

1, 2, & 3 John

66 Books in 52 Weeks

(A Book-by-Book Overview of the Bible)

Summary & Structure of 1 John

1 JOHN

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

23

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

5

TYPE

EPISTLE, GENERAL



OVERVIEW

Although not expressly stated, these three epistles are typically attributed to the Apostle John, who also penned the fourth Gospel. Similar in writing style and language, this epistle was written by John after he had completed his Gospel, as it assumes the reader has knowledge of its contents. Most likely written later in John's life, John emphasized the divinity of Jesus and His ministry in the flesh.



WRITTEN
90-95 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED
All Eras in the Age of
Grace



AUTHOR
Apostle John

Key Verse in 1 John

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

Background of 1 John

Author: 1, 2, & 3 John are attributed to the apostle John.

Purpose: In this letter John addresses the error of Gnosticism, a popular false teaching. He also exhorts believers to genuinely love one another.

Original Audience: Appears to be addressed to Christians throughout Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)

About Gnosticism:

Comes from the Greek word *gnosis*, meaning *knowledge*.

Those who adhered to this teaching claimed to have superior knowledge.

Taught that all matter was evil.

Theme: Eternal life in Jesus Christ who has come to earth in the flesh.

Outline of 1 John

God is Light (1 John 1:1-2:2)

Prologue (1:1-2)

How God's Children Maintain Fellowship with God

By walking in light (1:3-7)

By owning up to sin (1:8-10)

By trusting in our advocate, Christ (2:1-2)

God is Love (1 John 2:3-4:21)

Walking in Love (2:3-14)

Having the right loyalty (2:15-28)

Living together as Children of God (2:29-4:21)

The Father's love for His children (2:29-3:3)

The two natures of the believer in action (3:4-24)

Warning against false teachers (4:1-6)

God's love and ours (4:7-21)

God is Life (1 John 5)

Victory over the world (5:1-1)

Assurance of salvation (5:6-21)

Summary & Structure of 2 John

2 JOHN

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

24

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

1

TYPE

EPISTLE, GENERAL



OVERVIEW

In this epistle, John wrote to an unnamed woman and her children. Some Bible scholars debate the likelihood of John addressing a woman, and therefore ascribe it as a letter to the church. John warned of false teachers who deny Christ and His doctrine.

Key Verse in 2 John

And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

2 John 1:6

Background of 2 John

Author: John refers to himself as "the elder".

The three epistles attributed to John utilize much of the same language and idea.

All bear similarity to concepts and language found in the Gospel of John.

The term "elder" would be a fitting description of John in his old age.

Extra Biblical: An early Christian name Irenaeus quoted from this and attributed it to the apostle John.

Date Written: Likely written between AD 90-95 from the city of Ephesus.

Recipients: Written "To the lady chosen by God and to her children."

Some take this literally, saying that this was written to a specific individual and her children.

Some take this figuratively, saying that is referring to the local church.

Theme & Purpose:

To encourage brotherly love. (vs 5-6)

To warn against false teachers. (vs 10-11)

Outline of 2 John

Greeting: The Elder's Love (vs 1-3)

The Elder's Joy and Request (vs 4-6)

The Elder's Concern (vs 7-8)

The Elder's Warning (vs 9-11)

Closing: The Elder's Farewell (vs 12-13)

Summary & Structure of 3 John

3 JOHN

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

25

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

1

TYPE

EPISTLE, GENERAL



OVERVIEW

Identifying himself as "The Elder," John wrote a letter to Gaius, a faithful disciple of the church. John expressed gratitude to Gaius for his faithfulness, and reminded him to follow the truth and that which is right.

Key Verse in 3 John

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

3 John 1:11

Background of 3 John

Author: John again refers to himself as "the elder" as he did in 2 John.

Recipient: This letter is addressed to a man named Gaius.

Place & Date: Ephesus; AD 90-95

Purpose and Theme:

To commend Gaius for doing the right in supporting those teachers who came his way.

To express his condemnation of Diotrephes for rejecting John and others whom he should have received

To encourage Gaius to imitate what is good, holding up Demetrius as a good example

Outline of 3 John

Greetings, with an expression of great joy (vs 1-4)

The commendation of Gaius (vs 5-8)

The condemnation of Diotrephes (vs 9-10)

The commendation of Demetrius (vs 11-12)

Concluding remarks (vs 13-14)

Lessons/Applications

It is easy to _____ from the truth of God.

The Christian life is as much about _____ as it is about _____.

There is no substitute for genuine _____.