NEW TESTAMENT · GENERAL EPISTLES · BOOK 62 OF 66

1 John

That ye may know that ye have eternal life (5:13)

5	c. A.D. 85–95	3	“God Is Love”
Chapters, 105 Verses	Written	Tests of Faith	(4:8)

BACKGROUND

A Letter to Little Children

NAME

1 John

The writer gives no name; the early church knew the letter as John’s.

AUTHOR

John the Apostle

An eyewitness of the Word of life (1:1), the disciple whom Jesus loved.

DATE

c. A.D. 85–95

Near the end of John’s life, from Ephesus.

OCCASION

They Went Out

False teachers had left the churches (2:19) and denied Jesus come in the flesh (4:2–3).

SAME VOICE

The Gospel and the Letter

From the beginning; the Word

Gospel of John John 1:1 · **1 John** 1:1

Light and darkness

Gospel of John John 8:12 · **1 John** 1:5–7

A new commandment: love

Gospel of John John 13:34 · **1 John** 2:7–8; 3:11

Only begotten Son sent

Gospel of John John 3:16 · **1 John** 4:9

Written that ye might believe / know

Gospel of John John 20:31 · **1 John** 5:13

ASSURANCE

Three Tests of True Faith

TRUTH

Believe

Jesus is the Christ, come in the flesh (2:22; 4:2).

OBEDIENCE

Obey

He that saith he abideth in Him ought to walk as He walked (2:6).

LOVE

Love

Love one another in deed and in truth (3:18; 4:7).

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts



Each bar shows that part’s share of the 105 verses.

I 1:1–2:29 · 39 verses

Walking in the Light and Abiding in Him

Fellowship with God, love, the world, and antichrists.

II 3:1–24 · 24 verses

Children of God

Righteousness and love in deed and in truth.

III 4:1–21 · 21 verses

Testing the Spirits and the Love of God

God is love.

IV 5:1–21 · 21 verses

Faith, Victory and Assurance

Eternal life in the Son.

Walking in the Light

CHAPTER 1

The Word of Life

> *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life."*
>
> 1 John 1:1 (KJV)

1:5

God Is Light

"God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."

1:7

Cleansed

"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1:9).

CHAPTER 2

Abide in Him

2:1–2

Our Advocate

Jesus Christ the righteous, the propitiation for our sins

2:6

Walk as He Walked

Keeping His commandments

2:10

Love Thy Brother

And abide in the light

2:15–16

Love Not the World

Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life

2:18–22

Antichrists

They deny that Jesus is the Christ

2:28

Abide

Confidence at His coming

1 JOHN AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 4

Children of God and God Is Love

CHAPTER 3

Children of God

> *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."*
>
> 1 John 3:1 (KJV)

"When He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is" (3:2).

3:8
Manifested
"That He might destroy the works of the devil."

3:16
Laid Down
"He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

3:18
In Deed
"Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

CHAPTER 4

God Is Love

4:1
Try the Spirits
"Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God."

4:4
Greater
"Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."

> *"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*
>
> 1 John 4:10 (KJV)

1 **4:7**
Of God
Love is of God

2 **4:8**
God Is Love
Who loves knows God

3 **4:9**
Sent
His only begotten Son

4 **4:18**
No Fear
Perfect love casteth it out

5 **4:19**
First
"He first loved us"

Faith, Victory and Assurance

CHAPTER 5

Faith, Victory and Assurance

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (5:4).

5:6–8

Three Witnesses

The Spirit, the water and the blood agree in one.

5:12

Life in the Son

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

5:14

Confidence

"If we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us."

5:21

Last Word

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" (5:7).

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Fellowship

With the Father and the Son.

1:3

Light

Walk in the light.

1:5–7

Forgiveness

Faithful and just.

1:9; 2:1–2

Love

God is love.

3:16–18; 4:7–21

Truth

Christ come in the flesh.

2:22; 4:2

Assurance

Ye may know.

5:11–13

KEY VERSE

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life."

1 John 5:13 (KJV)