

Bible Survey

1, 2, & 3 John
Revelation

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1, 2 & 3 John

➤ Introduction

- ✓ Author—Apostle John
- ✓ Date—ca. AD 80 - 90

➤ Historical/Theological Themes

- God (God - 67x; Father -16x) [DLNT, 425-6]
 - God's Relationship with Jesus (I, 3:8; 4:9, 15; 5:5, 10)
 - God's Relationship with His Children (I, 3:1-2, 9, 10; 4:4, 6, 7; 5:1, 4, 18, 19; III, 11)

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1, 2 & 3 John

- Jesus is the Christ (I, 2:22-23; 4:3, 15; 5:1, 5, 13; II, 7)
- Love (*agape* root 62x, v - I, 2:10, 15; 3:10, 11, 14, 18, 23; 4:7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21; 5:1, 2; II, 1, 5; III, 1; n - I, 2:5, 15; 3:1, 16, 17; 4:7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 18; 5:3; II, 3, 6; III, 6)
- Commands (18x - I, 2:3, 4, 7, 8; 3:22, 23, 24; 4:21; 5:2, 3; II, 4, 5, 6)
- Abiding (27x - I, 2:6, 10, 14, 17, 19, 24, 27, 28; 3:6, 9, 14, 15, 17, 24; 4:12, 13, 15, 16; II, 2, 9)

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1, 2 & 3 John—Literary Structure

- 1 John
 1. 1:1-4—Introduction of Eternal Life
 2. 1:5-2:2—Conditions for Eternal Life
 3. 2:3-4:21—Characteristics of Eternal Life
 4. 5—Consequences of Eternal Life
- 2 John
 1. 1-4—Walk in Truth
 2. 5-8—Walk in Love
 3. 9-13—Walk in Obedience
- 3 John
 1. 1-8 Commendation of Gaius
 2. 9-14—Condemnation of Diotrophes

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1, 2 & 3 John—Purpose

- **1 John**—John declared the truth that gave believers assurance of eternal life and fellowship with God's children (cf. 5:13; 1:3).
- **2 John**—The elder warned about showing hospitality to any false teachers.
- **3 John**—The elder commended a true believer and openly named an unworthy church leader.

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Interpretive Issues

- **"a sin leading to death"**—1 John 5:16-17
 - ✓ Physical death?
 - ✓ Defiant sins vs. unintentional?
 - ✓ Blasphemy against Holy Spirit?
 - ✓ Particularly heinous offenses—murder, adultery, etc?
 - ✓ Deliberate, persistent rejection of the truth?
 - ✓ Apostasy—false believers who have shown their true colors by turning away from the faith
- **"the elect lady"**—2 John
 - ✓ Particular woman?
 - ✓ Local church

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Revelation--Introduction

- Author--Apostle John
 - ✓ Prophet (1:3, 22:6-10, 18-19)
 - ✓ Exiled on Patmos (1:9)
 - ✓ Brother and fellow-sufferer (1:9)
- Date--AD 90-95 during reign of Domitian
- Situation
 - ✓ Second generation churches
 - ✓ Challenges--persecution and heresy

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Revelation--Historical/Theological Themes

- Glory of Jesus Christ
 - ✓ New Titles: Faithful Witness (1:5), Lion of the Tribe of Judah (5:5), King of Kings and Lord of Lords (19:16)
 - ✓ Lamb (28x)
- Wrath of God (chpts 6, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19)
- Future Work of God
 - ✓ Judgment of the Earth (6-19)
 - ✓ Establishment of the Kingdom (19-20)
 - ✓ Blessing of His People (2 - 3; 19 - 22)

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Revelation--literary Structure

- Genre--Apocalypse, Prophecy, Epistle
- Structure:
 1. Chpt 1--The Glories of Christ
 2. Chpts 2 - 3--The Churches of Christ
 3. Chpts 4-22--The Plans of Christ
 OR:
 1. Prologue--1:1-8
 2. The things you have seen--1:9-20
 3. The things which are--2:1-3:21
 4. The things which shall be--4-22

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Revelation—purpose

A revelation was given from Jesus Christ to encourage believers to faithfulness and to rebuke them concerning sin.

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Revelation—Interpretive Issues

- Interpretive Approaches
 - ✓ Preterist—all events fulfilled in AD 70 (full = everything, partial = most things)
 - ✓ Historicist—symbolic representation of the course of history from apostles to represent day
 - ✓ Idealist—allegorical view with spiritual lessons
 - ✓ Futurist—literal, plain interpretation of book
- The Millennium
 - ✓ Literal 1000 years (Pre-millennialism)
 - ✓ Symbolic of Final Period of present age (Post-mill)
 - ✓ Symbolic of this present age (A-mill)

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