

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

1 JOHN

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To reassure Christians in their faith and to counter false teaching.

Author

John, the son of Zebedee

Date

Probably written between AD 85-90, from Ephesus

Audience

This is a pastoral letter to several Gentile congregations—including the church at Ephesus—and believers everywhere.

Setting

John was an older man and perhaps the only surviving apostle at this time, and had not yet been banished to Patmos, where he would live in exile. As an eyewitness of Jesus, John wrote authoritatively to give a new generation of believers assurance and confidence in God and in their faith.

Special Features

John uses brief statements and simple words, and he features sharp contrasts: light and darkness, truth and error, God and Satan, life and death, and love and hate.



Key Verses

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1:9 ESV)

“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.” (4:9-11 NLT)

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (5:11-12 ESV)

Key People

John, Jesus

Key Places

Ephesus, other Gentile churches