

### BIBLE Is ABOUT

## The epistles of John 2 and 3 John

### The epistles of John



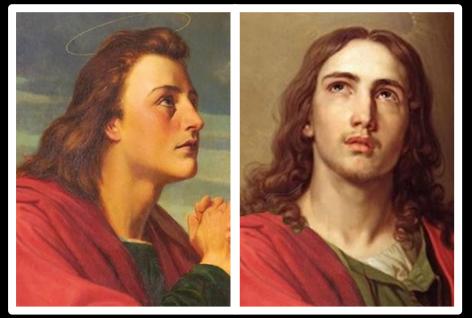


UNLAWFUL WRITTEN /SPOKEN TESTIMONY, FAILURE TO WORSHIP EMPEROR, JAIL BREAK

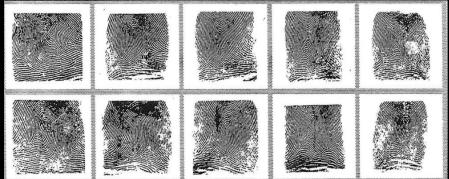
## WANTED BY ROME

### JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE

ALIASES: John the Apostle, Ἰωάννης (*Iōannēs*), John the Evangelist, John of Patmos, Son of Thunder, the Beloved Disciple



Right FacingFront(current photograph not available)



#### DESCRIPTION

AGE: 94 est., born c.006 AD Bethsaida, Israel (no birth records) reported death c.100 AD, Ephesus, Turkey (grave stone)
HEIGHT: 5'8" WEIGHT: 140-160 lbs EYES: brown HAIR: brown BUILD: medium COMPLEXION: swarthy NATIONALITY: heaven OCCUPATION: fisherman, author, apostle, aged carer, theologian FATHER: Zebedee MOTHER: Salome BROTHER: James KNOWN ASSOCIATES: Jesus Christ; Mary; Mary; the "Twelve"; Peter, Paul and Mary; Polycarp; Ignatius of Antioch

### The purpose of John's ministry

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

John 20:30-31

### What did John have to say?

Introducing Jesus, the son of God; believe that you may have life in his name

3 JOH

REVELATION

How to test false teachers

Avoid apostasy In the home

Avoid apostasy in the congregation

Faithfully follow Jesus, the son of God

Know the reality of Jesus, the son of God

### The three epistles of John

# 01 The tests of reality in the Christian life.

02 The battle for truth and against apostasy is fought in the home.

The battle for truth and against apostasy is fought in the local congregation.

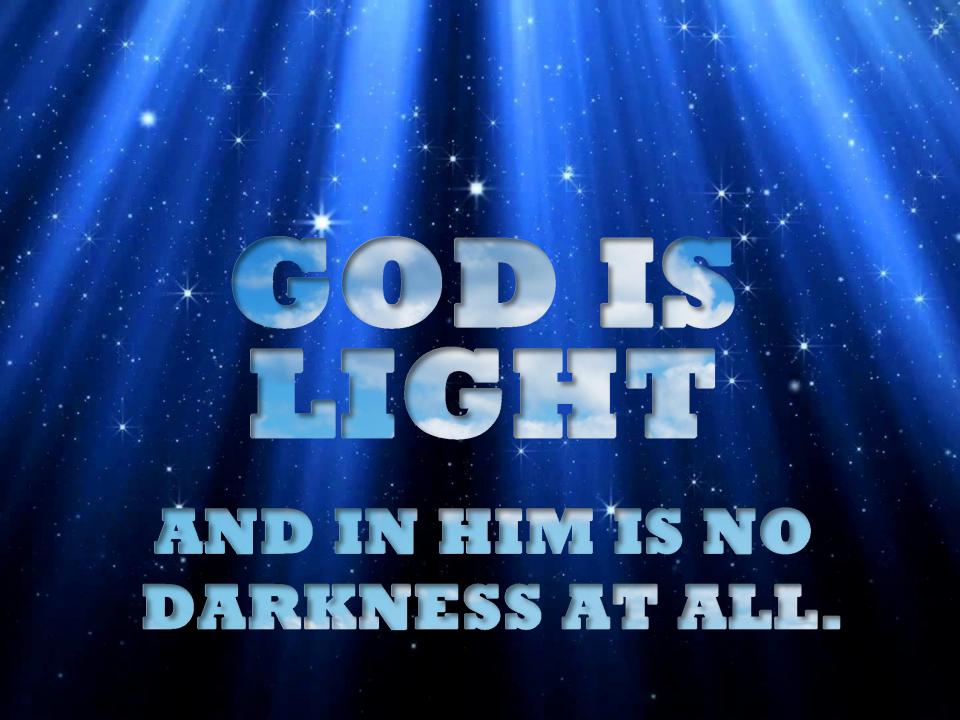




#### CHAPTERS 1 & 2

#### CHAPTERS 3, 4 and 5





### Summary - 1 John Chapter 1

We have seen and proclaim to you the Word of life. God is light. If we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

### Summary - 1 John Chapter 2

We know Christ if we keep his commands. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light. Do not love the world. Children, abide in Him.

"Rejoice in His Light." Yongsung Kim.

### BY THIS WE KNOW LOVE, BECAUSE HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US.

CODD S

### Summary – 1 John Chapter 3

We are God's children. Those born of God do not sin. We should love one another. We know love because he laid down his life for us.

### By this we know love.

<sup>24</sup> Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. 1 John 3:24

Abide in Me, and I in you. (John 15:4)

### ABIDING FOLLOWING God's commands TRUSTING His promises DOING **His Will** BEARING fruit.

### Summary - 1 John Chapter 4

Any spirit that confesses Christ is of God. Satan is in the world.
 Choose the Spirit of Truth or the Spirit of Error. God is love. He sent his Son as a sacrifice for sins. We love Him because He first loved us. If we live in love, God lives in us.

or

**ERROR**?

TRUTH

### CHOOSE!

### Summary - 1 John Chapter 5

Anyone born of God overcomes the world. Faith will be victorious over the world. The Spirit, water and blood all testify and give witness to the Son. God gave us eternal life in his Son. Know Jesus, know life; No Jesus, no life. Ask anything according to His will and He will hear. Keep from idols.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 John 5:14



## The Epistles of John



3 John Fight the battle for truth and against apostasy in the local congregation.





### **Three Blokes**

### **Gaius the encourager**

- <sup>1</sup> The Elder, to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:
- <sup>2</sup> Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. <sup>3</sup> For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth.



### **Three Blokes**

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- <sup>4</sup> I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.



<sup>5</sup> Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, <sup>6</sup> who have borne witness of your love before the church.

*If* you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, <sup>7</sup> because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

<sup>8</sup> We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

### **Diothrephes the dictator**

- <sup>9</sup> I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.
- <sup>10</sup> Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words.
  - And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church.
- <sup>11</sup> Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

### John's Five Indictments

- S/he must occupy the leading place in the church;
- 2. S/he actually refused to receive the Apostle John;
- 3. S/he made malicious statements against the apostles;
- S/he refused to extend hospitality to the missionaries;
- 5. S/he excommunicated those who *did* receive the missionaries!

Have YOU met this person?



### **Demetrius the role mode**

Demetrius has a *good* testimony from all, and from the truth itself.
 And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.



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### CAUTION

"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets."

Luke 6:26



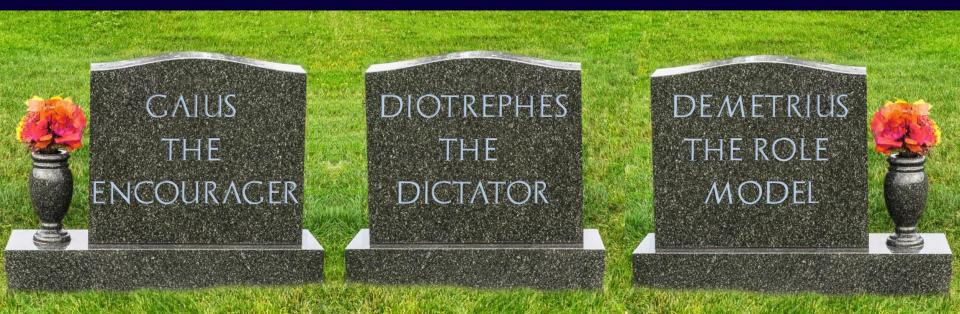
### Closing

<sup>13</sup> I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; <sup>14</sup> but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face.



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- <sup>13</sup> I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; <sup>14</sup> but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face.
  - Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.



### **Outline of 3 John**

#### Gaius the encourager

- Spiritual health (v. 2)
- A good testimony (vv. 3-4)
- Practical ministry / fellow helper (vv. 5-8)

### Diotrephes the dictator

- Motivated by pride / self promoting
- Would not receive John (v. 9)
- 🜲 Lied about John (v. 10a)
- Rejected John's associates (v. 10b)
- Disciplined those who disagreed (v.10c)

### Demetrius the role model

- Had a "good report" (witness) from the fellowship
- Walked in the truth and obeyed the Word of God
- Had a good witness from John

<sup>1</sup> The Elder,

To the beloved Gains, whom I love in truth:

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. <sup>3</sup>For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth. <sup>4</sup>I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

<sup>5</sup>Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, <sup>6</sup> who have borne witness of your love before the church. *If* you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, <sup>7</sup> because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. <sup>8</sup> We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth. <sup>9</sup> I wrote to the church, but Díotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church.

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<sup>12</sup> Demetrius has a *good* testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.

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Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

## The Epistles of John



## 2 John Fight the battle for truth and against apostasy in the home.

### **Apostates, False Teachers, Gnostics**

More than 35 New Testament verses warn against apostasy and some 23 warn against false teachers. This was a well-known and growing problem in the Church.

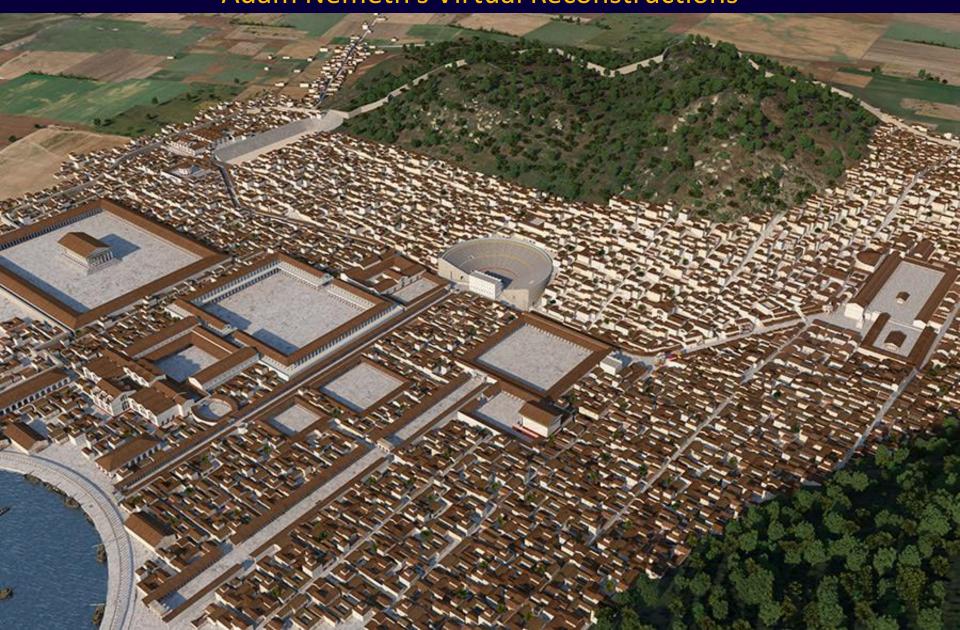
Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also (Revelation 2:6)

In particular, there was a rise of false teachers called the "Gnostics", who blended certain Christian ideas other sources (Greek, Jewish, Parsic; philosophies; religions, theosophies, mysteries). The name denotes a claim to '[secret] knowledge.'

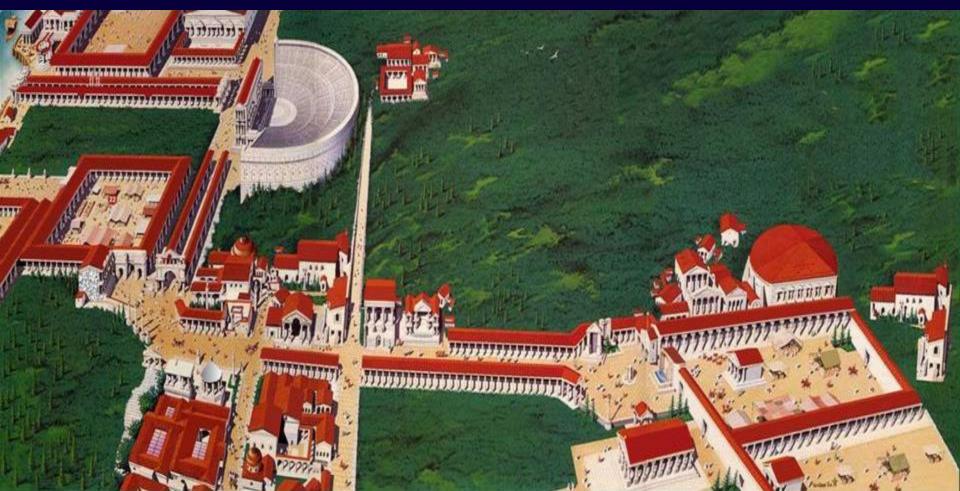


#### **Ephesus, 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD** Ádám Németh's Virtual Reconstructions

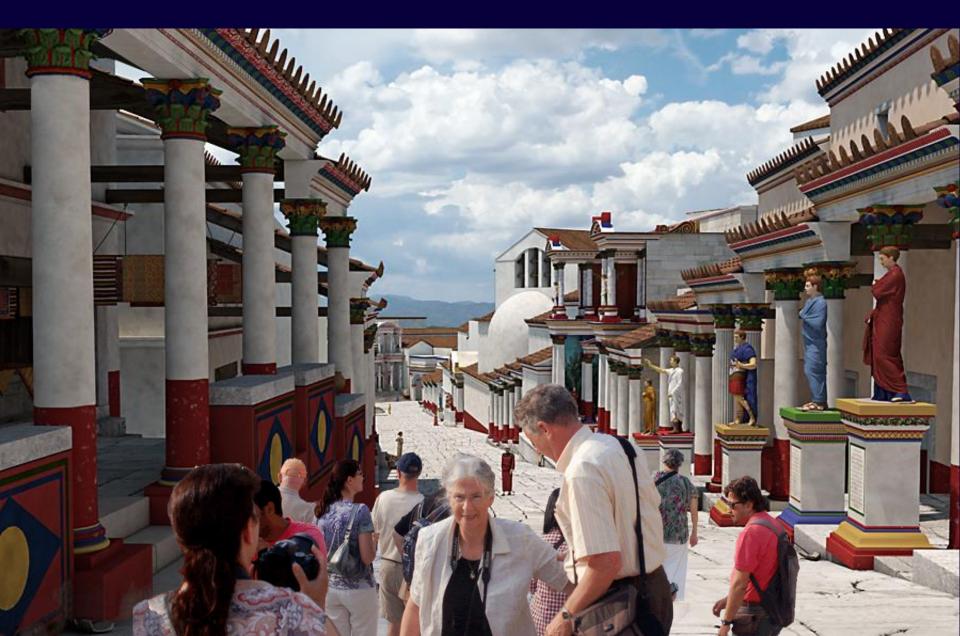


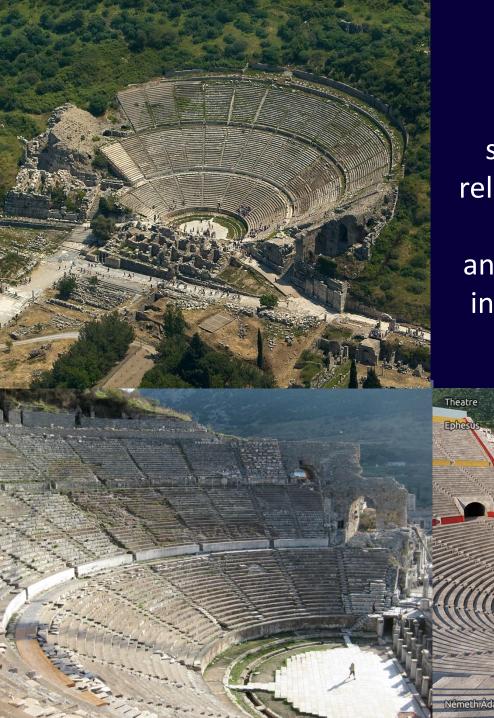
### **Ephesus**

Capital of proconsular Asia, the western part of Asia Minor. Rome gave it the title, "the first and greatest metropolis of Asia." With 250,000 people, it ranked only after Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch. "All the streets of Ephesus were illuminated at night with oil lamps."



#### **My Tour Group in 1<sup>st</sup> Century Ephesus**





#### The Great Theatre

The largest theatre in Anatolia seated 25,000. Concerts; plays; religious, political and philosophical discussions; and gladiator and animal fights were held here. Seats in the lower section were of ivory.

Ádám Németh's Virtual Reconstruction



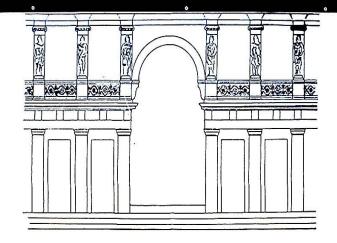
#### The Temple of Artemis

dedicated to the goddess Artemis (Temple of Diana of Ephesus)

One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, it was completely rebuilt three times before its final destruction in a fire in AD 401.



#### Temple of Emperor Domitian Caesar Domitianus Augustus (r. AD 81–96)



Domition Tapmağı Teras ci pi vi i mikli ri zim The Domitian's Temple Jerase (Recursituction) Z.C.I Domitian's Temple (Jerassensete) Im.I Vor.chz le Temple de Domitien (le Front de Terrasse) les.Avj.c.



Banished to Patmos by Domitian for 8 years; John was freed after the emperor died in AD 96.

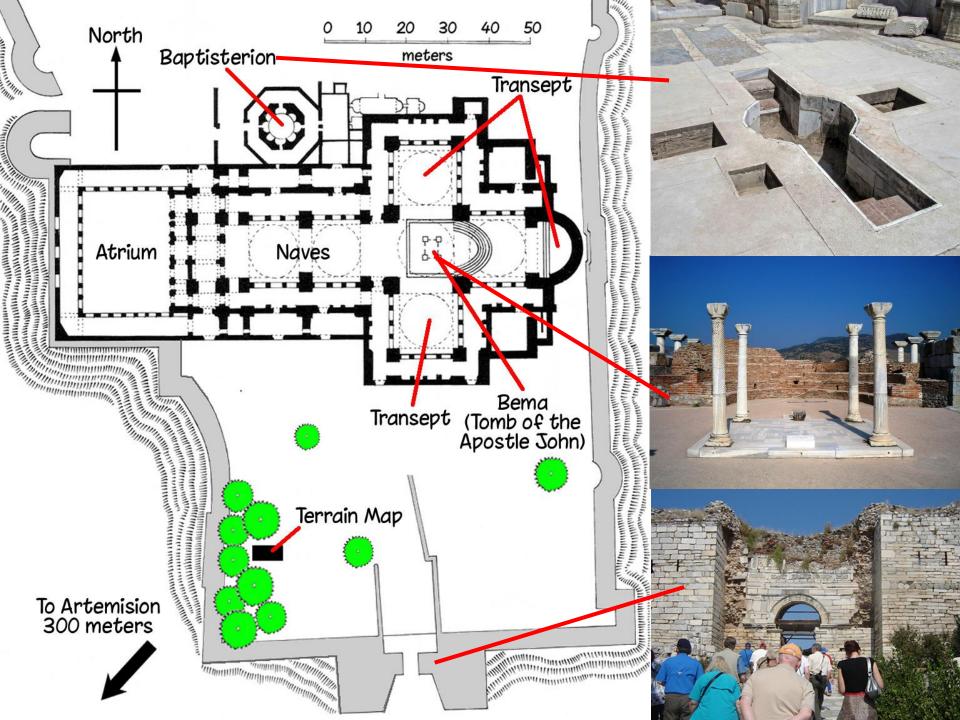
*St John the Evangelist on Patmos,* Hieronymus Bosch, 1504-05



## The Basilica of St. John Ephesus, Asia Minor

Ayasuluk Hill, Selçuk, İzmir Province, Turkey Constructed from AD 548-565 by Hypatius of Ephesus under Emperor Justinian I





#### **Paul's ministry in Ephesus**

At the end of his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey (AD 51) Paul briefly visited Ephesus (Acts 18:18-21), leaving Aquila and Priscilla behind to spread the Gospel.

Very interesting couple. Mentioned six times in N.T., with Aquilla first three times and Priscilla three times. Worked with and ministered with Paul in Corinth, Ephesus and Rome.

- On his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey Paul stayed three years and "all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 19:1,10).
- Returning from his 3<sup>rd</sup> journey, he called for Ephesian presbyters to meet him 40km south of Ephesus at Miletus and warned them:

Paul's parting words to the Ephesian Elders

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Acts 20:29-31

#### John's ministry in Ephesus

- After the resurrection John and Peter returned to the Sea of Galilee, where the Lord revealed himself to them (John 21:1,7). We find Peter and John frequently together after this (Acts 3:1; 4:13).
- John remained, apparently, in Jerusalem among the leadership (Acts 15:6; Gal 2:9). He apparently was not there, however, at the time of Paul's last visit (Acts 21:15-40). His subsequent history is unrecorded.
- John appears to have moved to Ephesus between 38 and 47 AD. He suffered persecution and was banished to Patmos (Rev 1:9), whence he returned to Ephesus, where he died.
- Extra-biblical sources show John as the teacher of Polycarp (AD 69-156), Papias of Hierapolis (60-130), and Ignatius of Antioch (35-108).

According to tradition, John spent many years in Ephesus, where he died around AD 98 and is buried.



John's tomb in the 6<sup>th</sup> century Basilica of St. John in Ephesus (built AD 548-565)

According to tradition, Jesus' mother Mary also lived in Ephesus, where she died and is buried.





#### Questions



#### **Outline of 2 John**

- We must Know the Truth (1–3)
- We must Walk in the Truth (4–6)
- We must **Abide** in the Truth (7–11)
  - The danger of going back (v. 8)
  - The danger of going ahead (v. 9)
  - The danger of going with (vv. 10–11)
- Conclusion (vv. 12–13)

# **2John** Know the truth

<sup>1</sup> The elder (πρεσβύτερος presbyteros) to the elect (ἐκλεκτός eklektos) lady (κυρία kyria) and her children (τέκνον teknon), whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth;

#### Who or what is the "Elect lady"?

- The Greek word translated as "elect" ἐκλεκτό (*eklektos*) means picked out or chosen by God.
- Κυρία (kyría), a feminine proper name, is either:
  - used to denote a specific Christian woman singled out in 2 John (sometimes given the name "Cyria")
  - OR directly translated to English as the noun "lady".
- Another common speculation is that the letter addresses a local ekklesia (congregation), possibly meeting in a lady's home.
- As early as Jerome (c.347-c.490), Κυρία was seen as a symbolic description of the Christian Church. This is the official Catholic Church view and that of most modern Bible commentators.

What if the recipient of this letter is the "most elect" of all ladies, whom Christ entrusted to John's personal care at the cross?



#### What we know of Mary

- Mary, the mother of Jesus was described by God as "highly favoured" (Luke 1:28) and by her cousin Elizabeth as "blessed" (Luke 1:42).
- Mary was a sinful human being who needed Jesus Christ as her Saviour, just like everyone else (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:8).
- Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:34-38).
- Joseph and Mary had children together after Jesus was born (Matthew 13:55-56; Mark 6:3) including:
  - James,
  - Joseph,
  - 🍨 Simon,
  - Judas, as well as:
  - Unnamed daughters (the Greek indicates 3 or more),

- Mary witnessed 12-year old Jesus with teachers in the temple and heard him say "in my father's house." (Luke 2 46-51)
- Mary directed her worship, adoration, and praise to God alone:

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. <sup>48</sup> For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. <sup>49</sup> For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy *is* His name." (Luke 1:46-49)

<sup>27</sup> And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed *is* the womb that bore You, and *the* breasts which nursed You!"
<sup>28</sup> But He said, "More than that, blessed *are* those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (11:27-28)

- Mary was present with her sisters Mary the wife of Cleophas and Salome Zenedee at the cross when Jesus died (John 19:25).
- Mary's sister Mary and Cleophas were the parents of James the less and Joses. (Mark 15:40).
- Mary was taken into John's home at the cross (John 19:26-27).
- Mary and her sons were with the apostles and devoting themselves to prayer on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14).
- Mary is not mentioned in the Bible after Acts Chapter 1 and her death is not recorded.
- Two of Mary's sons, James and Jude, are authors included in the New Testament.

Mary worship could unite Catholicism, Islam, New Age, Gaia followers, radical feminists and others. Muslims see Mary as one of the great women of Islam (e.g., *Surah Maryam* in the Qur'an).

# 2 John Know the truth

- <sup>1</sup> The elder (πρεσβύτερος presbyteros) to the elect (ἐκλεκτός eklektos) lady (κυρία kyria) and her children (τέκνον teknon), whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth;
- <sup>2</sup> because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever.
- <sup>3</sup> Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

#### Walk in (Practice) the truth

- <sup>4</sup> I rejoiced greatly that I have found *some* of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.
- <sup>5</sup> And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another.
- <sup>6</sup> This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.



#### **Beware of Antichrist Deceivers**

- <sup>7</sup> For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ *as* coming [and continuing to exist] in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an [the] antichrist.
- <sup>8</sup> Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.
- <sup>9</sup> Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.
- <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;
- <sup>11</sup> for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

#### Conclusion

- <sup>12</sup> Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.
- <sup>13</sup> The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

#### Conclusion

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St John leading home his adopted Mother, William Dyce. 1841, rev. 1851.



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To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, <sup>2</sup> because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

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#### Key points of the Second Epistle of John

Christian love is NOT a feeling or emotion; it is wilful action!

Christian love means **treating** others the way that God treats you. Christian love is an act of will. We can't always will our affections, but we can will our attitudes and actions. Truth, love and obedience go together. By knowing the truth we are saved. The evidence of salvation is love and obedience. The more truth we learn, the more we love and obey.

#### Key points of the Second Epistle of John

- Christian love is NOT a feeling or emotion; it is wilful action!
- 2 John is the only book in the Bible addressed to a woman.
- **The family** is an important target in the war against truth.
- False teachers evidently still had access to the church in 2 John.
- "Walking in truth" means not only knowing the truth but actively obeying it. (To walk is an act.)

#### John did not want the "Elect Lady" to:

- Give false teachers the impression that their heretical doctrine was acceptable;
- Become infected because of association and possible friendship; or,
- Give false teachers ammunition to use in future.

# Compare/contrast 2 John and 3 John.

## Compare/contrast 2 John and 3 John.

# What is the main similarity?

Letter structure Basic content Same message

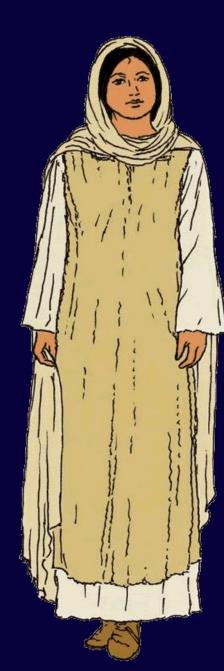
but revised based upon the audience!

#### Letter structure and content

	To the Elect Lady		To my dear friend Gaius
9	<ul> <li>To a godly woman about her family</li> </ul>	•	To a godly man about his congregation
9	(whom I love in the truth)	•	(whom I love in the truth)
9	Grace, mercy and peace	۰	Healthy in body and soul
9	"walking in the truth"	•	"walking in the truth"
9	Dear lady, love one another	٠	Dear friend, love one another
9	Watch out for deceivers; imitate what is good	•	Watch out for Diotrephes; imitate Demetrius
9	I won't write more, as I hope to see you soon	٠	I won't write more, as I hope to see you soon
9	Your sister's children greet you	•	Peace to you. Our friends greet you

## Compare/contrast 2 John and 3 John.

## What is the main difference?



John wrote the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to a woman.

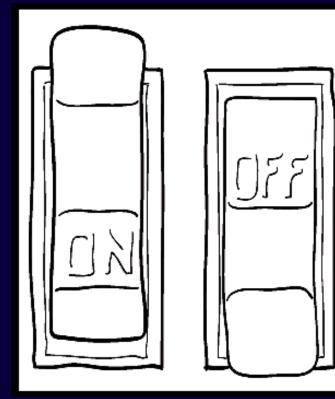
He wrote the 3<sup>rd</sup> letter to a man.



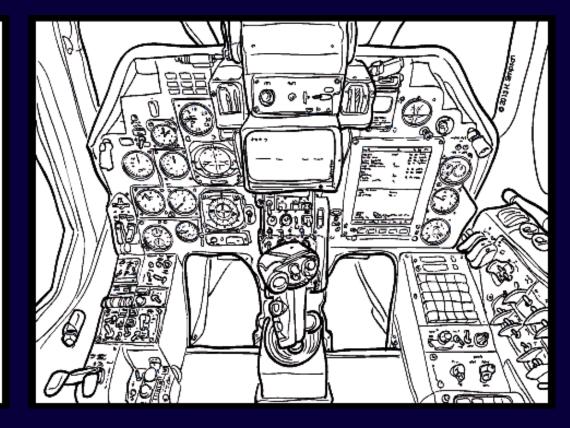
### Men and Women are different!



## MEN WOMEN



FOOD SEX



### EVERYTHING

Men and women aren't the same. And they won't be the same. That doesn't mean that they can't be treated fairly.

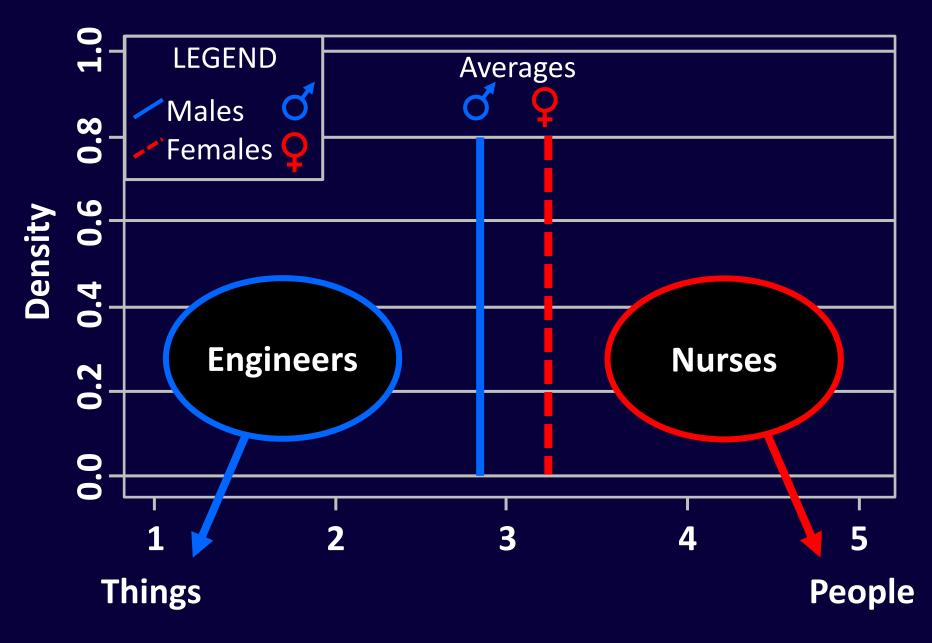
**Jordan Peterson** 

Men and women are more similar than dissimilar. Jordan Peterson

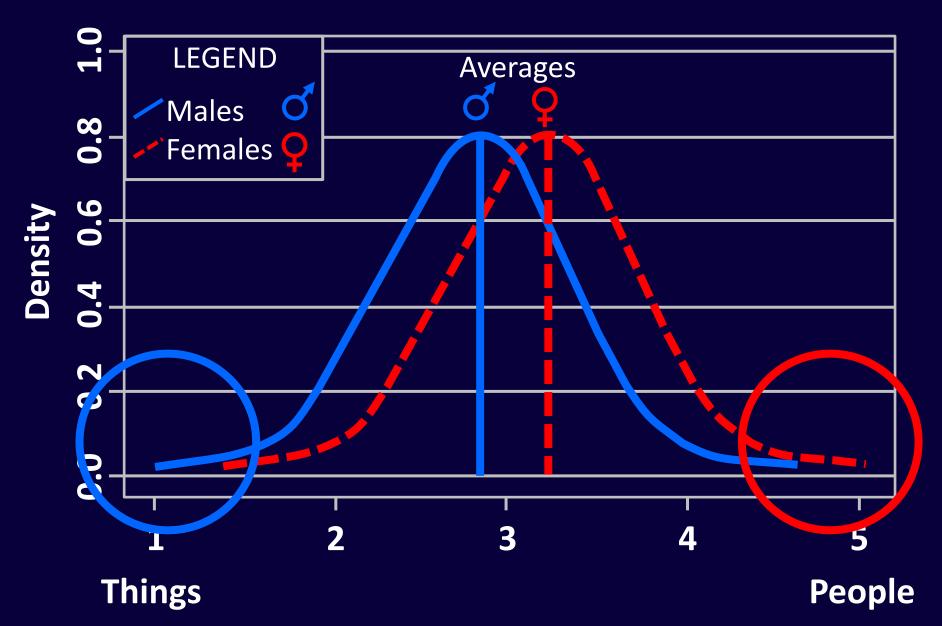
The more egalitarian a society becomes, the more people feel free to choose professions that appeal to them.

#### **Jordan Peterson**

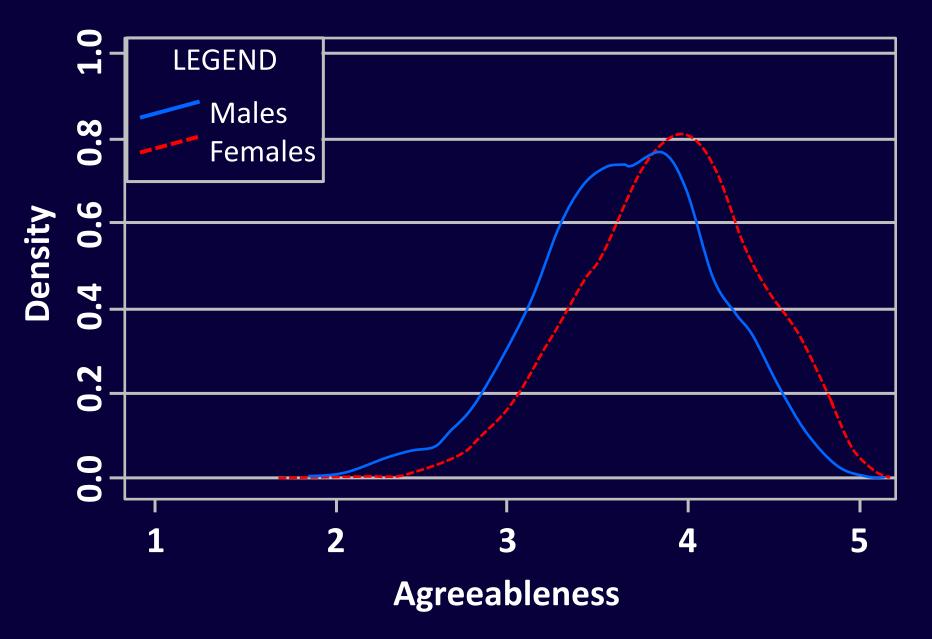
#### **Trait Distributions**



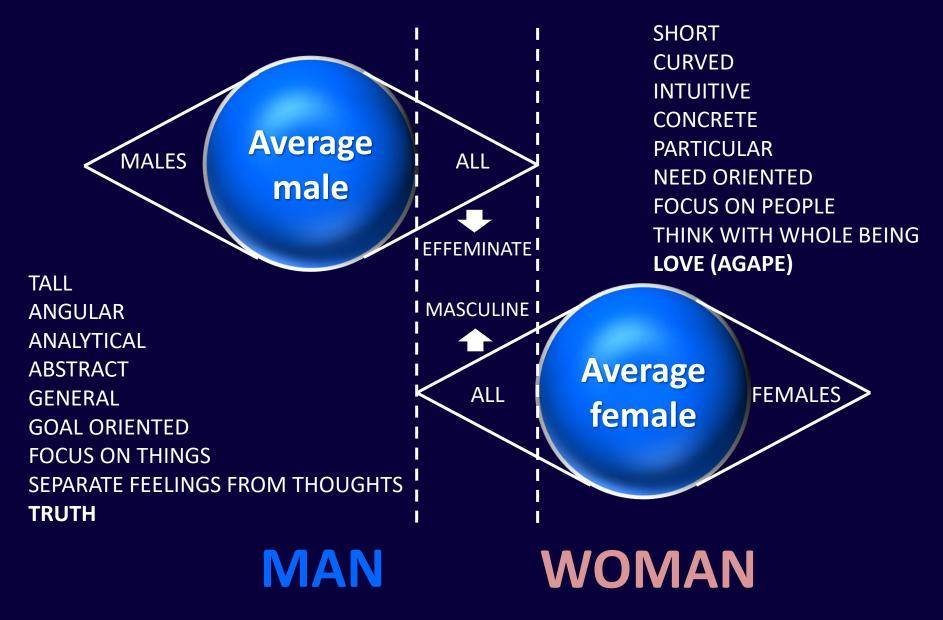
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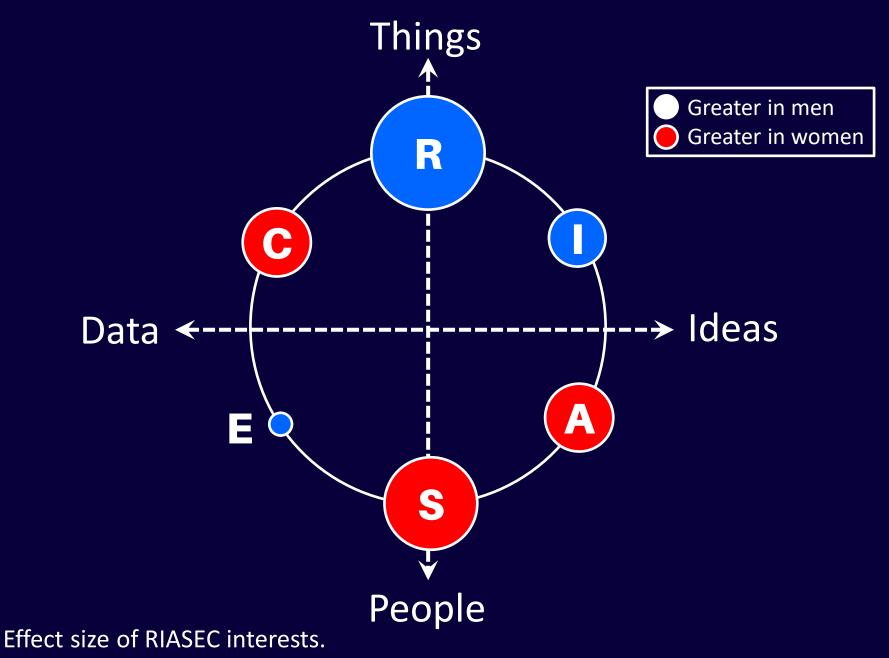


#### Distributions



#### **Generalised Differences**





R = Realistic; I = Investigative; A = Artistic; S = Social; E = Enterprising; C = Conventional.



## Compare/contrast 2 John and 3 John.

# What is the basic problem?



### (A different gospel than taught.)

**Manifestations of Heresy Addressed** 

## HOSPITALITY





#### HOSPITALITY, TRUTH, AND LOVE

- TO A LADY
- DANGER
  - TOO MUCH LOVE
- ATTITUDE
  - TOO SOFT HEARTED
- DOOR OPEN TOO WIDE
- DANGER: WELCOME WRONG PEOPLE
- NEGLECT TRUTH
- WRONG BELIEF

Love and truth in women

- TO A MAN
- DANGER
  - TOO MUCH TRUTH
- ATTITUDE
  - TOO HARD-HEARTED
- DOOR SHUT TOO TIGHT
- DANGER: REFUSE
   RIGHT PEOPLE
- NEGLECT LOVE
- WRONG BEHAVIOUR

NEED BOTH

Truth and love in men

## 

LOVE IN TRUTH (1-3)

- FOLLOWING TRUTH (4)
- FOLLOWING LOVE (5-6)
- SOME REJECT TRUTH (7-9)
- DON'T INVITE THEM (10-11)
- OUR JOY (12-13)

LOVE IN TRUTH (1)

**3 JOHN** 

- FOLLOWING TRUTH (2-4)
- FOLLOWING LOVE (5-8)
- SOME REFUSE LOVE (9-10)
- DON'T IMITATE THEM (11-12)
- YOUR PEACE (13-15)