
BOOK OVERVIEW

I John

Author: the Apostle John

Date: A.D. 90

Recipients: “you that believe on the name of the Son of God” (I John 5:13)

Summary: assurance to those who believe in Christ that they have eternal life, and instruction as to how to live accordingly

Key verses: I John 5:12-13

Key words: know (35 times), world (23 times), love (21 times), light (6 times)

Notes:

John was the son of Zebedee and the brother of James. (Matthew 4:21)

John was the only disciple that followed Jesus from His betrayal in the garden to his crucifixion on Calvary.

I John 4:2–3 refutes a belief that was held by the Gnostics of John’s day. They believed that “Christ” was only a spirit that came upon Jesus at His baptism and left Him at the crucifixion. Thus, they believed that it was Jesus only, not Christ, who died on the cross. Others believed that Jesus was only a spirit.

The Gnostics also believed that the God of creation was an inferior god, because they believed that the material world was inferior. The Gnostics claimed to have secret knowledge about God.

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