



literary flow

Summary (Time/People/Purpose) | Themes | Outline

When people began leaving the Apostle John’s church, they stirred up anti-Christ sentiments. John wrote to provide confidence for those who remained in the church that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection were not fraudulent. Not only was the Incarnation fact, it also revealed God’s love, forgiveness, and purpose for His children. John’s companion letters (2, 3 John) and church history both point to the Ephesian believers near the end of the first century.

Themes	Key [Root] Words	
Propitiation: Legal term describing a payment for sin.	n.v. love/beloved (28x)	father (14x)
Perfection: Moral status where sin /idolatry have been overcome.	n.v. Sin/sins (27x)	command (14x)
Incarnation: term describing Jesus becoming a human being—flesh and blood; tempted and tortured; fully God and fully man.	world (23x)	life (13x)
Antichrist: general label for someone who rejects Jesus as God’s Son; also a title for key End Times’ opponent of God.	son (22x)	believe (9x)
	True/truth (16x)	overcome (6x)
		light (6x)

ProLOGOS: Jesus’ Life and Death provide Eternal Life and Joy to God’s Children (1:1-4)			
Tests of Faith Light Test (1:5-7) Confession Test (1:8-2:2) Obedience Test (2:3-11)	Statement of Purpose (2:12-14)	Cosmic Problems Cosmic Affections (2:15-17) Antichrist Sentiments (2:18-24) Family Dynamics (2:25-3:24)	Overcoming Faith Confessional Faith (4:1-6) Loving Faith (4:7-21) Obedient Faith (5:1-4) Believing Faith (5:5-12)
EpiLOGOS: Jesus’ Life and Death provide Eternal <i>Certainty</i> and Life for God’s Children (5:13-21)			



redemptive threads

Satan | Incarnation | Love

John exposes the world for what it is: a corrupt system under the sway of **Satan** (5:19). Sin flourishes, death looms, hatred abounds, and fleshly lusts rule the world (2:15-17). Not only is **Satan** the architect of the fallen world, but he is the father of the damned. John borrows Jesus’ parental metaphor: **Satan** is the father of sinners (3:7\8-10 cf. John 8:44). Anyone whose life is defined by habitual sin, John brazenly states, is the spawn of **Satan**. He also fuels antichrist

sentiments (2:18-27) and false spirits (4:1-3). Fortunately, just as Jesus encouraged His disciples not to lose heart because He has “overcome the world,” John also inspires his church with the promise that they will overcome **Satan** by the Holy Spirit (2:13-14; 4:4; 5:5 cf. John 16:33).

For Jesus to overcome **Satan**, He had to appear in the flesh. His **incarnation** allowed Him to atone for sin (2:2; 3:16; 4:10), abolish death (3:2-3; 5:13), love enemy and neighbor (2:5-6), and bend to the Father’s will (5:1-4). In other words, Jesus loosened every bond **Satan** held over the cosmos. And Jesus waged war in a way that was visible, audible, and palpable to human witnesses (1:1-4). The **incarnation** is John’s refrain (1:1-4; 2:20-23; 4:2, 9; 5:6-9) and our hope. For when Jesus appears, glorious and **incarnate**, we will be like Him: children of God (2:28-3:3).

To prevent visions of future glory to swell into pride, John admonished his readers to take inventory of their hearts (3:19-21). True confessions of faith should result in the practice of **love** (2:3-6, 9-11; 3:11-18, 23; 4:11, 19-21; 5:1-3). **Love** is the primal commandment (2:7) and the core of God’s being (4:8). **Love** begins with God’s affection for humanity, and then flows horizontally to sisters and neighbors (4:7). Thus love is always more than theory and theology; **love** is incarnation. Apology and forgiveness, obedience and sacrifice, encouragement and restoration, and fearlessness are the fruits of **love** (1:9; 2:2; 5:1-3; 4:10; 2:12-14; 5:16-17; 4:18).

In the Beginning	“In the beginning, God created the heavens and earth...” (Genesis 1:1) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) “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...” (1 John 1:1)
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practical application

The Loving Church:

- Behold your God-given _____ : *Sons and Daughters of God* (3:1).
- Practice God-given _____ : *In deed and truth* (3:18)
 - F _____
 - S _____
 - D _____

1 John Reading Challenge		S	M	T	W	R	F	S
Immersion	1 John 1-5							
Fluency	1 John 1-5							
Essential	1 John 1:1-10; 2:15-3:3; 4:1-21; 5:13-21							