

New Testament Survey

1 JOHN

Author: John the Apostle

Universally attributed to John by early church (starting with Polycarp, John's disciple). Writing style is the same as the gospel of John.

Date: A.D. 90-95

Tradition holds that John left Jerusalem prior to A.D. 70 and ministered in and around Ephesus. This letter shows the writer to be an elderly father figure to his recipients. There is no mention of persecution that broke out in A.D. 95.

Theme: Tests of True Fellowship. True fellowship with God will be manifested in righteousness and love for the brethren which in turn produces joy and confidence before God.

Misc. The destructive heresies of the Gnosticism were spreading, and John counters them with clear pronouncements of the truth of the incarnation and its implications. The Gnostic failed the three tests : Doctrine (they denied the incarnation); Holiness (their practices were sinful); Love (they did not show practical love for the brethren).

Brief Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION. 1:1-4
- II. FELLOWSHIP'S CONDITIONS. 1:5-10
- III. FELLOWSHIP'S CONDUCT. 2:1-29
- IV. FELLOWSHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS. 3:1-24
- V. FELLOWSHIP'S CAUTIONS. 4:1-21
- VI. FELLOWSHIP'S CREDENTIALS. 5:1-21

Key Chapters & Verses:

- 1:6-10 . . Fellowship's conditions - walk in the light, confess our sins.
- 2:1-6. . . . Fellowship's conduct - walk in obedience with Him
- 2:15-17 . . Do not love the world or the things in it.
- 2:18-19.. The antichrists
- 2:27. . . . The anointing of the Holy Spirit teaches
- 3:2. . . . We shall be like Him when He appears
- 3:4-10. . . The children of the devil sin while the children of God practice righteousness
- 3:15. . . . Hatred of a brother is equated with murder
- 3:16-18.. Loving in deed and truth.
- 4:1-3. . . . Test the spirits with the truth that Jesus has come in the flesh
- 4:18. . . . Perfect love casts out fear
- 4:20. . . . Those who do not love their brother cannot love God
- 5:10-13.. The assurance of salvation - he who has the Son has the life.
- 5:14-15.. Confidence in praying according to God's will

Detailed Outline - 1 John

John presents his thoughts in more of a spiral fashion than linear one for he addresses the same subjects several times adding a little more each time. The following outline is an attempt to present the book in a linear progression of thought by concentrating on the major themes of each loop of the spiral.

I. INTRODUCTION. 1:1-4

A. Eyewitnesses to the Word of Life (1-2)

B. Proclaiming Fellowship with the Word of Life (3-4)

II. FELLOWSHIP'S CONDITIONS. 1:5-10

A. Walking in the Light 5-7

1. The Nature of God (5)

2. False Claims Exposed (6)

3. True Claims Rewarded (7)

B. Dealing with Sin 8-10

1. The Deceived (8)

2. The Confessing (9)

3. The Arrogant (10)

III. FELLOWSHIP'S CONDUCT. 2:1-29

A. Character of Conduct: Imitation of Christ. 1-11

1. Keeping His Commandments (1-6)

a. Christ, Our Advocate (1-2)

b. The Test of Knowing Christ (3)

c. Those Who Do Not Obey Him (4)

d. Those Who Do Obey Him (5-6)

2. Loving the Brethren (7-11)

a. The Old & New Commandment (7-8)

b. Those Who Love & Those Who Hate (9-11)

B. Commandment for Conduct: Separation from the World. 12-17

1. Little Children, Fathers & Young Men (12-14)

2. The Danger of Loving the World (15-17)

C. Creed for Conduct: Affirmation of True Doctrine. 18-29

1. The Antichrists (18-23)

a. Antichrists Revealed (18-19)

b. The Anointing of the Holy One (20-21)

c. Antichrists Denials (22-23)

2. The Abiding Ones (24-29)

a. The Reward (24-25)

b. Their Anointing (26-27)

c. Their Confidence (28-29)

IV. FELLOWSHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS. 3:1-24

A. In Relation to our Prospect - Purity 1-3

1. Children of God (1)

2. Our Prospect (2)

3. The Hope that Purifies (3)

B. In Relation to our Position - Righteousness 4-12

1. Sinners and the Righteous (4-8)

2. Children of God & Children of the Devil (9-12)

a. Children of God (9)

b. Children of the Devil (10)

c. The Example of Cain (11-12)

C. In Relation to our Persecutors - Loving 13-18

1. The World's Hatred (13)

2. Those Who Hate (14-15)

3. Those Who Love (16-18)

D. In Relation to our Prayers - Confident 19-24

1. Confidence Before God (19-22)

2. The Commandment to Believe (23-24)

V. FELLOWSHIP'S CAUTIONS. 4:1-21

A. Caution Concerning Lying Spirits - False Prophets. 1-6

1. The Warning (1)

2. The Christological Test (2-3)

3. The Origin Test (4-5)

5. The Doctrine Test (6)

B. Caution Concerning a Loving Spirit - False profession. 7-21

1. The Command to Love (7-11)

a. The Command (7-8)

b. The Example (9-11)

2. The Perfection of Love 12-19

a. God's Abiding (12-16)

b. Casting Out of Fear (17-19)

3. The Failure to Love 20-21

VI. FELLOWSHIP'S CREDENTIALS. 5:1-21

A. Faith proven by Overcoming. 1-5

1. Correct Belief (1)

2. Correct Actions (2-3)

3. Correct Origin (4-5)

B. Faith proven by Witness. 6-12

1. The Witness of God (6-9)

2. The Internal Witness (10-12)

C. Faith proven by Confidence. 13-21

1. Confidence in Destiny (13)

2. Confidence in Prayer (14-17)

3. Confidence in His Protection (18-21)

New Testament Survey
2 JOHN

Author: John the Apostle

Authorship was affirmed by second century church fathers, but since both Second and Third John had limited circulation some question as to their canonicity did develop in later centuries. These questions were put to rest as affirmation of the earlier church fathers became better known.

Date: A.D. 90-95

Theme: Remain in the Truth.

Misc. There are various views about whether the “chosen lady” is an actual person or a figurative phrase for the church in Ephesus. The simplicity of the letter favors the former. The letter is an encouragement to remain steadfast in the practice and purity of apostolic doctrine and not to associate with false teachers.

Outline

I. Introduction 1-3

A. Salutation (1-2)

B. Greeting (3)

II. Practice the Truth. 4-6

A. Walking in Truth (4)

B. Walking in Love (5)

C. Walking in His Commandments (6)

II. Protect the Truth. 7-11

A. Warnings about Deceivers (7-9)

1. They Have Gone Out (7)

2. Watch Yourselves (8)

3. Their False Doctrine (9)

B. Instructions Concerning Deceivers (10-11)

III. Conclusion 12-13

A. Explanation (12)

B. Greeting (13)

New Testament Survey
3 JOHN

Author: John the Apostle
See note on 2 John

Date: A.D. 90-95

Theme: Loyalty to the truth. The Contrast between Gaius' truth and hospitality and Diotrophes' error and haughtiness

Misc. John had received a report about the evil done by Diotrophes and writes to commend and encourage Gaius, recommend Demetrius and rebuke Diotrophes.

Outline

I. Salutation. 1

II. Commendation of Gaius 2-8

- A. John's Prayer for Gaius' Well Being (2)
- B. John's Joy Over Gaius' Walking in the Truth (3-4)
- C. John's Commendation for Gaius' Hospitality (5-8)
 - 1. Gaius' Faithfulness (5)
 - 2. Gaius' Love (6)
 - 3. Reasons for Support of the Brethren (7-8)

III. Condemnation of Diotrophes 9-11

- A. Diotrophes' Haughtiness (9)
- B. Diotrophes' Wickedness (10)
- C. Warning Against Evil Imitation (11)

IV. Recommendation of Demetrius. 12

V. Conclusion. 13-14

- A. Explanation (13)
- B. Hope & Greetings (14)

New Testament Survey

JUDE

Author: Jude

The traditional view is that this is the half brother of Jesus mentioned in Matthew 13:55 & Mark 6:3. His older brother referenced in vs. 17 is James (Acts 15) and author of *James*. He did not believe Jesus was the Messiah until after the resurrection (John 7:1-9; Acts 1:14).

Jude was accepted as authentic and quoted by early church fathers. At the beginning of the 4th Century Eusebius places it among the disputed books. At the end of the 4th Century Jerome, who holds to the canonicity of Jude, reveals the reason for the doubt of some is due to a possible quote from 1 Enoch and an allusion to the Assumption of Moses (pseudographical books). Nevertheless, the church at large and the church councils held at the end of the 4th Century affirmed the canonicity of Jude. (Note that the quote does not use any normal formula in citing it as Scripture, so it is not an affirmation of 1 Enoch as Scripture. Enoch was compiled over a lengthy period of time of perhaps 170 B.C. to 4 B.C. and therefore based on several sources).

Date: A.D. 67-80

The book and tradition are silent as to the date of the writing, where it was written from and who it was written to. Assuming that 2 Peter predicts the apostasy that Jude describes then the possible dates range from A.D. 66-80.

Theme: Contending Earnestly for the Faith.

Misc. Jude condemns the practices of ungodly libertines that were affecting the churches while counseling his readers to stand firm and contend for the faith.

Key Chapters & Verses:

24-25 Jude's Benediction.

Outline**I. Introduction. 1-4****A. Salutation 1-2****B. Purpose of the Letter. 3-4****1. An Appeal to Contend for the Faith (3)****2. A Warning About Apostates (4)****II. Anatomy of Apostasy. 5-16****A. Historical Examples 5-7****1. Israel (5)****2. Angels (6)****3. Sodom & Gomorrah (7)**

B. Description of Apostates 8-13

1. Arrogant (8-10)

a. Arrogant Like the Sodomites (8)

b. Arrogant Beyond their Position (9)

c. Arrogant In Their Ignorance (10)

2. Like Cain, Balaam & Korah (11)

3. Hidden Reefs & Clouds without Water (12)

4. Wild Waves & Wandering Stars (13)

C. Future Doom of Apostates 14-16

1. The Prophecy of Enoch (14-15)

2. Further Description of Their Evil (16)

III. Antidote of Apostasy. 17-25

A. Remember the Warnings 17-19

B. Fulfill Your Duties 20-23

1. Edification & Prayer (20)

2. Love & Hope (21)

3. Mercy on the Doubting (22)

4. Evangelism & Mercy on the Stumbling (23)

IV. Benediction 24-25