

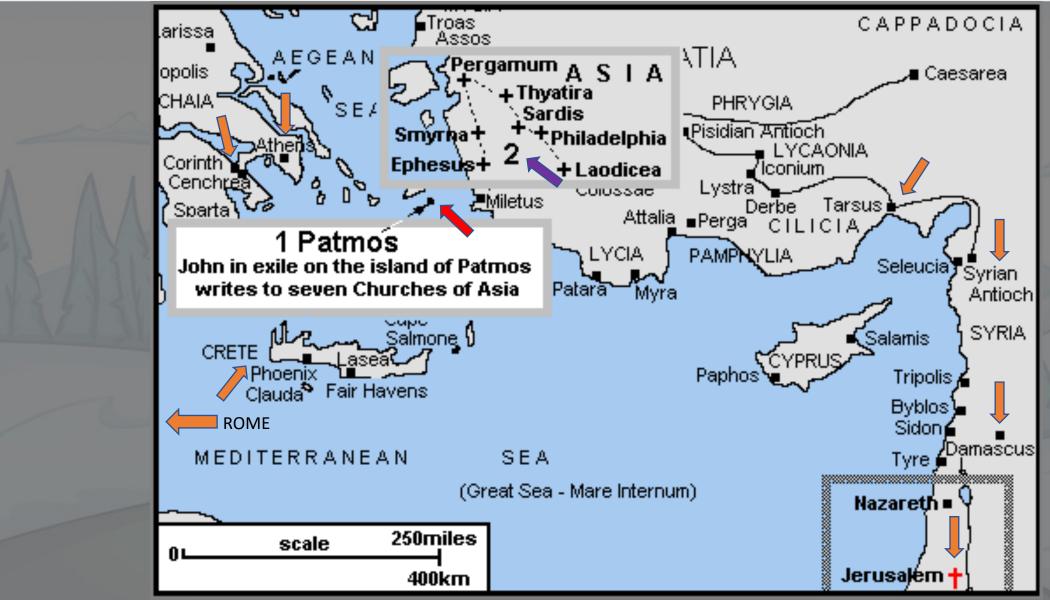
"This is a family letter from the Heavenly Father to His little children or His 'born ones."

James Orr

The Gospel of John leads us into the Father's house, the letters of John make us feel at home there.

(condensed from James Orr)

Writer is John, the beloved Disciple, brother of James, son of Zebedee, a fisherman turned "fisher of men." Written from Ephesus. John is also writer of the Gospel of John, two other brief letters and Revelation.



The date is late, about A.D. 95, near the close of John's eventful life and some 60 years after the resurrection of Christ. This letter, along with John's other writings, were done some 30 years after the other N.T. books.

John's Gospel had been written to show that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that by believing in Him, one may have life. (John 20:30, 31) This letter is addressed to Christians everywhere and emphasizes the assurance of those who already have been saved (5:13).

1 John is about Eternal Life
Key words: "know" (40X) & "fellowship."
God is Life (15x's)
God is Light (6x's)
God is Love (46x's)

After the destruction of Jerusalem (70AD) and his exile on Patmos - John made his home in Ephesus (90AD). Among his "pupils" were such leaders as Polycarp, Papias, Ignatius.

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

Eternal Life 1

- From Heaven (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1)
- By Evidences
 - 'heard' 'seen' 'looked upon' 'touched'
- Word of Life He is!
 - John 6:68 "You have the words of eternal life!"
 - John 7:46 "No one ever spoke like this man!"

"Don't let obstacles along the road to eternity shake your confidence in God's promise. The Holy Spirit is God's seal that you will arrive." David Jeremiah

2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

Experience Life 2

- Manifest 'illuminated'
 - 'we have seen it' first hand
 - 'we testify to it' witnesses
 - 'we are proclaiming it' announcing
- Heaven come to Earth

"Since this life is God's and cannot die, it follows that everyone born anew into possessing this life is said to have eternal life." Watchman Nee

3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Express Life 3

- Testimony Received 'seen and heard'
- Testimony Proclaimed 'proclaim'
- Testimony Shared 'so that...'
 - Father Creator (Eden into sin)
 - Son Redeemer (sin into Heaven)

"If we discover a desire within us that nothing in this world can satisfy, also we should begin to wonder if perhaps we were created for another world."

C.S. Lewis



4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

Enjoy Life 4

- Fellowship with the Father
- Fellowship with one another
- Fellowship is a relationship NOT an activity!
- Fellowship is not discussion but disclosure!

"For a small reward, a man will hurry away on a long journey; while for eternal life, many will hardly take a single step." Thomas a Kempis

What I am 'declaring' to you -

- I want you to know Eternal Life Jesus
- I want you to Experience Life in Christ
- I want you to Express Life to Lost
- I want you to Enjoy Life now and to come!

"For the Christian, heaven is where Jesus is. We do not need to speculate on what heaven will be like. It is enough to know that we will be forever with Him." William Barclay

