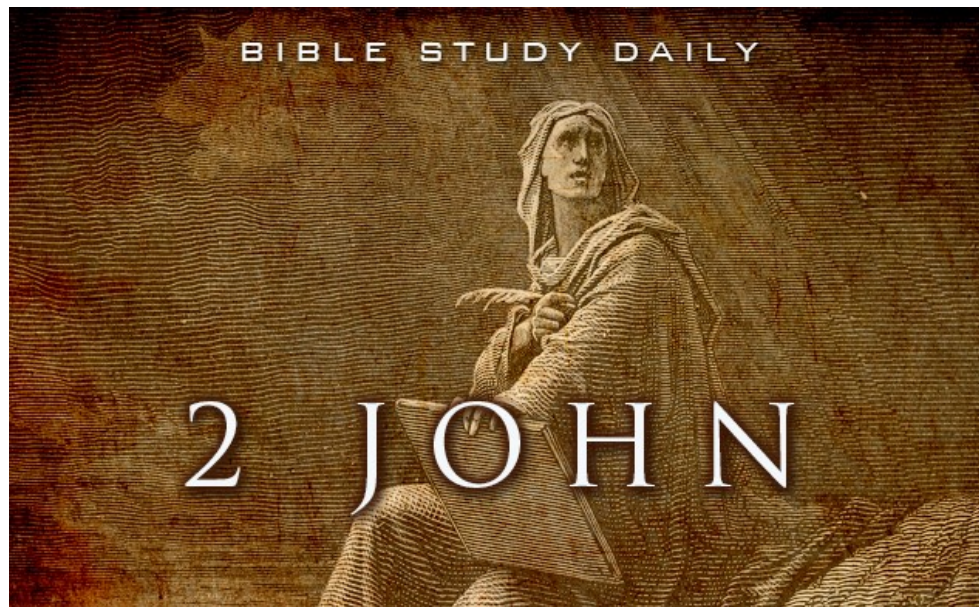




# BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of 2 John as well as my study notes for the book.

## Name

The title “2 John ” comes from John, the Son of Zebedee, and the author of the Gospel of John.

## Author

Although John’s name does not appear in the letter, it is traditionally ascribed to him. The author identifies himself only as “the elder.”

External evidence comes from a number of early church fathers who ascribe authorship to John, including: Clement of Alexandria, Cyprian, and Dionysius.

## Genre

General Epistle

## Literary Form

2 John bears the marks of a traditional letter format (an opening, the letter body, and a close). Its form is an exhortation discourse.

## Time Frame

There are some scholars who believe John’s three letters (1, 2, & 3 John) were written in the early A.D. 60’s. before the Roman destruction in A.D. 70. However, scholarly consensus is the letters were written from Ephesus sometime between A.D. 80-95. 2 John was probably written at the same time as 1 John or shortly thereafter.

## Emphasis

The emphasis of 2 John is on exhorting “the lady” (probably the church) as recipient to 1) love fellow believers, and 2) stand up against false teachers.

## Outline

- Greeting and blessing (1-3)
- Exhortation to love fellow believers (4-11)
- Closing farewell (12-13)

# What I Noticed Today

## (2 John 1)

In verses 1-3 John introduces himself only as “The Elder.” The letter is addressed to the “elect Lady and her children.”

**Note:** The Greek word for elder, *presbyteros*, could mean either an older man, an official position in the church, or both. In some older manuscripts all the original apostles were referred to as elders.

**Note:** “elect lady” likely refers to a congregation, and the “children” its members.

- The truth that remains in us will be with us forever is a reference to the Gospel.
- Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and Jesus, Son of the Father.

In verses 4-11 John exhorts the congregation to be obedient to God, and resist false teachers.

- I am glad to find *some* [not all] of your children walking in the truth.
- I urge you now to love one another.
- And this is love: that we walk according to God’s commands.
- Many deceivers do not confess the coming of Christ in the flesh. They are deceivers and antichrists.

**Note:** Verse 7 in Greek starts with “Because.” It is important for people to walk in love and follow God’s commands *because* deceivers are in the world.


**Note:** The deceivers John is referring to claimed that Jesus was fully divine, but not fully human; that He did not come in the flesh.

- Guard yourself so you don’t lose what we have worked for, and receive your full reward.

**Note:** John is not suggesting they would lose their salvation, but their rewards in heaven.

- Anyone who goes beyond Christ’s teaching does not have God.
- The one who remains in Christ’s teaching has both the Son and the Father.
- Reject anyone who does not bring this teaching. Do not share in their evil works.

In verses 12-13 John closes with a farewell greeting. He acknowledges that he



has much more to tell them, but hopes to see them in person and talk face to face.

- The *children* of your elect sister send you greetings.

**Note:** The reference to the “elect sister” in John’s close probably refers to a sister congregation, perhaps one from which John wrote the letter. Also, if the letter were written to a specific “woman” (v. 1) greetings would not likely be from the sister’s children (v. 13).