

Final Words

Explanation

The writers of the New Testament were not timid. They were eager to bear testimony of the things that they had seen and heard and to give “a reason of the hope” that was in them (1Pt 3:15). While these writers may have commenced their gospel narratives and personal spiritual lives at different points of departure (see, for example, chart 7-2), these chosen witnesses all conclude their work at the same point of arrival. As chart 18-11 shows, Peter’s bottom line is that Jesus was the Son of God. John’s ultimate reality is that the Son of God has come. Paul’s final assurance is that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ. Jude’s lasting testimony is that Jesus is the only true and wise God.

Probably the last New Testament book to be written was the Gospel of John, not the Revelation of John (which stands out of chronological order at the end of the New Testament collection today). John 21, the final appendix to the beloved apostle’s Gospel, ends with the firm attestation, “and we know that his testimony is true” (Jn 21:24) and with the sober reminder that Jesus did many other things not mentioned in the Bible—so many, in fact, that it would be impossible for all the books in the world to contain them.

Final Testimonies

PETER For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, which we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. (2Pt 1:16–18)

JOHN And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. (1Jn 5:20)

PAUL For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38–39)

JUDE Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 1:24–25)