

2nd John

Every indication is that 2nd John was written by the same author as 1st John and the gospel of John, that is, the apostle John. The circumstances suggest that it was written late in the 1st century. The opening of Revelation places John on the west coast of Roman Asia, and tradition has it that John served as an elder of the church in Ephesus in his later years, which may be the circumstance of this letter.

“The elect lady” in v1 might be a particular sister in the church, but is probably a congregation, as also “your elect sister” in v13 (and similarly 1 Peter 5:13). The children then would be the members of the respective congregations (consider Revelation 12:17, where Christians are described as children/offspring of a chosen lady).

“The truth” is personified, not merely information, but a person who “abides in us and will be with us forever.” (2)

The commandment to “love one another” was from the beginning (originated with Jesus, John 13:34-35, see also 1 John 3:11ff). Keeping His commandments is always included as showing love, v6, John 14:15, 1 John 5:2-3.

The character of the “antichrist” is highlighted in v7, as also previously in 1 John 2:18-23, 4:1-6. The term just means adversary of Christ or opposed to Christ.

Knowing who Jesus is, his identity and authority in Biblical terms, is very important to the faith, v7-9.

Christians are responsible for hospitably helping those who bring the truth, but not assisting those who are deceivers, v10-11. We need to know the truth adequately so that we can properly support its propagation and those who go about teaching.