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## Δεύτερη Επιστολή του Ιωάννη † THE SECOND LETTER OF JOHN

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### INTRODUCTION

The primary focus of the *Second Letter of John* is on the importance of adhering to orthodox Christian teachings and avoiding false teachers, particularly those who deny the physical incarnation of Jesus Christ, a belief known as Docetism. The letter is addressed to one of the churches in Asia Minor (the 'lady' of v. 1); it alludes to the many of the points of *1 John* and adds a command to not show hospitality to (or even greet) those false teachers – anyone who does so is guilty of participating in their heresy.

### AUTHORSHIP AND DATE

The common language and literary style make it almost certain that the three letters of John are by the same author (most probably that of John's Gospel); this second letter was likely written very shortly after the first, at or near the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century CE.

## Ιωαννου Β' Ι

<sup>1</sup> Ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἐκλεκτῇ κυρίᾳ καὶ τοῖς τέκνοις αὐτῆς, οὓς ἐγὼ ἀγαπῶ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ, καὶ οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνος ἀλλὰ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἐγνωκότες τὴν ἀλήθειαν, <sup>2</sup> διὰ τὴν ἀλήθειαν τὴν μένουσαν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ μεθ' ἡμῶν ἔσται εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα. <sup>3</sup> ἔσται μεθ' ἡμῶν χάρις ἔλεος εἰρήνη παρὰ θεοῦ πατρός, καὶ παρὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ πατρός, ἐν ἀληθείᾳ καὶ ἀγάπῃ.

<sup>4</sup> Ἐχάρην λίαν ὅτι εὔρηκα ἐκ τῶν τέκνων σου περιπατοῦντας ἐν ἀληθείᾳ, καθὼς ἐντολὴν ἐλάβομεν παρὰ τοῦ πατρός. <sup>5</sup> καὶ νῦν ἐρωτῶ σε, κυρία, οὐχ ὡς ἐντολὴν γράφων σοι καινὴν ἀλλὰ ἣν εἶχομεν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς, ἵνα ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους. <sup>6</sup> καὶ αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἀγάπη, ἵνα περιπατῶμεν κατὰ τὰς ἐντολὰς αὐτοῦ· αὕτη ἡ ἐντολὴ ἐστίν, καθὼς ἠκούσατε ἀπ' ἀρχῆς, ἵνα ἐν αὐτῇ περιπατήτε. <sup>7</sup> ὅτι πολλοὶ πλάνοι ἐξῆλθον εἰς τὸν κόσμον, οἱ μὴ ὁμολογοῦντες Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἐρχόμενον ἐν σαρκί· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ πλάνος καὶ ὁ ἀντίχριστος. <sup>8</sup> βλέπετε ἑαυτούς, ἵνα

## 2 JOHN 1

<sup>1</sup> The Elder: my greetings to the Lady, the chosen one, and to her children, whom I love in truth – and I am not the only one; for, so do all who have come to know the Truth – <sup>2</sup> because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us for ever. <sup>3</sup> In our life of truth and love, we shall have grace, faithful love, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father.

<sup>4</sup> It has given me great joy to find that children of yours have been walking in truth as we were commanded by the Father.

<sup>5</sup> And now I am asking you – dear lady, not as though I were writing you a new commandment but one that we have had from the beginning – let us love each other. <sup>6</sup> To love is to walk according to his commandments: this is the commandment that you have heard since the beginning, to walk in it. <sup>7</sup> Many deceivers are at large in the world, refusing to acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. They are the deceiver; they are the antichrist. <sup>8</sup> Watch yourselves, or all our work will be

## 2 JOHN 1

<sup>1</sup> The NJB & NETB add 'From' at the beginning of the verse.

<sup>2</sup> In place of 'abides', the NJB has 'remains'.

<sup>3</sup> Before 'Jesus Christ', some MSS add 'the Lord'.

<sup>4</sup> For 'walking in truth', the NJB has 'living the life of truth'.

<sup>5</sup> In place of 'let us love', the NJB has 'that we should love'.

<sup>6</sup> The NJB has 'live' in place of 'walk' (twice in this verse).

<sup>7</sup> The NRSV has 'confess' in place of 'acknowledge'.

<sup>8</sup> Some MSS have 'your work' in place of 'our work'.

μὴ ἀπολέσητε ἃ εἰργάσασθε ἀλλὰ μισθὸν πλήρη ἀπολάβητε. <sup>9</sup> πᾶς ὁ προάγων καὶ μὴ μένων ἐν τῇ διδαχῇ τοῦ Χριστοῦ θεὸν οὐκ ἔχει· ὁ μένων ἐν τῇ διδαχῇ, οὗτος καὶ τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὸν υἱὸν ἔχει. <sup>10</sup> εἴ τις ἔρχεται πρὸς ὑμᾶς καὶ ταύτην τὴν διδαχὴν οὐ φέρει, μὴ λαμβάνετε αὐτὸν εἰς οἰκίαν καὶ χαίρειν αὐτῷ μὴ λέγετε· <sup>11</sup> ὁ λέγων γὰρ αὐτῷ χαίρειν κοινωνεῖ τοῖς ἔργοις αὐτοῦ τοῖς πονηροῖς.

<sup>12</sup> Πολλὰ ἔχων ὑμῖν γράφειν οὐκ ἐβουλήθην διὰ χάρτου καὶ μέλανος, ἀλλὰ ἐλπίζω γενέσθαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς καὶ στόμα πρὸς στόμα λαλῆσαι, ἵνα ἡ χαρὰ ἡμῶν πεπληρωμένη ᾖ. <sup>13</sup> Ἀσπάζεται σε τὰ τέκνα τῆς ἀδελφῆς σου τῆς ἐκλεκτῆς.

lost and you will forfeit your full reward. <sup>9</sup> If anybody does not abide in the teaching of Christ but goes beyond it, he does not have God with him; only those who abide in what he taught can have the Father and the Son with them. <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you bringing a different doctrine, you must not receive him into your house or even give him a greeting.

<sup>11</sup> Whoever greets him has a share in his evil deeds.

<sup>12</sup> There is much I have to tell you but I thought it best not to trust it to paper and ink. I hope instead to visit you and talk to you in person, so that our joy may be complete. <sup>13</sup> Greetings to you from the children of your sister, the chosen one.

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<sup>9</sup> The NJB has 'remain' in place of 'abide' (twice in this verse).

<sup>10</sup> The NJB has 'teaching' in place of 'doctrine'.

<sup>11</sup> In place of 'evil deeds', the NJB has 'wicked activities'.

<sup>12</sup> Some MSS have 'your joy' in place of 'our joy'.

<sup>13</sup> The Byzantine MSS have ἀμήν ('amen') at the conclusion of the letter.