

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

2 JOHN

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To emphasize the basics of following Jesus—truth and love—and to warn against false teachers.

Author

John, the son of Zebedee

Date

Written about AD 90 from Ephesus, around the same time as 1 John.

Audience

Possibly to a local church (“the elect lady”) and all believers everywhere.

Setting

John writes to “the elect lady.” This more likely refers to a congregation rather than to an individual, because much of 2 John is written in the second-person plural. He warns them of the false teachers who were becoming prevalent in some of the churches.

Special Features

Second John consists of mingled instructions and commands dealing especially with warnings concerning false teachers. The focus of 2 John is living in the love of God in accordance with the truth of Jesus Christ.



Key Verses

“The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love. I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.” (1:1-6 ESV)

Key People

John, unnamed Christians