

# FIVE STEPS INTO THE BIBLE

Who Wrote it?

Who Received it?

Why was it Written?

Any Compliments?

Any Warnings

## JOURNEY #1 - 2 JOHN

### WHO WROTE 2 JOHN

- 2 John 1:1     *The elder to the chosen lady and her children*
- 1 John 1:1     *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, seen with our own eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled .. we bear witness concerning the Word of life.*
- 3 John 1:1     *The Elder, to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth;*
- John 1:1       *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and was God.*
- John 21:20     *Then Peter turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who had leaned on His breast at supper. (This is John.)*
- John 21:24     *This is the disciple who testifies (writes) of the things (written here); we know that the testimony of Jesus is true.*
- Rev. 1:4        *From John, to the seven churches which are in Asia.*

1. Who wrote the book (letter) of Revelation? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was the book of Revelation written to? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who wrote the Gospel of John? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which two writings above start with similar words? \_\_\_\_\_
5. If John wrote the Gospel, he probably wrote 2 John.     \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
6. In 1 John 1:1, only someone who walked with Jesus could say this?     \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

### A Few Thoughts:

- *John was the last living original disciple and apostle, so the title "Elder" would be expected.*
- *Notice this possible timeline of John's life:*
- *6 AD             John the Apostle possibly born.*
- *28-30 AD        John was one of Jesus' disciples.*
- *30-70 AD        John was one of the leaders of the Jerusalem church.*
- *70-95 AD        John fled to Ephesus when Jerusalem was destroyed & served in church there.*  
*(He would serve as an elder; Timothy was probably pastor there then.)*
- *85-90 AD        John wrote the Gospel of John from Ephesus.*
- *90-94 AD        John wrote 1, 2, and 3 John from Ephesus.*
- *95-96 AD        John is exiled to Patmos Island by Rome; wrote Revelation from there.*
- *96-100 AD      John returned to Ephesus and continued ministering until his death.*
- *Notice in Rev. 1:4 that John wrote to the seven churches located in Asia.*
- *Notice that John wrote to one of those churches in 3 John 1 & addressed it to Gaius.*
- *Gaius was probably the pastor or bishop of the church at Pergamum.*
- *Pergamum was one of the seven churches; John probably wrote to all of them.*

7. Approximately, how old was John at his death (The only apostle not martyred.)  
 100 AD - 6 AD = \_\_\_\_\_ years
8. Approximately, how old was John when he began following Jesus?  
 28 AD - 6 AD = \_\_\_\_\_ years
9. Approximately, how many years did John live in Ephesus?  
 100 AD - 70 AD = \_\_\_\_\_ years
10. Look at the map to the right.

a. List the seven churches clockwise starting with Ephesus.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 6) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 7) _____ |
| 4) _____ |          |



**A Few Thoughts:**

- John wrote the book of Revelation to these churches.
- It appears that John wrote 1,2,3 John to these churches too.
- Each of these seven churches had a pastor (also called a "bishop").
- John most likely chose the men who led these churches.

11. What did John really want to do? (2 John 12; 3 John 14)

12. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No                      Since he was in his eighties when he wrote the letters & Revelation, could his age have been a factor?

13. What is the name of the man mentioned in 3 John 12? \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No                      Does it sound like John trusted & liked this guy?

**A Few Thoughts:**

- John was too old to travel; it appears he wrote the letters & had them delivered.
- It is thought by historians that Demetrius was the man who delivered the letters.
- Look at the map above; let's plan a trip - the one Demetrius took for John.
- From Ephesus to Smyrna was 49 miles; From Smyrna to Pergamum was 46 miles.
- From Pergamum to Thyatira was 65 miles; From Thyatira to Sardis was 46 miles.
- From Sardis to Philadelphia was 50 miles; From Philadelphia to Laodicea was 80 miles.
- Then, from Laodicea back to Ephesus was 169 miles.

**IF PEOPLE COULD TRAVEL 20-25 MILES A DAY BACK THEN WITH 2 MULES & 2-3 PEOPLE, THEN IT WOULD TAKE 2-3 DAYS TO TRAVEL FROM ONE CHURCH TO THE NEXT CHURCH.**

15. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No                      John could have communicated by letter to these churches often as long as Demetrius & his staff could go.

16. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No                      It appears that John was the regional Elder (pastor) for these seven churches.

*John did not necessarily establish these churches, but he cared for them from a distance. Study this further on your own.*

**AUTHOR-RECIPIENT\* METHOD IN 2 JOHN**

17. How did John describe himself? (See underlined)

- Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and I not only, but also all who know the truth, 2 for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever; 3 Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. 4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. 5 And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as

coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting, participates in his evil deeds. 12 Having many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that your joy may be made full. 13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

\* Existing qualities for the recipients

Read the following summary of John as he describes himself in his letter. Is it a good summary? Does it cover the points that he mentioned about himself? \_\_Yes \_\_No

*John is the recognized "Elder" of the believers in the seven churches. He loved the people in these churches, and he was pleased that they were walking in the truth with their godly behavior. He was glad to hear the news because he was too far away to minister to them in person. He encouraged them to live godly lives. He still remembered their spiritual beginning & he wanted them to know he cared about them & would be watching their growth. He admitted that he was living his own Christian life with all of its struggles, and that he had a spiritual beginning too. It was quite obvious that he wanted to visit them & talk to them face to face.*

**READ THE GOSPEL & LEARN MORE ABOUT JOHN YOURSELF IN YOUR STUDY.**

18. What qualities in John's life would you like to have in your life?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

19. Are you watching someone's Christian life & growth? \_\_Yes \_\_No

20. How do you monitor & encourage them? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

21. What did John learn from Jesus that made him a godly & faithful man?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## WHO DID JOHN WRITE THIS LETTER TO?

2 John 1:1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children

### A Few Thoughts:

- In early church history, churches were sometimes referred to as a female or a lady.
- It is rather unlikely, though not impossible, that he was addressing the letter to a woman.
- "Children" could refer to members of a church or converts saved in the church.

1. Who did John address the letter to? (2 John 1:1)

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2. From all the information given in this lesson on previous pages, who else might be receiving this letter? (Hint: 3 John 1:1 & Revelation 1:4)

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3. How did John describe the church people who he was writing to? (See underlined.)

Verse 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
Verse 13 \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many times do you see the word "truth"? \_\_\_\_\_
5. John must have been concerned about the people living the truth of God's Word. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
6. Are these people most believers? \_Y\_N

### **AUTHOR-RECIPIENT\* METHOD IN 2 JOHN**

1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and I not only, but also all who know the truth, 2 for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever; 3 Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. 4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. 5 And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it. 7 For many receivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as

coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting, participates in his evil deeds. 12 Having many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that your joy may be made full. 13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

\* Existing qualities for the recipients

7. Match the verse text with the explanation statement.

- |                                      |       |                                |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| a. "The chosen lady & her children"  | _____ | Obey the Word of God           |
| b. "Heard from the beginning"        | _____ | We have grown in our faith     |
| c. "Truth abides in us"              | _____ | We are believers in a church   |
| d. "Just as we received commandment" | _____ | We heard the gospel message    |
| e. "What we have accomplished"       | _____ | We received the gospel message |



### WHY DID JOHN WRITE THIS LETTER?

2 John 1	"Whom I love in truth"	2 John 8	"That you might not lose what you've accomplished"
2 John 1	"All who know the truth"	2 John 7	"Those who do not acknowledge Christ as Savior"
2 John 2	"Truth abides in us"	2 John 9	"Anyone who goes too far rejecting Christ's teaching"
2 John 4	"Some are walking in the truth"	2 John 11	"Participates in his evil deeds"
2 John 7	"Many deceivers have gone out"		

8. What is he saying the problem is? \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Is it safe to assume that the Christian church can be deceived?
10. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Could there be people in the church who teach wrong things?
11. \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No Can you see why John really wished to see them in person?

### DID JOHN COMPLIMENT THE PEOPLE IN THIS LETTER?

12. Match the columns.
- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| a. Some are faithful members of the church        | ___ Verse 6 |
| b. Some are living their lives obeying the truth  | ___ Verse 8 |
| c. Many received the message several years ago    | ___ Verse 1 |
| d. Many have grown & made progress in their faith | ___ Verse 4 |

### DID JOHN WARN THE PEOPLE IN THIS LETTER?

13. Match the columns.
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| a. Walk in the commandments of God               | ___ Verse 10 |
| b. Maintain a full and mature joy in your life   | ___ Verse 5  |
| c. Don't be fooled by false teachers             | ___ Verse 12 |
| d. Make a deliberate decision to love each other | ___ Verse 6  |
| e. Live with the goal of being rewarded by God   | ___ Verse 8  |
| f. Do not let false teachers into your home      | ___ Verse 8  |
14. What about you?
- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| a. ___Yes ___No | Are you living your life by obeying God's standards?             |
| b. ___Yes ___No | Is your life joyful with glad expectation for tomorrow?          |
| c. ___Yes ___No | Have you been fooled by people teaching wrong things?            |
| d. ___Yes ___No | No matter how hard, are you expressing love to people?           |
| e. ___Yes ___No | Do you keep the goal to honor God always in your mind?           |
| f. ___Yes ___No | Without being rude, are you staying clear of false teachers?     |
| g. ___Yes ___No | Have you accepted Jesus into your life as your Savior?           |
| h. ___Yes ___No | Have you told someone you loved them today?                      |
| i. ___Yes ___No | If someone is too far away, have you contacted them anyway?      |
| j. ___Yes ___No | Have you fallen for the lie that it's too late for you to serve? |
| k. ___Yes ___No | Do you feel an excitement inside that must share the truth?      |
| l. ___Yes ___No | Are you surrounding yourself with believers to support you?      |
| m. ___Yes ___No | Are you focusing on someone to teach, guide, and love them?      |