

**“We know
nothing
of religion here:
we think only of
Christ.”**

C.S. Lewis (1946). *The Great Divorce*.

EPISTLES OF JOHN



Biblical proof that there is no God!

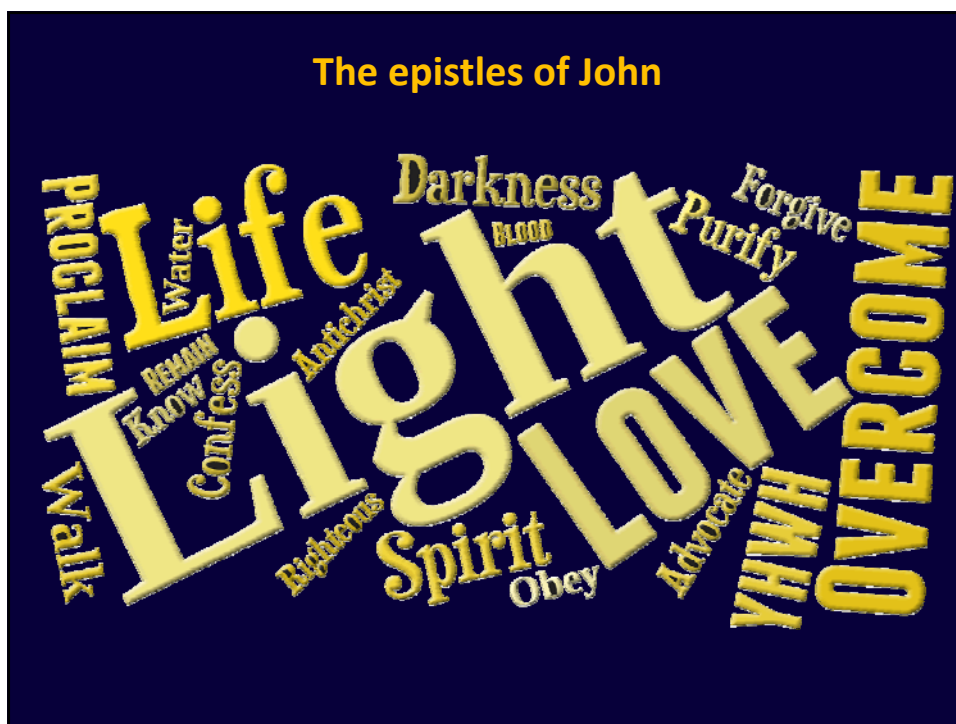
Psalm 14:1; 53:1

“There is no God.”

Biblical proof that there is no God!

Psalm 14:1; 53:1

The fool hath said in his heart,
“There is no God.”
They are corrupt, they have
done abominable works,
there is none that doeth good.





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

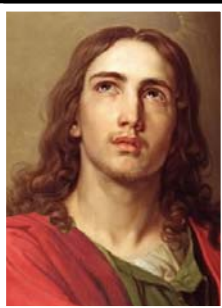
WANTED BY ROME

JOHN, SON OF ZEBEDEE

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

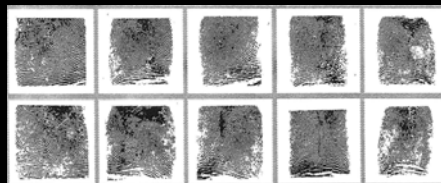


Right Facing



Front

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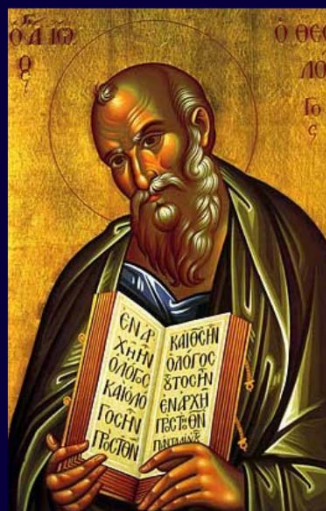


DESCRIPTION

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

Who was John?

- The “disciple whom Jesus loved”
- The restless fisherman.
- The “son of thunder”
- The courageous follower
- The apostle of love



John, the disciple whom Jesus loved

- John’s writes anonymously, although his recipients likely knew his authorship.
 - His gospel refers to the “disciple whom Jesus loved.”
 - He refers to himself as “the elder” in 2 and 3 John.
 - The Hebrew “Johanan” means “God has graced”.
- John was one of Zebedee’s sons, the younger brother of James.
- (Mark 4:21,22). James & John were both fishermen.
- As he was mending his nets, Jesus called him to be his disciple. (Matt. 4:21-22; Mark 1:19-20; Luke 5:10)
- Previously a disciple of John the Baptist. (John 1:35-37)

- Included in the inner circle (with Peter & James)
 - Present at the raising of Jairus's daughter (Mk 5:37)
 - Witness to Jesus' transfiguration (Matt 17:1)
 - At the Olivet Discourse (Mark 13:3)
 - With Jesus in Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:33)
- Closely associated with Peter and his work (Acts 3:1; 8:14; Gal. 2:9). Accompanied Peter to the empty tomb (John 20:3-8).
- Asked Jesus to grant him and James special places in the kingdom (Matthew 20:28)
- Place of prominence at the Last Supper (John 13:23)
- Accompanied Christ into the court and stood by him.
- Witnessed the crucifixion; given charge of Jesus' mother (19:26,27)

- Possessed an ardent temperament:
 - With brother James, one of "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17).
 - Rebuked man for casting out demons (Luke 9:49)
 - Wanted to call down fire on a Samaritan village for not accepting Jesus (Luke 9:51-56)
- John and Mary went to Ephesus between 38 and 47 AD and lived there.
- Banished to Patmos for 8 years during by Domitian.
- Only disciple who did not die as a martyr (John 21:22).
- Lived to advanced age; probably last apostle to die; became an important link to early Church Fathers.

Two stories about John

- Irenaeus cites a story from Polycarp (69-155).

"John, the disciple of the Lord, going to bathe at Ephesus, and perceiving Cerinthus within, rushed out of the bath-house without bathing, exclaiming, 'Let us fly, lest even the bath-house fall down, because Cerinthus, the enemy of the truth, is within.'"

Two stories about John

- Jerome told a story of John in extreme old age.

"Carried into the congregation in his disciples' arms and asked to speak, he always said, 'Little children, love one another.'

"At last, wearied that he always spoke the same words, they asked: 'Master, why do you always say this?'

"'Because,' he replied, 'it is the Lord's command, and if this only is done, it is enough.'"

The purpose of John's ministry

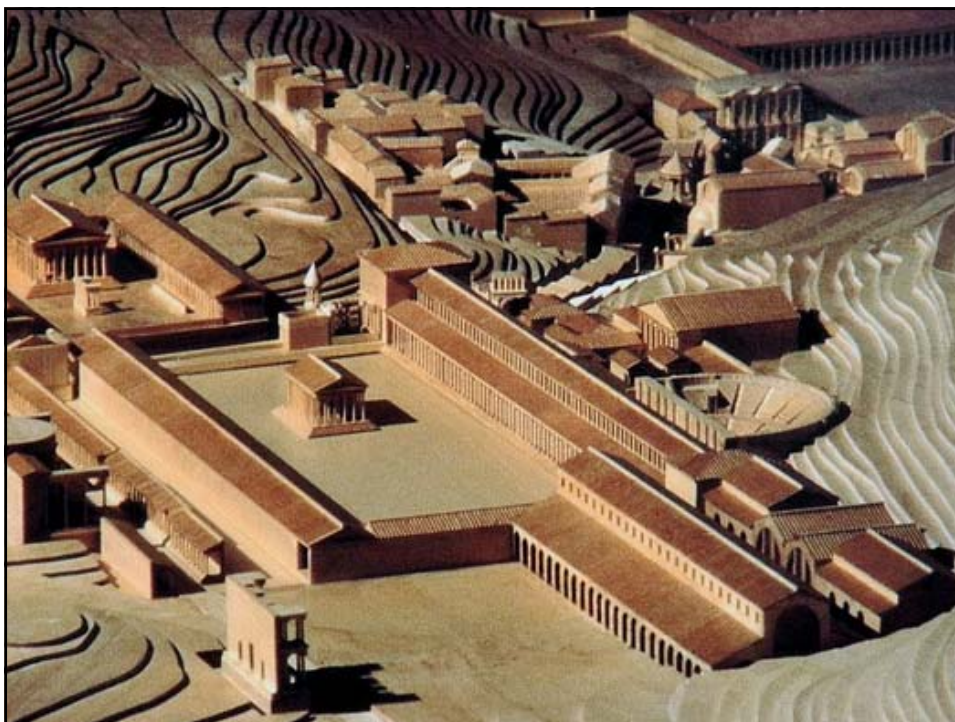
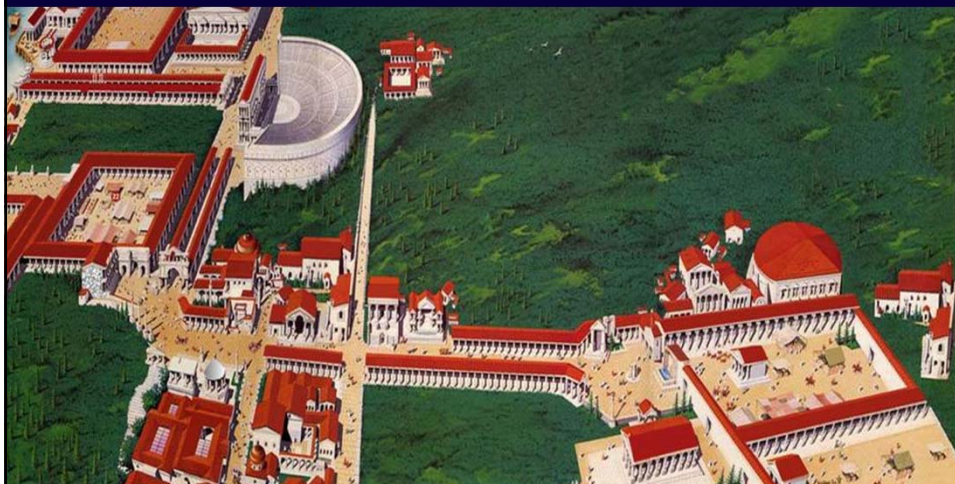
And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: **But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.**

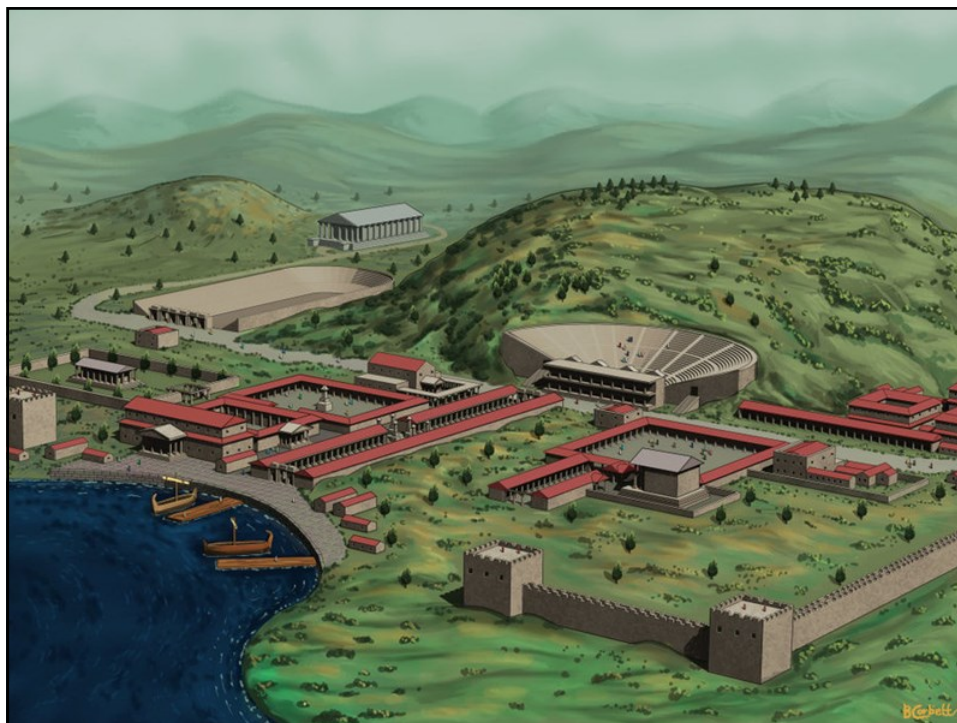
John 20:30-31



EPHESUS

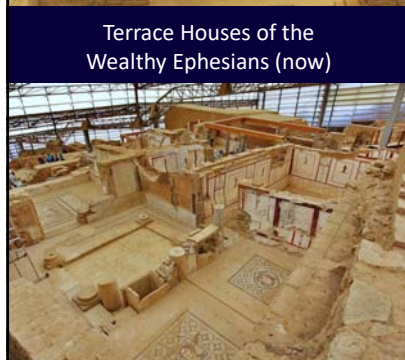
Capital of proconsular Asia, the western part of Asia Minor. Rome gave it the title, "the first and greatest metropolis of Asia." With 250,000 people, it ranked only after Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch. "All the streets of Ephesus were illuminated at night with oil lamps."





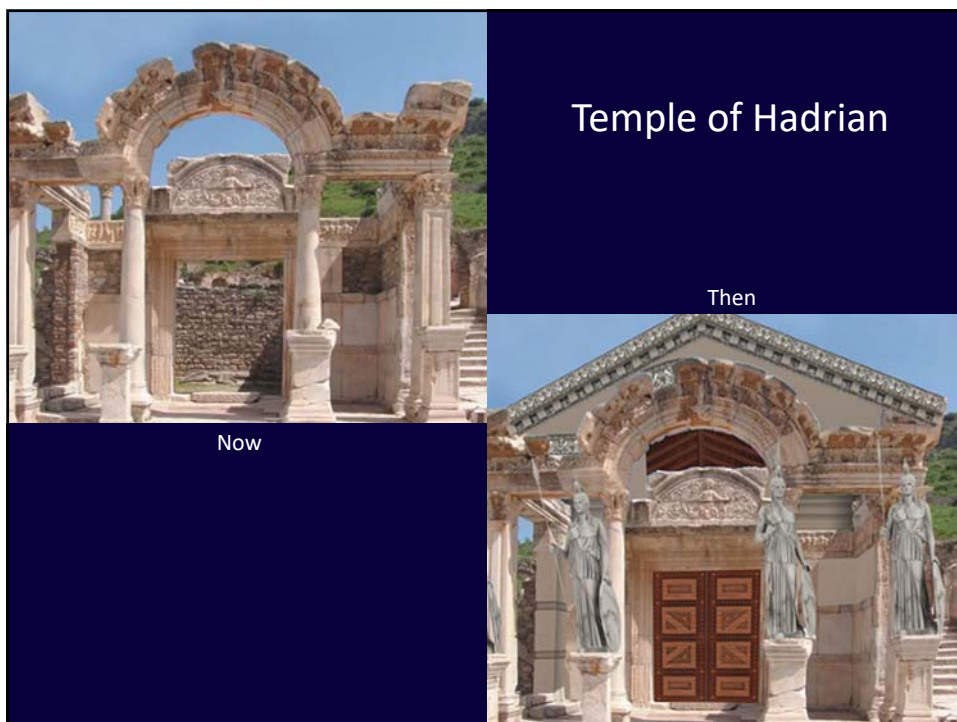
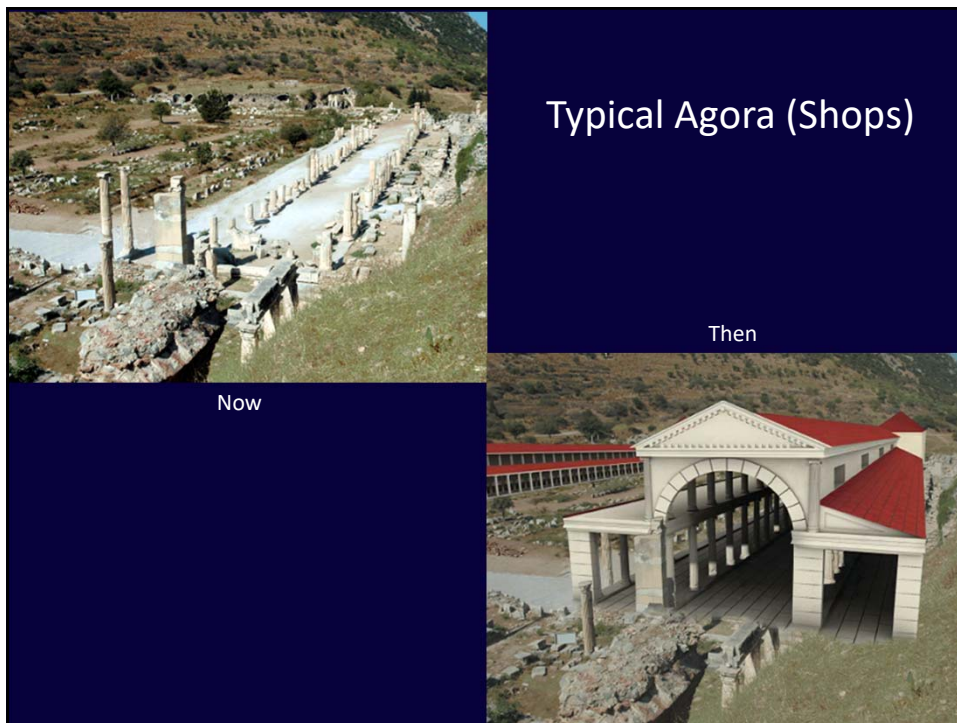
Terrace Houses Homes of the Wealthy)

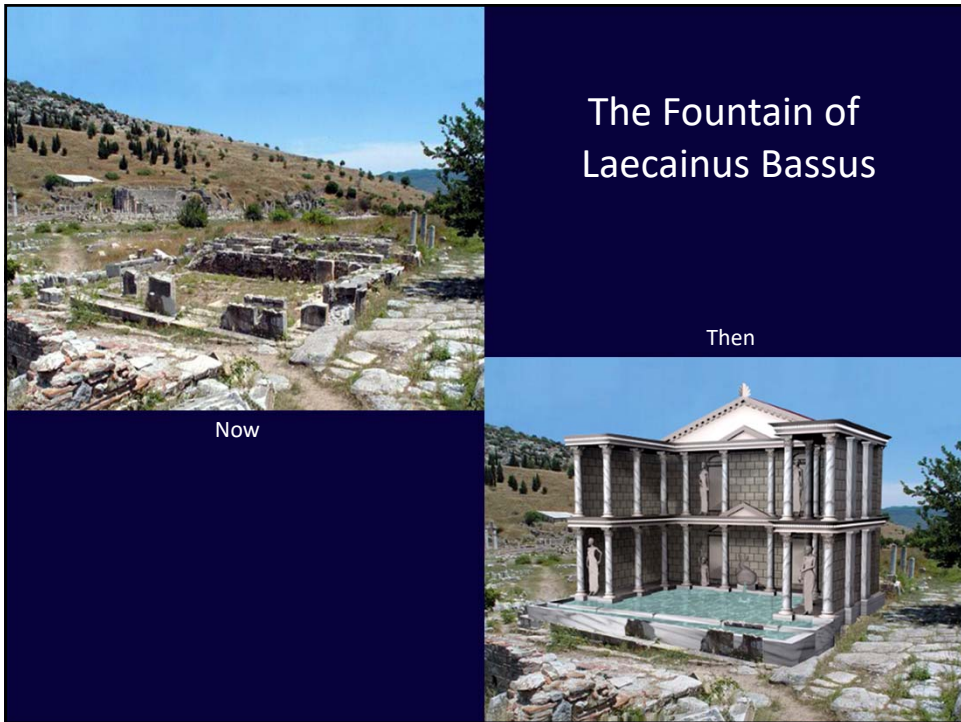
Life in the "hood" (then)

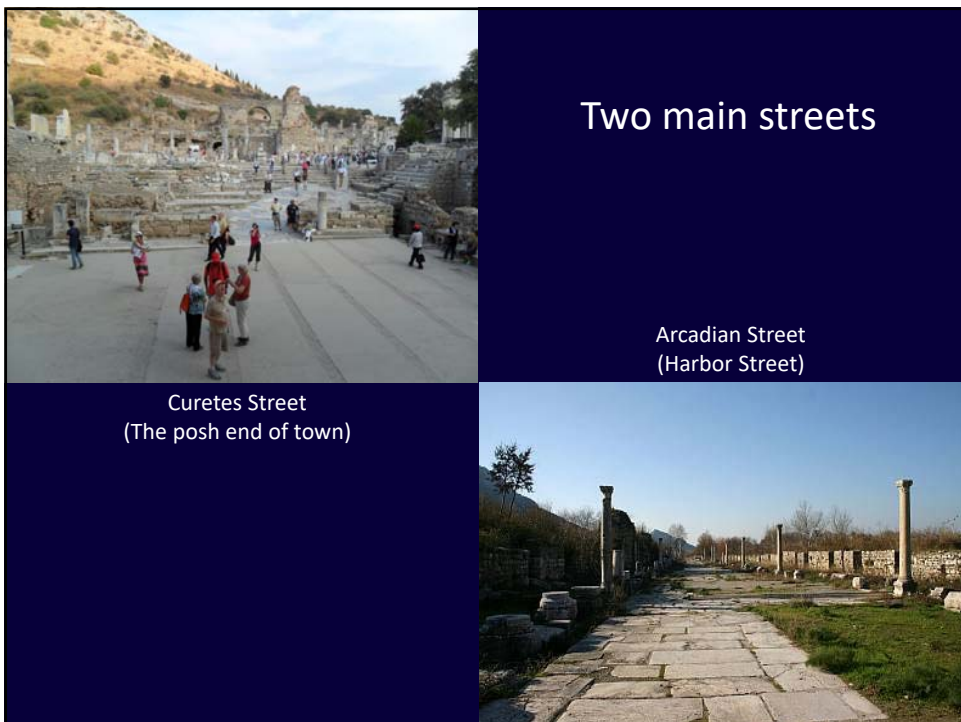


Terrace Houses of the
Wealthy Ephesians (now)







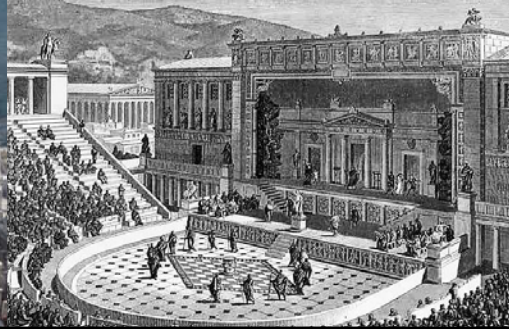




The Great Theatre

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.

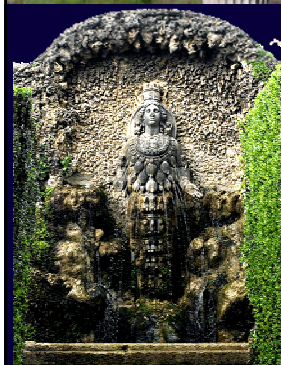
Artist's Sketch

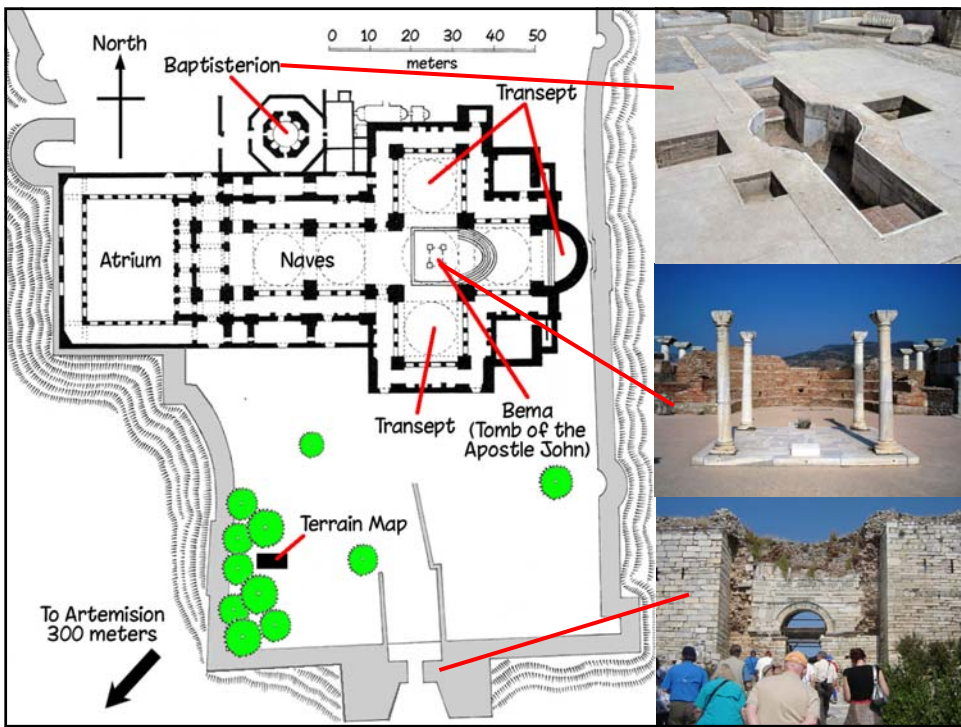


The Temple of Artemis

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.





Paul's ministry in Ephesus

- At the end of his 2nd missionary journey (AD 51) Paul briefly visited Ephesus (Acts 18:18-21), leaving Aquila and Priscilla behind to spread the Gospel.
- On his 3rd 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 3rd journey, he called for Ephesian presbyters to meet him 40km south of Ephesus at Miletus and warned them:

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

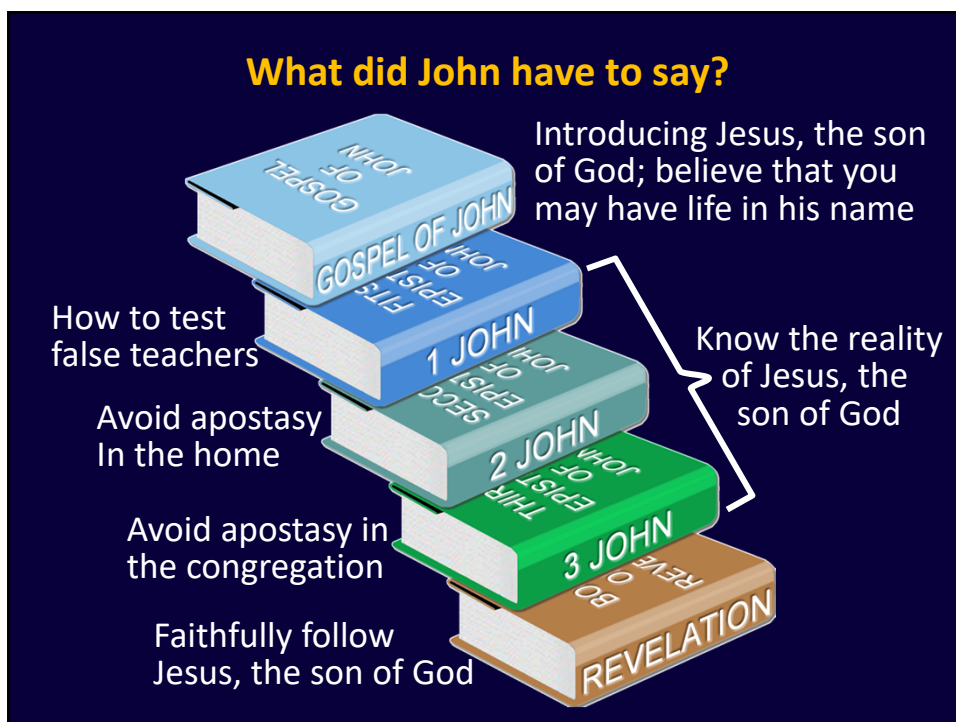
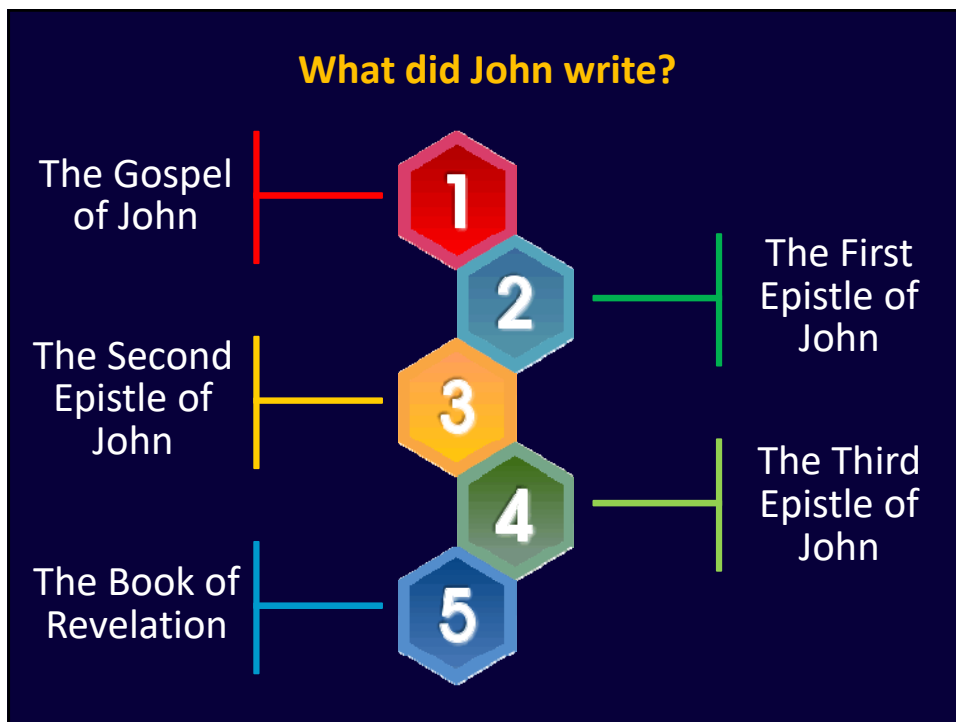
- After the resurrection John and Peter returned to the Sea of Galilee, where the Lord revealed himself to them (John 21:1,7). We find Peter and John frequently together after this (Acts 3:1; 4:13).
- John remained, apparently, in Jerusalem among the leadership (Acts 15:6; Gal 2:9). He apparently was 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. 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).

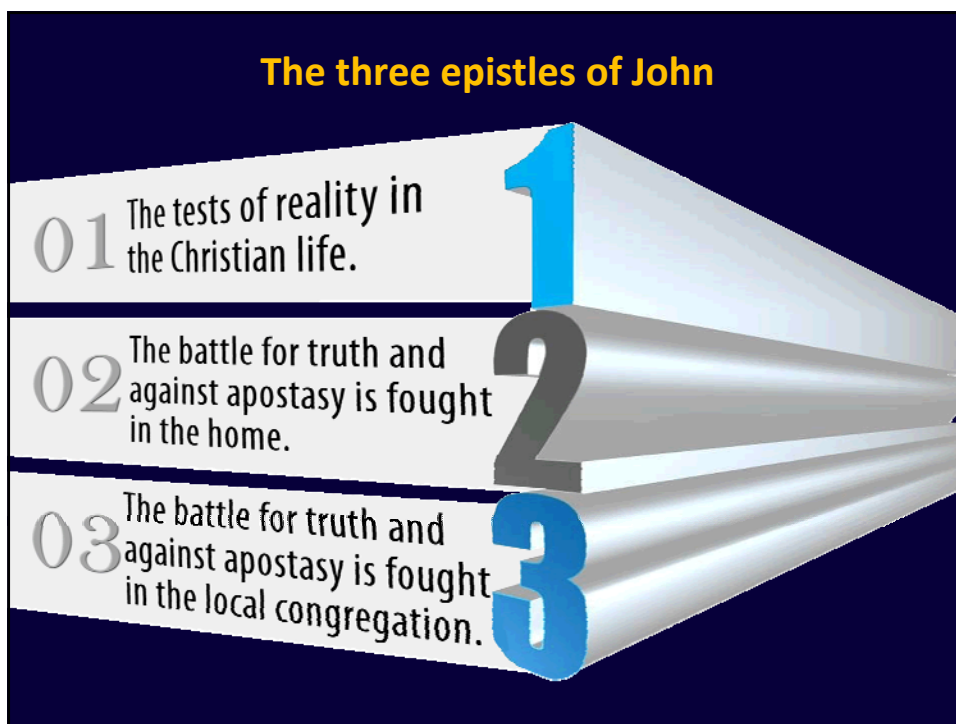
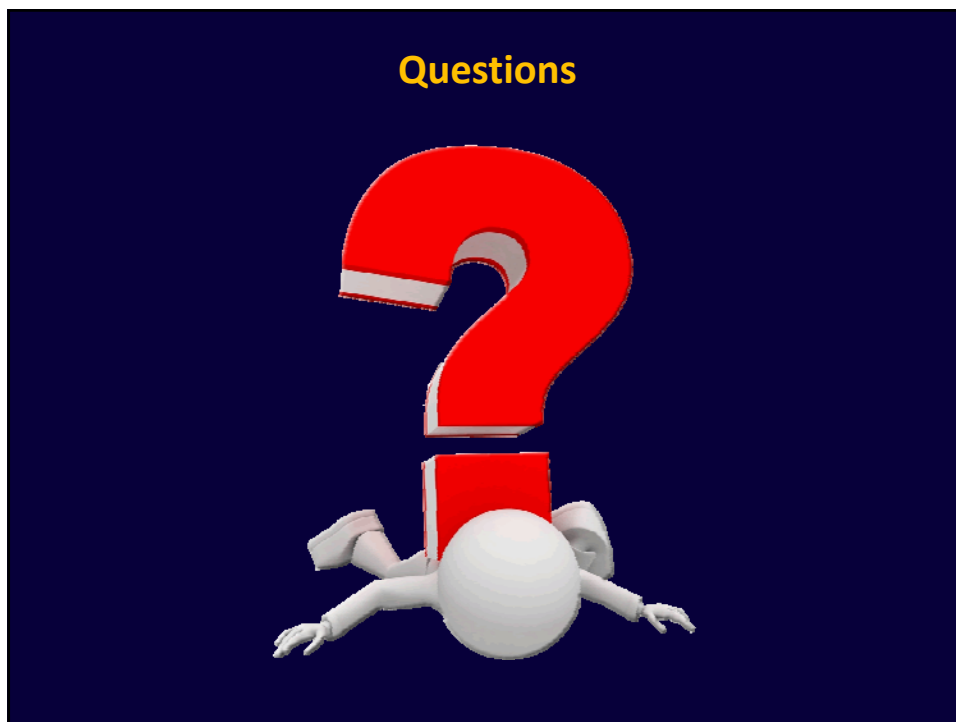
- According to tradition, John spent many years in Ephesus, where he died around A98 and is buried.

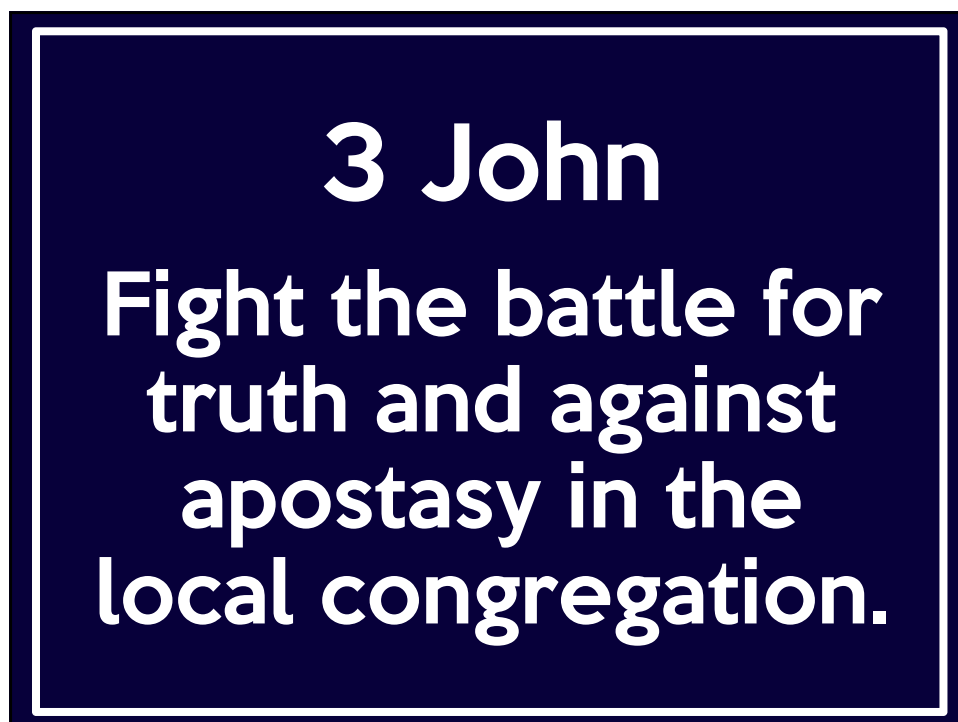


John's tomb in the 6th century Basilica of St. John in Ephesus (built AD 548-565)

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







3 John

Three Blokes

Gaius the encourager

¹ The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

² Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

³ For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.

⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

⁵ Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

⁶ Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:

⁷ Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow helpers to the truth.

Diothrephes the dictator

⁹ I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

¹⁰ Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

Demetrius the role mode

¹¹ Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

¹² Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

Closing

¹³ I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

¹⁴ But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

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GAIUS THE ENCOURAGER
DIOTREPHES THE DICTATOR
DEMETRIUS THE ROLE MODEL

Outline

• Gaius the encourager

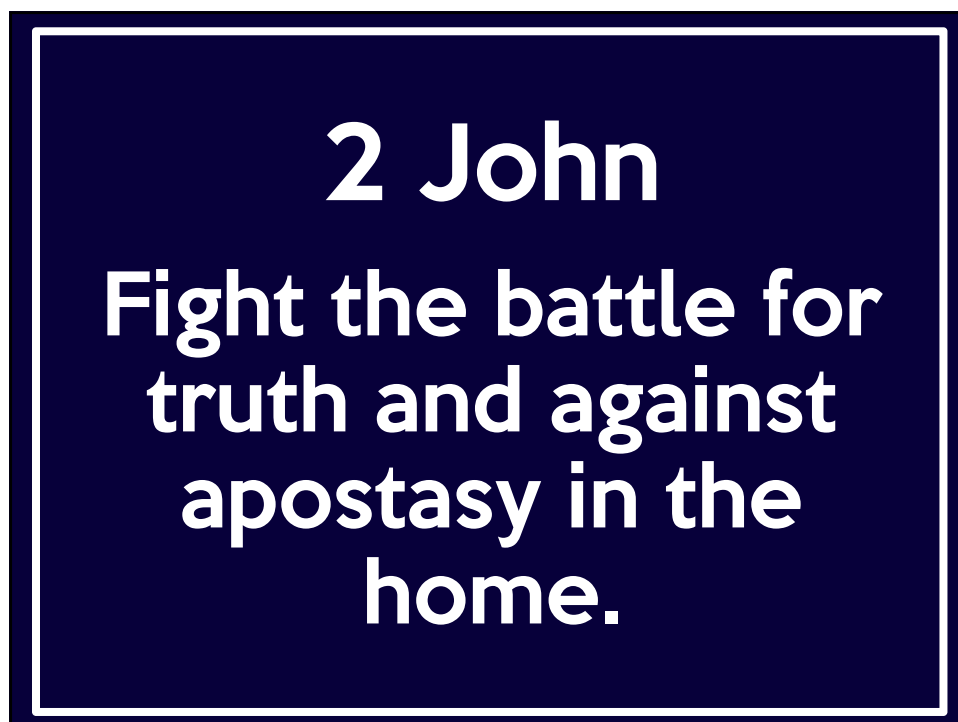
- Spiritual health (v. 2)
- A good testimony (vv. 3-4)
- Practical ministry / fellow helper (vv. 5-8)

• 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



Outline

- 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)

2 John

Know the truth

¹ The elder (*πρεσβύτερος presbyteros*) unto the elect (*ἐκλεκτός eklektos*) lady (*κυρία kyria*) and her children (*τέκνον teknon*), whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;

² For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.

³ Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Walk in (Practice) the truth

⁴ I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

⁵ And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

⁶ And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

⁷ For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Abide in (Protect) the truth

Don't fall back

⁸ Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

Don't get ahead

⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Don't go along with

¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: ¹¹ For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

Conclusion

¹² Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

¹³ The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.

Conclusion

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**Love
and live
the truth**

Key points of the Second Epistle of John

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

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- 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.

Who or what is the “Elect lady”?

- The Greek word translated as “elect” means picked out or chosen by God.
- Κυρία (kyría) 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”.
- As early as Jerome (c.347-c.490), Κυρία was seen as a symbolic description of the Christian Church.
- Another common guess is that the letter addresses a local church (possibly meeting in a lady’s home).

**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?**

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Mary

the mother of Jesus

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/unnumbered daughters

- 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:

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is His name.” (Luke 1:46-49)

²⁷And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. ²⁸But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. (Luke 11:27-28)

- Mary was present with her sister Mary the wife of Cleophas at the cross when Jesus died (John 19:25).
- Mary's sister Mary and Cleophas were the parents of James the less, Joses, and Salome. (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

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2nd Epistle of John (KJV)

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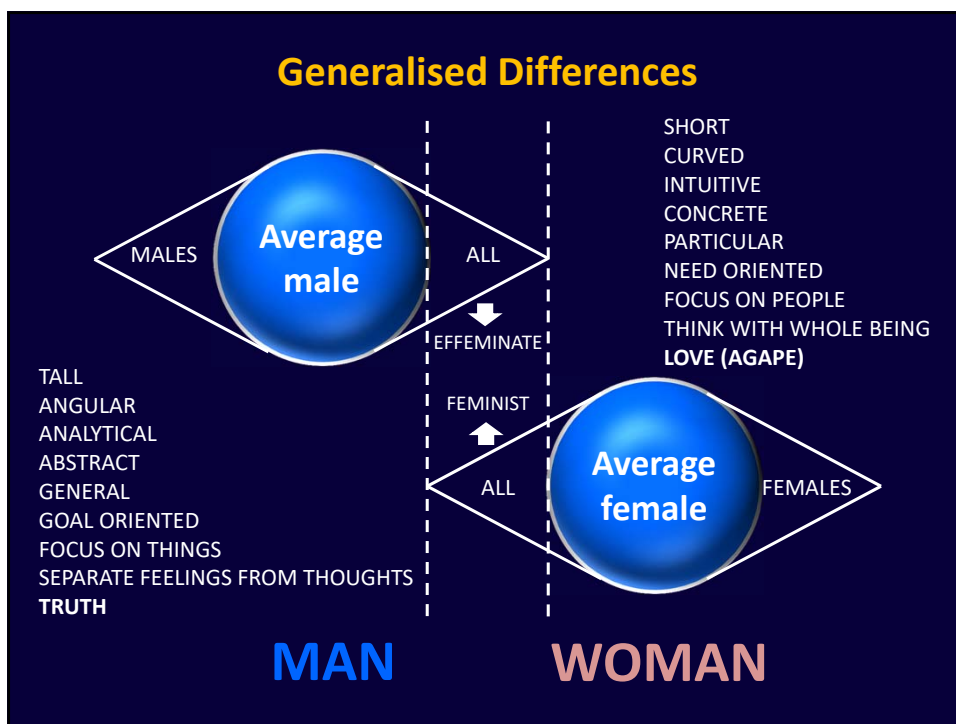
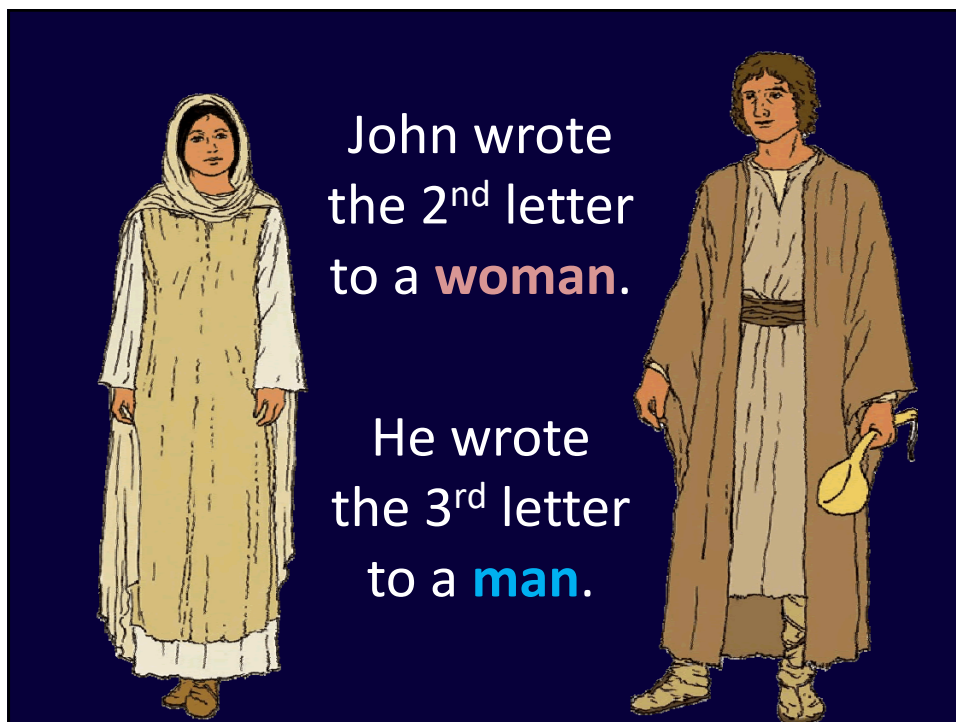
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**Compare/contrast
2 John and 3 John.**

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2 John and 3 John.**

**What is the main
difference?**



**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 a godly woman about her family
- (whom I love in the truth)
- Grace, mercy and peace
- “walking in the truth”
- Dear lady, love one another
- Watch out for deceivers; imitate what is good
- I won't write more, as I hope to see you soon
- Your sister's children greet you

To my dear friend Gaius

- To a godly man about his congregation
- (whom I love in the truth)
- Healthy in body and soul
- “walking in the truth”
- Dear friend, love one another
- Watch out for Diotrephes; imitate Demetrius
- I won't write more, as I hope to see you soon
- Peace to you. Our friends greet you

**Compare/contrast
2 John and 3 John.**

**What is the basic
problem?**

HERESY

(A different gospel than taught.)

Manifestations of Heresy Addressed

- **HOSPITALITY**
- **LOVE**
- **TRUTH**

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

- 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

Love and truth in women

Truth and love in men

2 JOHN



- 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)

3 JOHN



- LOVE IN TRUTH (1)
- FOLLOWING TRUTH (2-4)
- FOLLOWING LOVE (5-8)
- SOME REFUSE LOVE (9-10)
- DON'T IMITATE THEM (11-12)
- YOUR PEACE (13-15)