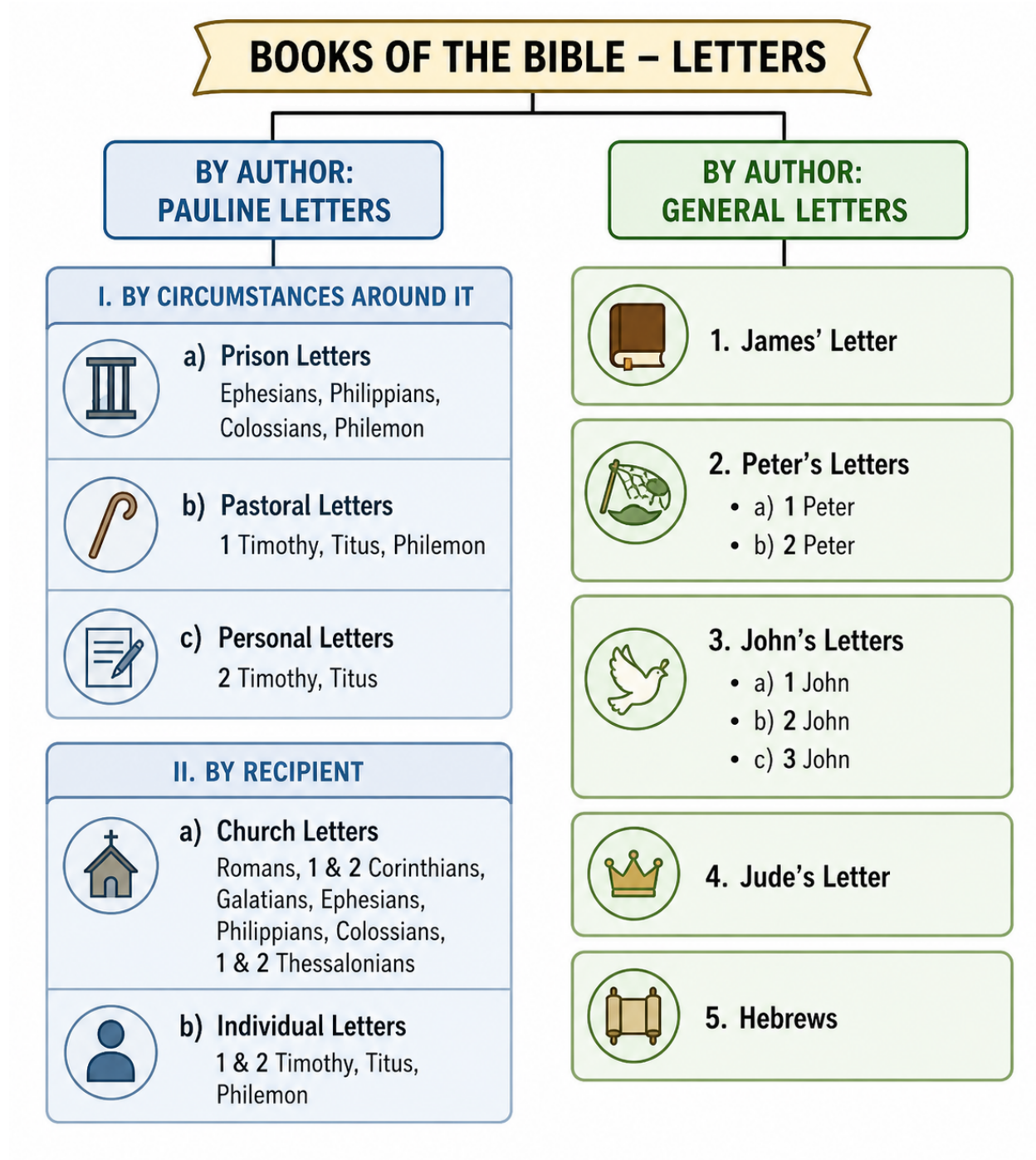


REF 1: LETTERS



Overview

The epistles are letters which the apostles wrote to various categories of people under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for a very specific reason.

This style of writing is only found in the new testament

There are a total of 21 epistles.

Categories By Author

I. Paul's Letters (Pauline Epistles)

Paul wrote 13 out of the 21 letters found in the new testament.

Two Ways to Understand Paul's Letters

A. By Circumstances/Message Around it

Prison Letters

Written in prison during Paul's first imprisonment.

Ephesians- To the church in Ephesus, to encourage them on the identity of believers, the church as the body of Christ and importance of unity.

Colossians- To the church in Colosse, to address the divinity of Christ and warning against false teachings.

Philippians- A thanksgiving note to the church in Philippi, personal greetings and exhortation to be joyful and adopt the mindset of Christ in life.

Philemon- Paul meets Onesimus in prison, a runaway slave to Philemon. Writing to Philemon and the church at his house to plead for Onesimus about his new identity in Christ and acceptance in the church.

Pastoral Letters

Written to individuals giving guidelines for church leadership and as an encouragement in their discharging of ministerial duties.

1 Timothy

Guidelines for church leadership, confronting false teaching, and proper conduct in the church

Titus

Church leadership, sound teaching, and living out the faith in a counter cultural society

Philemon

Forgiveness, restoration, and relating to others with biblical brotherhood despite their dark history.

Personal Letters

Written to individuals but with a much more personal and affectionate presentation.

2 Timothy

Endurance in ministry and faithfully passing on the truth

Titus

Church leadership, sound teaching, and living out the faith in a counter cultural society. It addresses the organization and administration of the churches Titus oversees in Crete.

B. By the Recipient of the Letter**To the churches**

Letters named after the location where the letters were sent.

Focus: -Doctrine; what the church should know

-Application; what action to take

-Instructions; specific to the church

Romans

God's righteousness revealed, salvation through faith, and unity among believers. Paul addresses the foundation of the Christian doctrine.

1 Corinthians

Addressing divisions in the church, use of spiritual gifts, love, and godly conduct. It is written to address issues of manners, morals, and beliefs within the church.

2 Corinthians

Defending the apostolic ministry, God's comfort in trials, and the grace of giving

Galatians

Life in Christ's freedom, being made right by faith, and the contrast between law and grace. Therefore salvation is a gift.

Ephesians

The unity of the Church, spiritual inheritance in Christ, and a life rooted in Him. It addresses the privileges Christians have by being in God's family.

Philippians

Joy despite hardship, humility, and adopting the mindset of Christ.

Colossians

Christ's supremacy and guarding against false teachings. Jesus is God and he shows His work at creation and in redemption.

1 Thessalonians

Paul begins the teaching on the return of Christ, faithful Christian living, and love within the church community

2 Thessalonians

Addressing Christ's return, misconceptions, and endurance through challenges

To Individuals

Letters named after the person the letter was addressed to.

1, 2 Timothy and Titus are pastoral teachings from a spiritual father to his sons.

Titus is a pastoral message to both the leader and church (an open letter).

Focus:

1 Timothy- Godliness and sound teaching for a young pastor

2 Timothy- Mandate to carry on the work of the Gospel

Titus- Pastoring in a counter-cultural church

Philemon- Instructions on accepting a new convert despite a murky past or history.

General Letters

James, Peter, Jude and John's letters are often called general letters since they address the church in general rather than specific churches like Paul's letters.

The core message: Practical faith while living and working in a world hostile to Jesus and the gospel.

Focus:-How to follow Jesus in a harsh environment

- Practical matters: leadership, diligence, fairness, relationships, communication
- Challenges faced by early believers: slavery, favoritism, oppression by the powerful
- Tension between ambition and dependence on God
- Obeying God over fear of man (those in authority)

II. James' Letter

Written by James, the half-brother of Jesus, who became the leader of the church in Jerusalem.

Writes to Balance the teaching of salvation by faith alone and the place of works- Faith and works. Paul's letters teach that Christ fulfilled the law and made salvation possible for us through faith alone. James shows that obedience to God's standards is evidence of real, living faith. It shows the life of a person in Christ. He connects both the Old and New Testaments to show that faith and works go together, in both covenants.

III. Peter's Letters

1 Peter

Written by Peter to churches struggling with persecution and suffering. It calls the believers to focus on:

Our hope in heaven and eternal inheritance, even in times of suffering

Live holy lives marked by love

Live lives that glorify God daily and follow Christ's example

2 Peter

Peter writes to warn believers of false teachings infiltrating the church.

How to increase fruitfulness and growing in Christ

The certainty of God's prophetic Word and its power to preserve our faith in persecution.

Staying faithful to Christ and being prepared for His return because His second coming is sure.

IV. John's Letters

1 John

Assurance of salvation and next steps: i) faith in Jesus Christ, ii) natural response to salvation is obeying God's commands, and loving God and others, iii) Beware of the world, the antichrist and his messengers.

2 John

Know and hold on to the truth, and walk in love are the two key points in this letter to the church. It is a reminder of how a true believer should live in a world with rampant, rising deception and falling away.

3 John

A personal letter but open to the church from John to a man called Gaius, who was a friend. It features kudos, warning and instructions about receiving and supporting other believers on transit for the mission of Christ. He uses 2 people as examples to pass across the message of what to imitate and not imitate as believers- Diotrephes and Demetrius.

V. Jude's Letter

Written by Jude, Jesus's half brother, the letter is a reminder of the end times realities to the church.

The main message beware of the man of lawlessness (antichrist) and the rise of godless men who will slip in the church secretly with the aim to pervert the gospel into a license to immorality (sin).

Two positions he gives; i) about the godless-(punishment is reserved for them) ii) about the believers- do not fret, keep yourselves pure, remember the apostles already warned about this.

VI. Hebrews

Hebrews is often categorized as a general letter written to believers but it doesn't follow the letter structure of the other letters named after the author i.e a) greeting and introduction, b) message, and c) sign off.

There's also no clarity on who the writer could have been, however the message and inferences point to Paul, the apostle.

Hebrews presents a strong case of the truth that Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah, the son of God and the only atoning sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and consequently, the only way to God.

He shows that the old covenant is made complete in the new covenant through Christ, therefore connecting the old testament and new testament message of God to humanity.

A personal note from me

Hey friend,

I bless the Lord for you and for intentionally choosing to grow in your faith. Discipleship is one of the spiritual disciplines that will transform and turn your life around.

I pray that you grow in your spiritual life as you grow as a disciple of Jesus.

I'll be happy to connect with you. I am on these platforms:

→[Facebook](#)

→[Instagram](#)

You can also join our discipleship journey to grow in other spiritual disciplines and become more rooted→ **Discipleship**

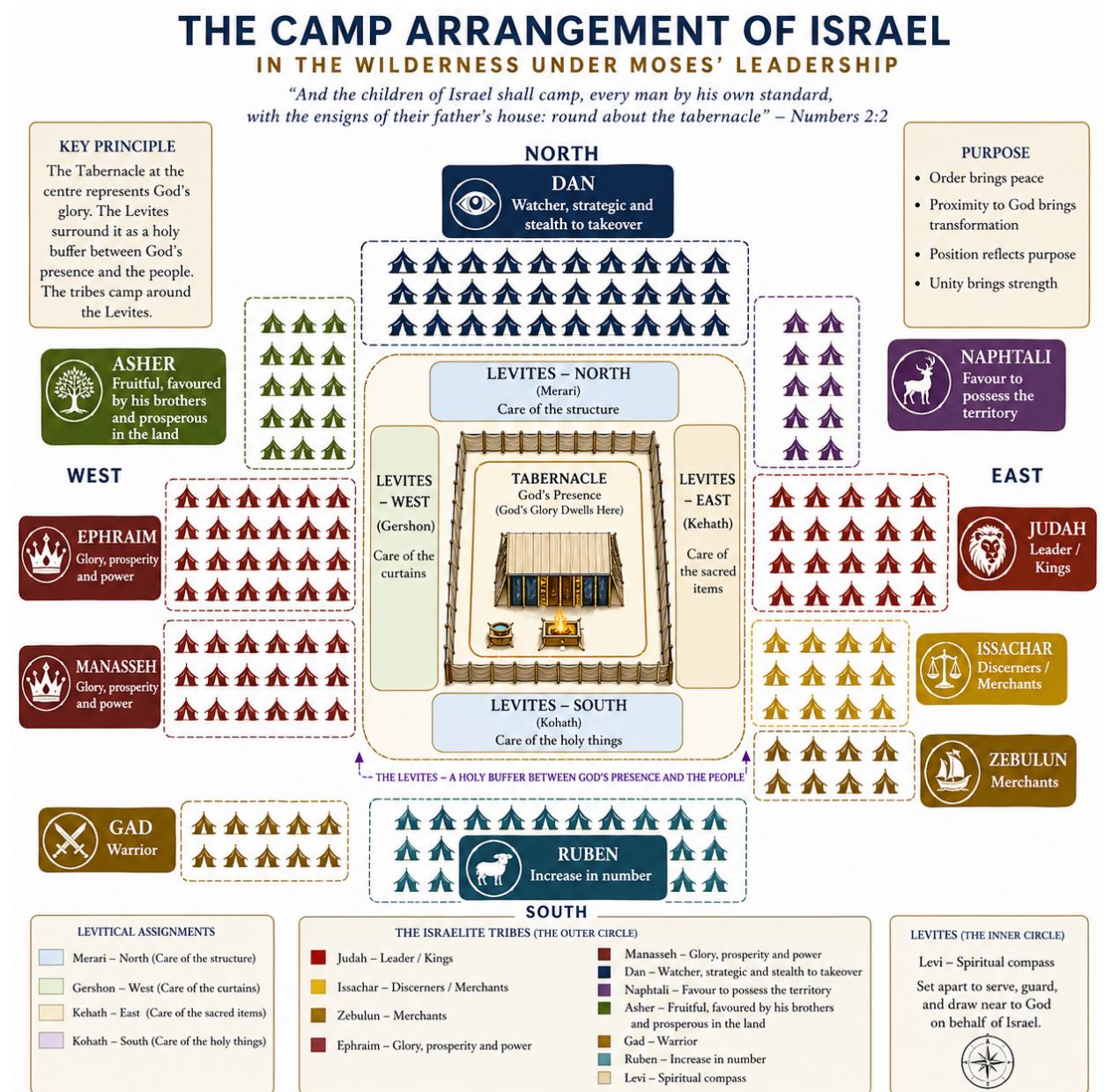
Liz (Varda) Wakhungu,

walkandwitness.com

REF 2: THE ISRAELITES' CAMP AND MEANING BEHIND ITS ARRANGEMENT

THE CAMP ARRANGEMENT OF ISRAEL (NUMBERS 2)

In the Wilderness Under Moses' Leadership



1. AT THE CAMP CENTER

POSITION	GROUP	ROLE / SIGNIFICANCE
Centre	Tabernacle	God’s presence and glory dwells here (Exodus 25:8)

2. INNER CIRCLE – LEVITES (SPIRITUAL BUFFER)

POSITION	LEVITE FAMILY	ROLE
East	Moses, Aaron & Sons (Kohathites oversight)	Guard the entrance, priestly ministry (Numbers 3:38)
South	Kohathites	Care of holy items (Ark, altars, articles and vessels for ministering) (Numbers 4:4–15)
West	Gershonites	Care of curtains, coverings, and tent fabrics (Numbers 4:24–26)
North	Merarites	Care of structure (frames, pillars, bases) (Numbers 4:31–32)

Levi (Tribe Calling): Spiritual compass; set apart to guard, serve, and maintain God’s dwelling among the people.

3. OUTER CIRCLE – TRIBES OF ISRAEL (BY DESIGNATION)

EAST

TRIBE	ROLE / CALLING	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
Judah	Leader / Kings	(Genesis 49:10, Deuteronomy 33:7)
Issachar	Discerners / Merchants	(1 Chronicles 12:32, Deuteronomy 33: 18)
Zebulun	Merchants	(Genesis 49:13, Deuteronomy 33: 18)

SOUTH

TRIBE	ROLE / CALLING	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
Reuben	Increase in number	(Deuteronomy 33: 6)
Simeon	—	
Gad	Warrior	(Genesis 49: 19, Deuteronomy 33:20)

WEST

TRIBE	ROLE / CALLING	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
Ephraim	Glory, prosperity, and power	(Genesis 41:52, Deuteronomy 33: 13-17)
Manasseh	Glory, prosperity, and power	(Genesis 41:52, Deuteronomy 33: 13-17)
Benjamin	Fierce, dwells in safety	(Genesis 49:27, Deuteronomy 33: 12)

NORTH

TRIBE	ROLE / CALLING	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
Dan	Watcher; strategic and stealth for takeover	(Genesis 49:16–17, Deuteronomy 33: 22)
Asher	Fruitful, favoured, prosperous in the land	(Genesis 49:20, Deuteronomy 33: 24)
Naphtali	Favour to possess the territory	(Genesis 49:21, Deuteronomy 33:23)

4. MOVEMENT ORDER (WHEN THE CAMP SETS OUT)

ORDER	CAMP (DIRECTION)	TRIBES
1st	East	Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
2nd	South	Reuben, Simeon, Gad
Middle	Levites	Carry Tabernacle
3rd	West	Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin
4th	North	Dan, Asher, Naphtali

5. KEY PRINCIPLE BEHIND THE SET UP

STRUCTURE	MEANING
Tabernacle at the center	God's presence was with Israel. He dwelt among them.
Levites surround the tent of meeting	Holiness requires order and separation. The Levites (consecrated) were a buffer between God's holiness and the people.
Tribes arranged around Levites by designation	Each tribe had a grace according to the blessing, indicating God's purpose and function over them were intentional
Movement in order of tribes in the camp	God's design always follows Spiritual order and sustains purpose and progress.

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Liz (Varda) Wakhungu,

walkandwitness.com

REF 3: LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD LINEAGE
FROM MOSES TO SOLOMON'S LEADERSHIP

REF 4: JUDGES