

THE SECOND LETTER OF JOHN

{*This letter, or note, was sent to a church, sent by "the Elder" or "πρεσβυτερος" and addressed to "the elect lady and her children". It is not clear whether this is sent to a Christian matron and her family or to a church. The early churches often gathered in homes and formed strong bonds as one would find within a family.*}

INSCRIPTION

{*"Second John" Aleph, A, B, 048. "The Second Epistle of John" K, Psi & many minuscules. "John's Second Epistle" 049. "The Second Catholic Epistle of John" K & 614. "The Second Epistle of the Holy Apostle John, the Theologian" L.*}

SALUTATION

<II John 1-3>

¹ The Elder -- to the elect lady (*or, Lady, Kyria*) <cf. ASV, NEB, and Zurich. Scholars differ as to whether the "elect lady" is a personification of the church or an individual. Clement of Alexandria thought of her as a person, "Electa". Others think of her having the name "Kyria". A third group has even hazarded that both words are proper names and that she was called "Electa Kyria". Since there is no definite article in conjunction with the name these theories are questionable.> and to her children whom I truly love, <The Greek word "αγαπη" includes the concepts of "caring for, loyalty and seeking their good".> and not you alone but also to all who know the truth <i.e. to the church and all its members>, ² for the sake of the truth that remains in us and will be with us forever: ³ Grace, mercy and peace be with us from God the Father and [Jesus] ¹ Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

TRUTH AND LOVE

<II John 4-11>

⁴ I am very happy to have found those among your children who in the light of this live (*literally, walk in*) true lives that are in obedience to the command which we have received from the Father. ⁵ Now I ask you, my lady (*or, my Lady, my Kyria*) not as though I was writing a new command to you but rather, based on the one we had from the beginning, namely, that we should love one another. This love consists in our behaving in a manner that agrees with His commands. ⁶ This command to live in love is one you have heard from the beginning. ⁷ Many impostors have gone out into the world who do not acknowledge that Jesus Christ is coming in the flesh (*or, in human form, incarnate*). That kind is a deceiver (*or, impostor*) and the antichrist. ⁸ Look out for yourselves, that you might not [ruin] ² the [accomplishments] ³ we have carried out (*or, worked for*), but rather that we receive a full reward. ⁹ Whoever goes beyond the teaching of Christ and does not remain in that doctrine does not have God. Those who remain true to the [teachings] ⁴ have both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰ If anyone comes to you who does not bring this teaching, do not receive that person in

1 {C} So: A, B, Psi, 048, 0323, many minuscules, Old Latin, Sahidic Coptic & Ethiopic. "the Lord Jesus" Aleph, K, P, 049, 056, 0142, many minuscules, Harclean Syriac, Bohairic Coptic & Armenian. "Our Lord Jesus" Peshitta Syriac.

2 {B} Minor variants occur.

3 {C} Minor variants occur.

4 {B} So: Aleph, A, B, Psi, several minuscules, Harclean Syriac, Sahidic Coptic & Armenian. "the teachings of Christ" K, P, 049 in the third corrective hand, 056, 0142, many minuscules, Old Latin, Bohairic Coptic & Ethiopic. "in His teaching" Old Latin & Syriac Peshitta.

your

house nor extend a greeting to him ¹¹ for whoever gives a greeting to such a one is himself a sharer of his wicked deeds.

FINAL GREETINGS

<II John 12-13>

¹²I have a great deal more to write to you. I would prefer not to write it (*literally, pen and ink*) on paper (*or, papyrus, literally, papyrus and ink*) but rather I hope to visit you and speak face to face so that [our] ⁵ joy might be complete. ¹³ The children of your elect (*or, chosen*) sister send you greetings. [Amen.] ⁶

5 {C} Manuscripts vary in word form.

6 {B} Included by K, 049, 056, 0142, many minuscules Peshitta & Harclean Syriac. Other minor variants occur.