

## The Elect Lady & Her Children:

### 2 John 1-3

Water of Life

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## INTRODUCTION

### INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

**Author:**

**Destination:**

(Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea)

(2 John is a condensed form of 1 John. Both letters had the same destination)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

John was in the province of Asia in AD 50 (cf. Acts 16:6-11)

Paul was not allowed to minister there in AD 53

Paul was allowed to minister there in AD 57 (cf. Acts 18:6–19:20)

John returned there (cf. Revelation 2–3)

## EXPOSITION

**John addresses a local church (the elect lady and her children) who are loved by all who love the truth (of Jesus Christ) because that truth abides (in the Church) and will abide forever (1–2)**

How do we know that the elect lady is a church, rather than an individual?

1. Scripture often personifies groups as a single individual. Cf.  
1 Peter 5:13. She who is in Babylon, elect together with *you*, greets you; and *so does* Mark my son.
2. Note the interchange between singulars and plurals (below) you, versus **y'all**

1 The elder, To the elect lady and her children, **whom** I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, 2 because 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 the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. 5 And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. 6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as **y'all** have heard from the beginning, **y'all** should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 [**Y'all**] look to **yourselves**, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to **y'all** and does not bring this doctrine, [**y'all**] do not receive him into the house and [**y'all**] are not to greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. 12 Having many things to write to **y'all**, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to **y'all** and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. 13 The children of your elect sister greet you. Amen.

3. V 13 makes more sense if John refers to saints of one local church (from which John writes to another local church) than for him to refer to the elect lady's nephews & nieces w/o extending greetings from the elect lady's sister (would she be dead?)

4. Verse 1 speaks of all who have known the truth loving this elect lady. It makes more sense, if it refers to a local church than to one person far from Jerusalem

5. Verse 1 greets all the woman's children, but verse 4, says John saw some of them walking in truth. He does not imply that some were walking in error, but rather that some people from this local church have traveled to Jerusalem(?) and met with John

John speaks of truth abiding in the (universal) church forever

John says that the permanence of this truth (concerning Christ) is the reason for believers from other local churches loving the local church to which John writes

Please observe that this shows that it is legitimate for independent local churches to develop a rapport with each other (while remaining distinct local churches)

**John reminds them of the certainty that grace, mercy, and peace in truth and love will be with us from the Father and from Christ (3)**

The Majority Text reads *us*, rather than *you*

John speaks of the certainty that grace, mercy, and peace from God will be upon the church, but this will be true in the confines of truth (rather than error) and love (which focuses heavily upon obedience to the truth)

Note the contrast between truth and error in this book

Note the definition of love in verse 6

Note that deceivers (promoters of error) who deny that Jesus has come in the flesh, distort the meaning of loving one another (for them, love is not grounded in truth), so they do not really love the brethren

**Conclusion**