

1

"The Elect Lady" (2John)

Truth Matters Church, Inc.

2 **Brief Introduction**

- ☞ Ancient manuscripts attribute the author to be the apostle John

- ☞ Writing style and grammar is consistent with 1John

- ☞ Shortest book in NT (245 words in Greek text)

- ☞ "postcard epistle"

- ☞ Most scholars date the writing of this letter close to the penning of 1John

- ☞ 85AD-95AD

- ☞ In the vicinity of Ephesus

- ☞ The recipient of this letter is "the Elect Lady and her children"

- ☞ Purpose is similar to 1John:

- ☞ Encouraging her and us to continue to love one another

- ☞ Beware of deceivers (who rely on hospitality)

- ☞

- ☞

3 **Overview of our passage**

Theme: Walk in truth and love and be on guard against deceivers

- ☞ 2Jn 1-13

Doctrine: Those chosen by God will know the truth, will walk in truth and love, and will be on guard against deceivers

Application: We are to live and love in truth. We are to exercise discernment and reject any teaching that attacks or undermines the Person and Deity of Jesus Christ and Holy Scripture

4 **Scripture Reading**

2 John (NASB)

1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth, 2 for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. 5 Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.

5 **Scripture Reading**

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus

Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds. 12 Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full. 13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

6 **Exposit: 2Jn:1**

1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth

☞The author identifies himself as “the elder (presbuteros)”

☞Some scholars hesitate to attribute this to John because it did not say “the apostle”

☞COUNTER:

☞John never identified his apostleship in the intro of the gospel of John or 1John

☞Peter too identified himself as a “fellow elder (presbuteros)” in 1Pet 5:1

☞Literary style (personality) is consistent to 1John

☞“the chosen lady and her children” [more on this]

7 **“the chosen lady and her children”**

☞“chosen” is ‘eklektos’ is the same Greek Word used to describe divine election

☞“lady” is ‘kuria’ which means lady, “Ms.” or “Mrs.”

☞John is only NT writer to use this word and it’s only used here in 2John

☞“and her children” is what it means “and her children or kids or offspring”

☞Common interpretations of who “the chosen lady and her children” is:

☞A: It is a figurative reference to a local church and its members

☞COUNTER: When was the church or Christians ever referred to lady/Ms./Mrs? What about 3John when it is addressed to Gaius? Is Gaius too the church or Christians?

☞B: It is a reference to the church universal (a view favored by Jerome)

☞COUNTER: same above

☞C: The recipient is an individual lady (likely aged) and her children

☞Quite literal interpretation

☞Flows smoothly

8 **“the chosen lady and her children”**

☞Although this is best interpreted literally, we need to consider Scripture if there is more to it

☞CLUE: Whoever this “chosen lady and her children” are, John says he not only loves them, “but also ALL who knows (ginōskō) the truth”

☞Who are ALL who knows (ginōskō) the truth?

☞ Two options:

☞ ALL believers of all-time?

☞ Or ALL believers at a certain point in time?

☞ I was guilty of my presuppositions

☞ My original thought was this was a postcard letter to a lady (probably aged) and her children, and there is nothing more than that

☞ I stand corrected!

☞ As we've learned from 1John study, this letter too has prophetic utterances

9 "the chosen lady and her children"

☞ When did John mention a lady or woman and her children in his other epistles?

☞ In Revelation John talks about 2 quite different women with children:

☞ Jezebel and her children

Rev 2:20-23:

20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

☞ 2John is definitely not talking about Jezebel and her children

☞ Israel and her children

Revelation 12:17: So the dragon was enraged with the woman (Israel), and went off to make war with the rest of her (Israel's) children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

☞ 2John can certainly also be prophetic and talking about Israel and the woman who will be persecuted by Antichrist!

10 **Exposit: 2Jn:2**

2 for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

☞ God's Name (Onoma) is at stake

☞ God's truth is at stake

☞ All truths, including prophesies concerning Israel and the end times will come to pass "for the sake of the truth"!

☞ "will be with us forever":

TRUTH: "once saved always saved" can also be said

"once you know the truth, you will always know the truth"

"you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" – Jn 8:32

11 **Exposit: 2Jn:3**

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

☞ This common Christian greeting is rich with theological truths

☞ God's grace/mercy/peace will be with us even in our trials!

☞ This grace/mercy/peace is from both the Father and the Son!

☞ God's grace/mercy/peace is given in truth and love!

12 **Exposit: 2Jn:4**

4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father

☞ This lady had children who believed, just like Timothy's grandmother/mother:

2 Timothy 1:5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you (Timothy), which first dwelt in your grandmother (lady) Lois and your mother (lady) Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

☞ This elect lady's children probably had faithful children

☞ Had "little Timothy's"

☞ This family likely heard the gospel and John, believed, and from then on walked in the truth

☞ TAKE AWAY: Living in truth is a commandment from God the Father!

13 **Exposit: 2Jn:5**

5 Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

☞ John was not writing a "new commandment" she not already received

☞ As we learned in our study of 1John:

☞ "the old commandment" (OT):

☞ Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, strength

☞ Love your neighbor as yourself

☞ "the new commandment" (NT):

☞ Love believers (modeled and given by Jesus to His disciples)

☞ No surprise here, take away in this verse is that believers must love believers

14 **Exposit: 2Jn:6**

6 And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.

☞ "love" is 'agapē'

☞ If we say we love (agapē) God, we show it by keeping His commandments!

☞ Not by following rules and regulations

☞ But by demonstrating love to God, our neighbor, and believers

☞ From a prophetic standpoint, during the end times those who say they know or love God that confession will be tested by whether they keep His commandments and whether they love Israel and Christians or not!

15 **Exposit: 2Jn:7**

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

☞ In our "the Last Hour" study (1Jn 2:18) we covered at length that John was warning and prophesying of the arrival of Antichrist

☞ From the penning of 1John and this letter, many deceivers (false teachers, false prophets, false Messiahs) have gone into the world (the spirit of antichrist) attacking the Person and Deity of Jesus

☞ Such deceivers, false prophets, false Christs will continue to come until Antichrist himself arrives on the scene!

16 **Exposit: 2Jn:8**

8 Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

☞ John is warning that major deception has come and will come to fruition at the arrival of Antichrist

☞ Scripture warns us not to abandon the faith, up to and including, the end times

☞ Jesus warned us of false prophets, false Christs leading up to the Great Tribulation (Mt 24, Mk 13)

☞ As we learned in "the Great Apostasy" study (1Jn 2:19), there will be a falling away of the Christian faith, including, the Jews abandoning the OT

☞ This apostasy must happen before Antichrist reveals himself and arrives on the scene:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it (the day of the LORD) will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness (Antichrist) is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

☞ The call in v. 8 is for believers to persevere in the faith and the promise is our faith will be fully rewarded!

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done..."

☞

17 **Exposit: 2Jn:9**

9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

- ☞ "too far" is 'proagō' means to go before or ahead of
- ☞ Those who hold teaching that places itself above Holy Scripture, does not have truth, does not have the Father and the Son, does not have eternal life
- ☞ Converse it true... those who hold to the teaching of Holy Scripture, abides in truth, has both the Father and the Son, and possesses eternal life

18 **Exposit: 2Jn:10-11**

10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

- ☞ Historical backgrounds comes into play. At the time of the penning of this epistle, missionaries relied on hospitality to those they are teaching and ministering to
- ☞ If any missionary were to come teaching contrary to the gospel, God through John commands "do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting"
 - ☞ This is not customary in today's time. Mormons for example go door-to-door, but are not seeking lodging or provisions; this prohibition does not apply in this scenario per sé
- ☞ If anyone were to provide hospitality and lodging and provisions to false teachers, they share (participate) in his evil deeds
- ☞

19 **Exposit: 2Jn:12-13**

12 Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full. 13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

- ☞ John's closing remarks
- ☞ Truth principle: if you want to encourage and love a fellow believer, rather than write with "paper and ink" or in today's world "email, text, DM", the most effective way to encourage and show God's love is to see and speak to them "face to face"
- ☞ The chosen lady, apparently had a chosen sister who also had children!
 - ☞ At a minimum, John is relaying that the elect lady's nieces/nephews says Hello
 - ☞ John may have been staying at the elect sister's house when he wrote this letter
 - ☞ I checked to see if "elect sister" had prophetic implications, but I found no Scriptural support (John never used this term or similar terms in any of his other letters; neither do any of the other NT authors)
 - ☞