passed away

4 · John's Gospel and Letters

- The last apostle, at Ephesus, writes “In the beginning was the Word.” John's Gospel selects seven signs and seven “I am” sayings so that people may believe Jesus is the Christ
- 1 John: “God is love.”

5 · Revelation: The Promise Fulfilled

- The vision on Patmos: the Lamb is worthy to open the scroll, the nations become the kingdom of God, a new heaven and a new earth, the new Jerusalem comes down from heaven, and the leaves of the tree of life heal the nations
- All that was lost in Gen 3 is restored in Rev 22
- “Come, Lord Jesus!”