



1st John

God is Light, Love and Life

Lesson 01

Overview

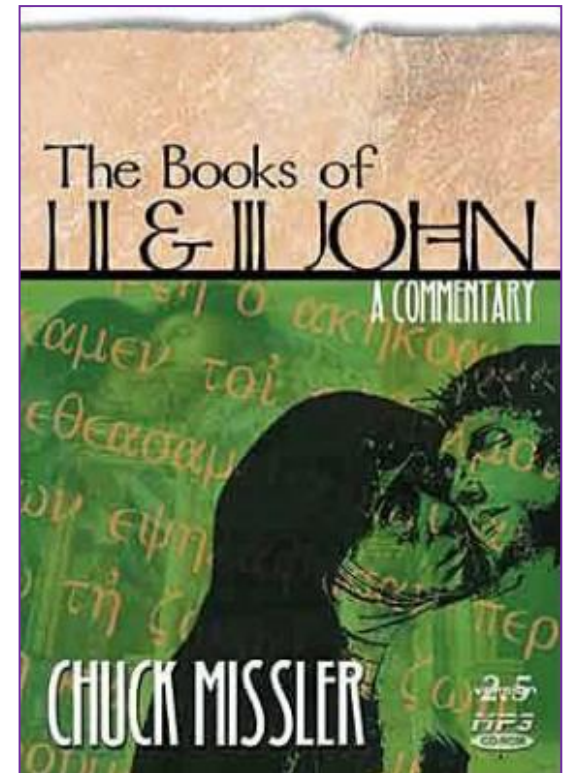
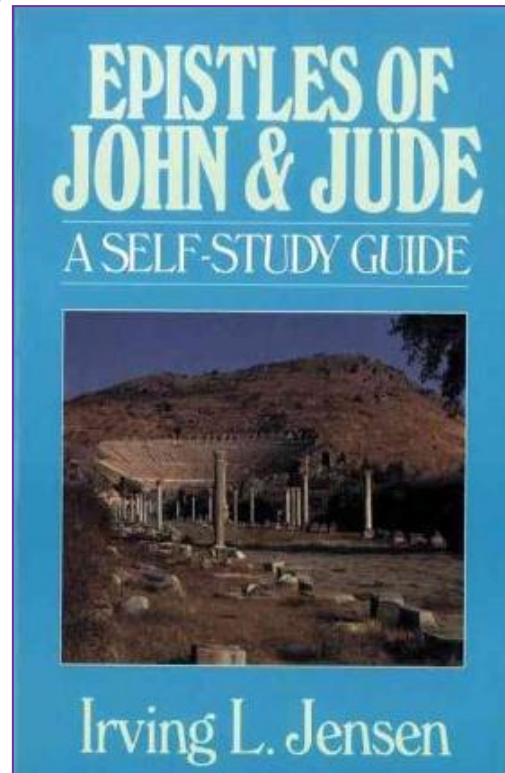
Epistle of 1st John

Philip Giorgio

Sojourners Sunday School Class

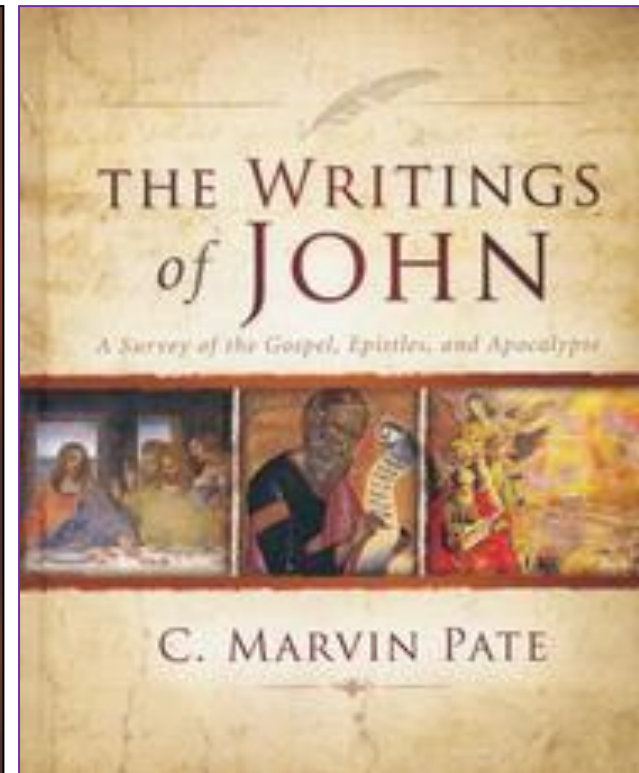
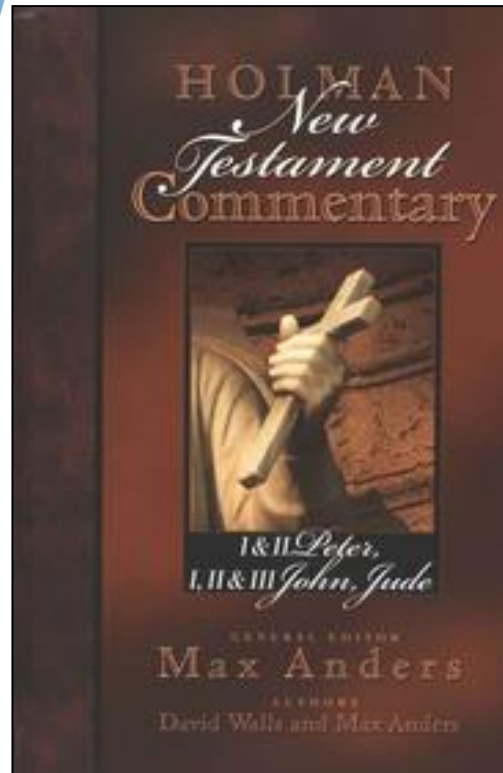


References



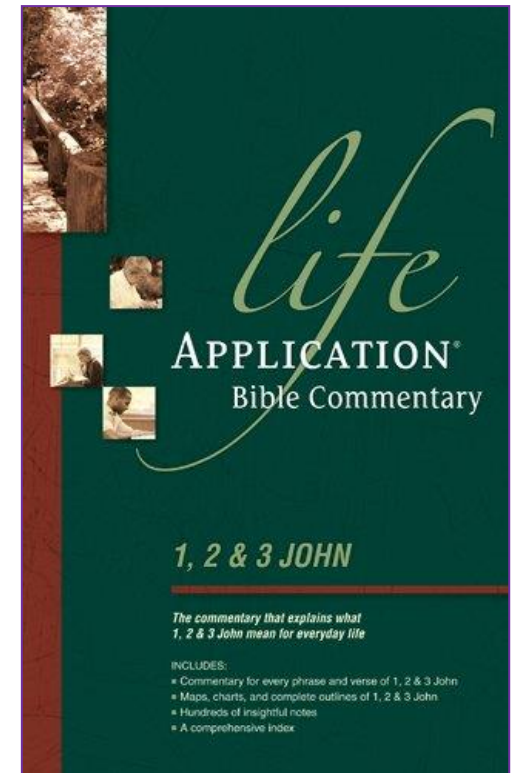
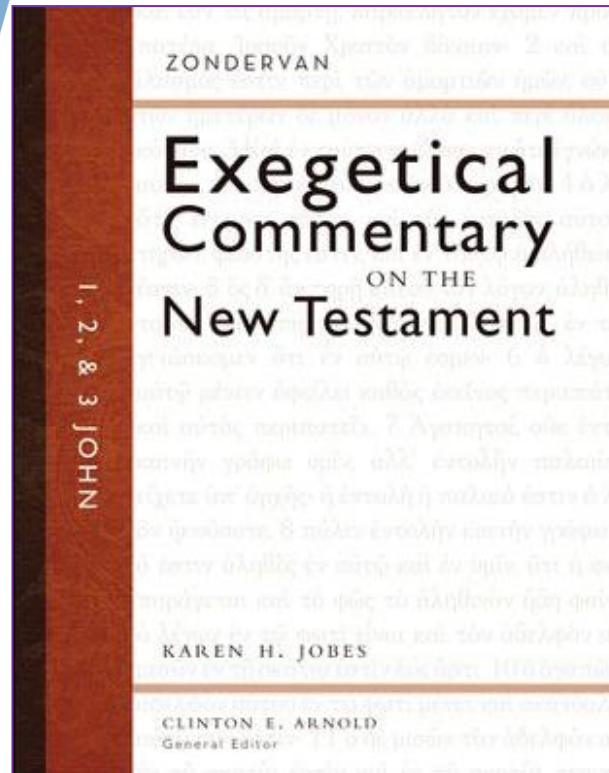


References





References





Course Outline

Course Outline - Lessons

▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

- Lesson 01: Overview ... [1 JOHN]
- Lesson 02: Jesus Christ is God's Son ... [1:1-4]
- Lesson 03: Fellowship ... [1:5-2:2]
- Lesson 04: The Test of Knowing Him ... [2:3-11]
- Lesson 05: Do Not Love the Evil World ... [2:12-17]
- Lesson 06: Antichrists Warning ... [2:18-27]
- Lesson 07: Children of God ... [2:28-3:9]
- Lesson 08: The Imperative of Love ... [3:10-23]
- Lesson 09: Spirit of Truth ... [3:24-4:6]
- Lesson 10: The Consummation of Love ... [4:7-19]
- Lesson 11: Obedience by Faith ... [4:20-5:5]
- Lesson 12: God's Witness ... [5:6-13]
- Lesson 13: Knowing the Truth ... [5:14-21]

Course Outline - Lessons

▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

- Lesson 01: Overview ... [1 JOHN]
- Lesson 02: Jesus Christ is God's Son ... [1:1-4]
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Lesson Outline

Lesson 01 - Outline

▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

• Lesson 01: Overview

✓ CONTEXT

- Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR
- Book Structure - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES
- Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM





Overview

Context

Lesson 01 - Outline

▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

• Lesson 01: Overview

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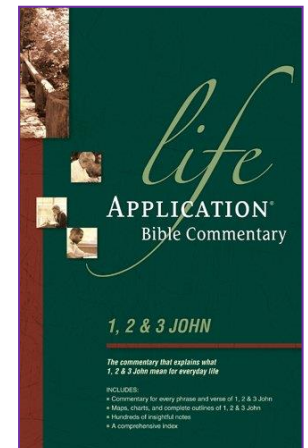
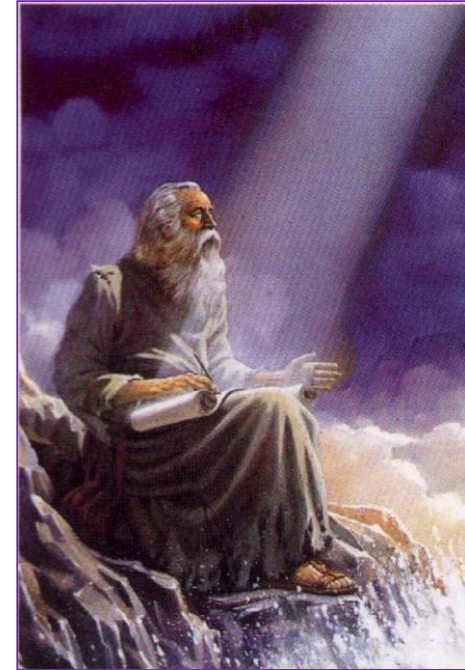
Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- Purpose

- The purpose of the **1st Epistle of John** is two fold, **(1)** to reassure believers in their faith and **(2)** to counter false teachings.

- Audience

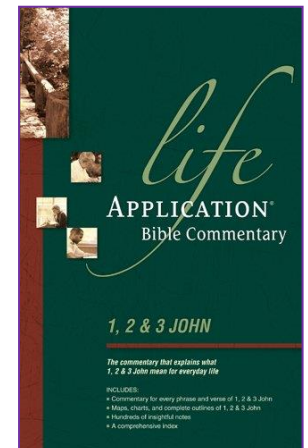
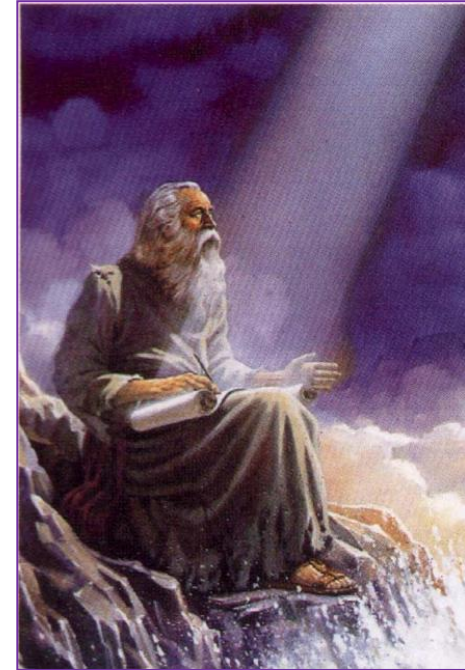
- The epistle is untitled and was written to no particular church.
- It was sent as a pastoral letter or sermon to several Gentile congregations.
- Ultimately, it was written to all believers everywhere throughout the church age.



Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- Date Written:
Between AD 85 - AD 90
- Key Verse: **1 John 5:13**

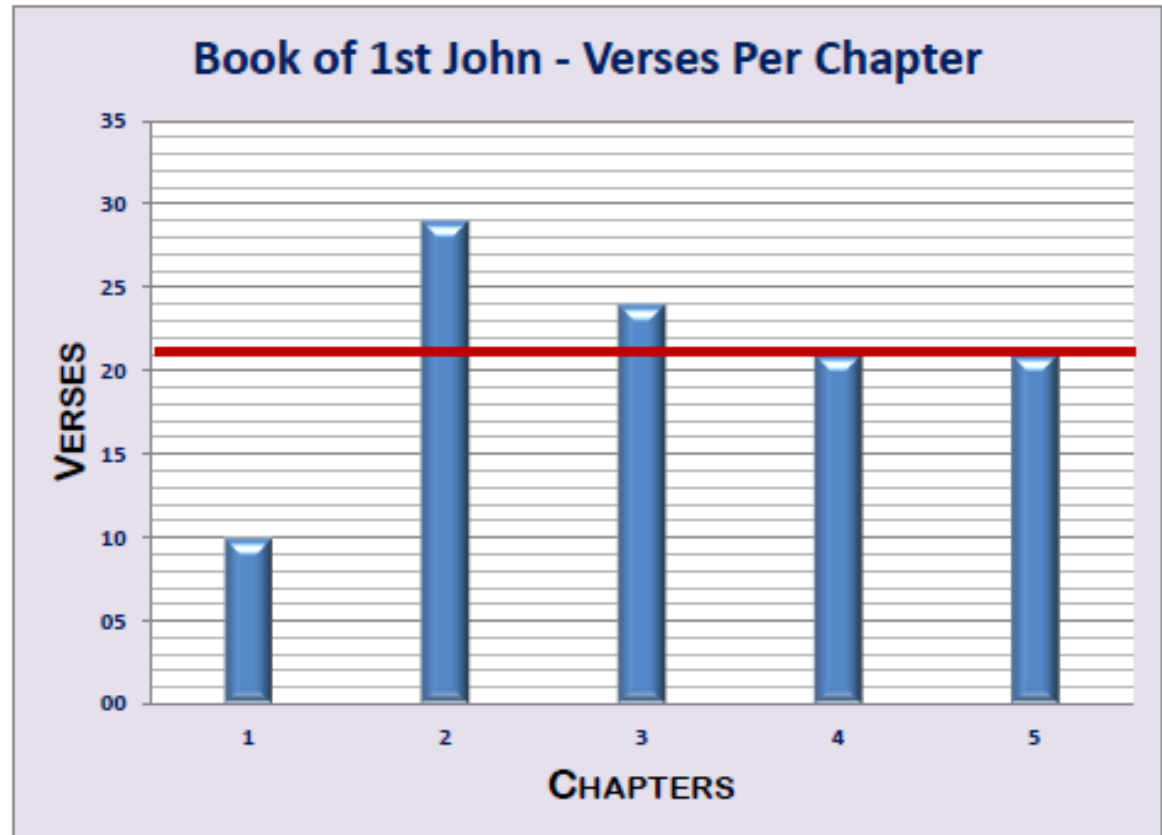
1³ These things I have written to you **who believe** in the name of the Son of God, that you **may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may ***continue to believe*** in the name of the Son of God.



Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- Metrics - By the Numbers

Book of 1st John Metrics		
Chapter	Verses	NKJV Sections
01	10	02
02	29	06
03	24	04
04	21	04
05	21	03
5	105	19
21	Average Verses per Chapter	

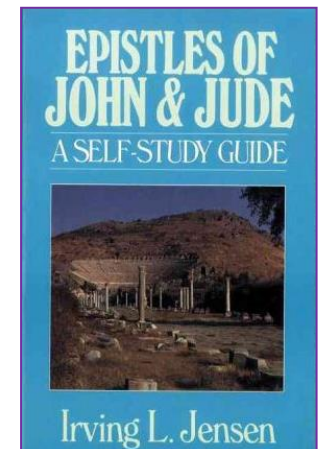
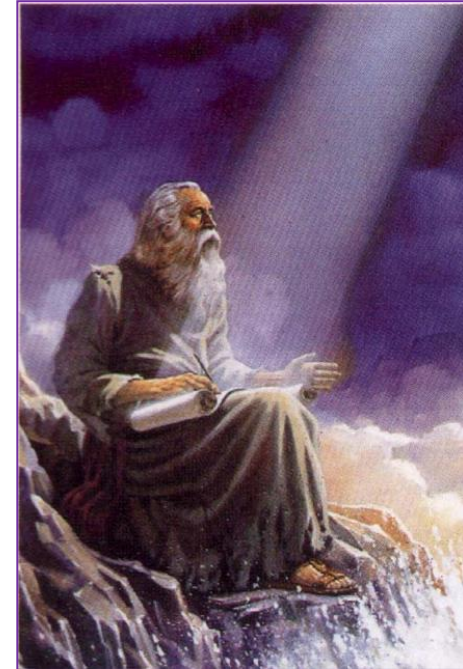


Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

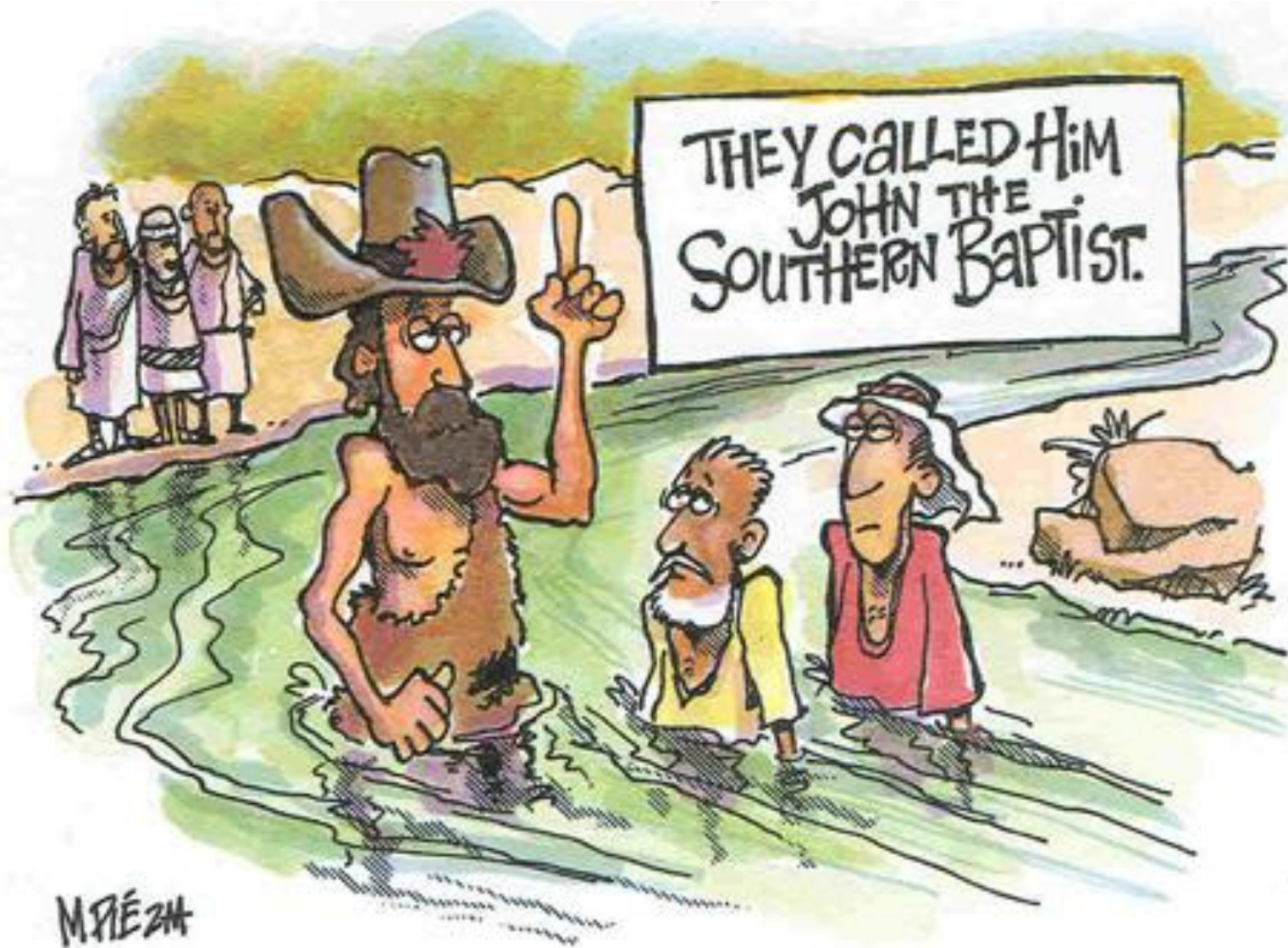
• Who Wrote the Epistles of John?

- **John**
 - *Hebrew* means “Jehovah is gracious”
- But which **John**?

Candidate	Reference
John the Baptist	Luke 1:57-66; Matthew 3:1
John Mark	Acts 12:12; 2 Timothy 4:11
Jona or Jonas <i>Father of Simon Peter</i>	John 1:42; 21:15-17
John <i>the relative of Annas the High Priest</i>	Acts 4:6
John “the beloved”	Matthew 4:21; 10:2



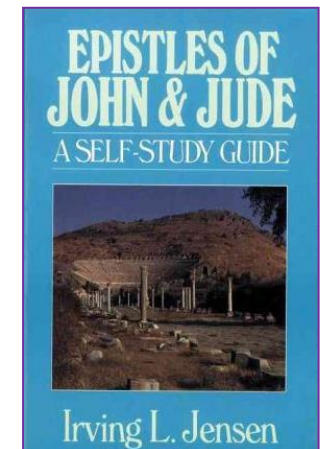
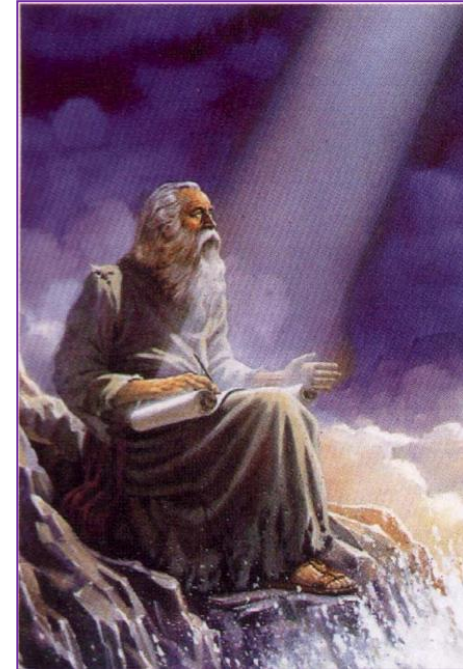
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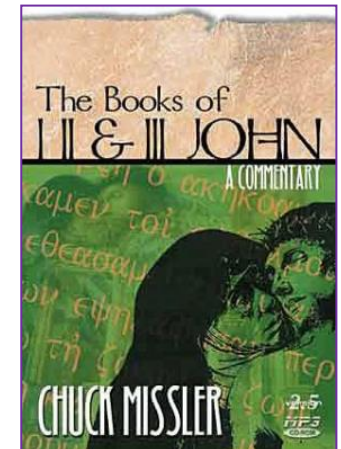
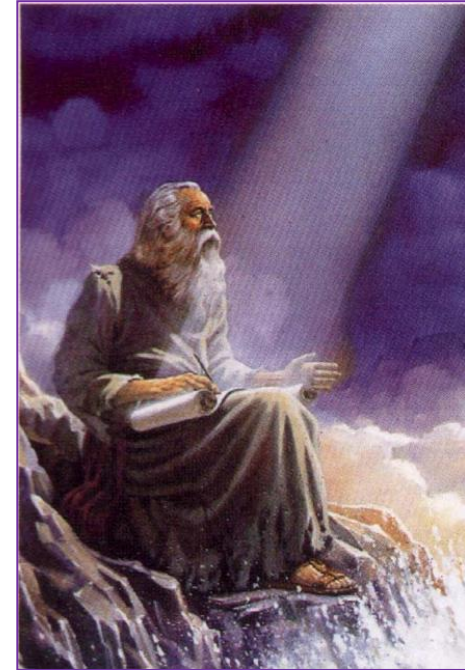
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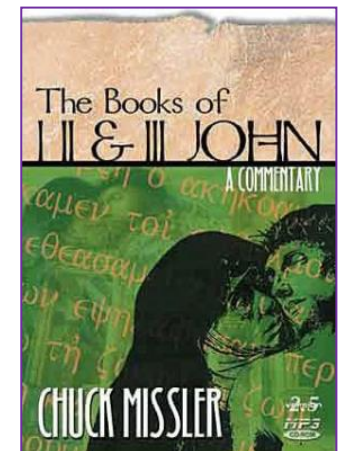
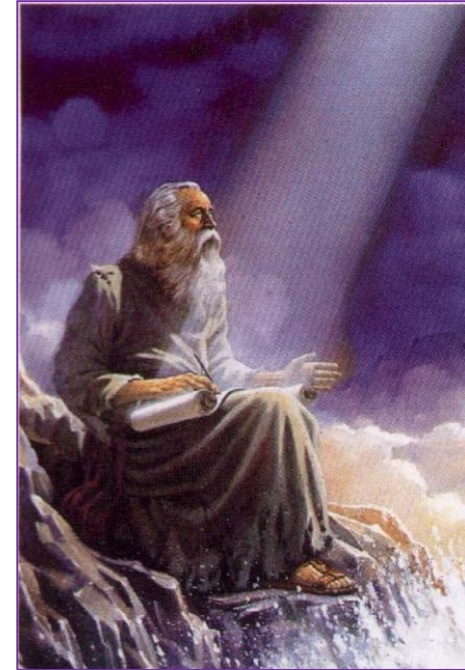
Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- Brother of James *“the Greater”*
 - Matthew 4:21, 10:2; Mark 1:19, 3:17, 10:35
- Younger of the sons of Zebedee and Salome
- Born at Bethsaida
 - Matthew 4:21; 27:56; 15:40
- Father was apparently a man of some wealth
 - Mark 1:20; Luke 5:3; John 19:27
- **John** was trained in all that constituted the normal education of Jewish youth.
- When **John** grew up he followed the occupation of a fisherman with his family on the Sea of Galilee.



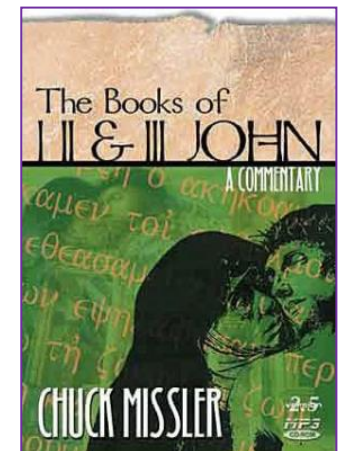
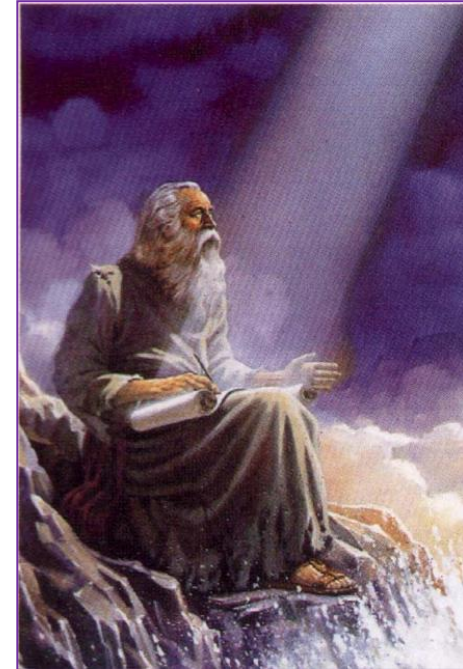
Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- When John the Baptist began his ministry in the wilderness of Judea,
- **John**, with many others, gathered around him and was deeply influenced by John Baptist's teaching.
- There **John** heard the announcement, "Behold the Lamb of God," and on the invitation of Jesus, became a disciple and ranked among his followers for a time
 - **John 1:36, 37**
- **John** and his brother, James, then returned to their former vocation (*it is uncertain for how long*).







Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- Jesus again called **John** and James
- Now they left all and permanently joined the company of his disciples
 - **Matthew 4:21**; Luke 5:1-11
- For their zeal and intensity of character, Jesus named **John** and his brother James
 - “*Boanerges*” ... “Sons of Thunder” ... **Mark 3:17**
- This spirit of *chutspah* broke out on a number of occasions
 - **Matthew 20:20-24** - Kingdom Seating Plan (*Mom*)
 - **Mark 10:35-41** - Kingdom Seating Plan
 - **Luke 9:49** - Forbid Man Casting Out Demons
 - **Luke 9:54** - Command Fire from Heaven



Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- **John** was “*the disciple whom Jesus loved*”
- John 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; 21:20
- **John** became one of the innermost circle:

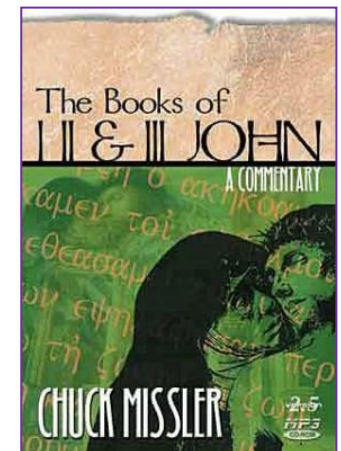
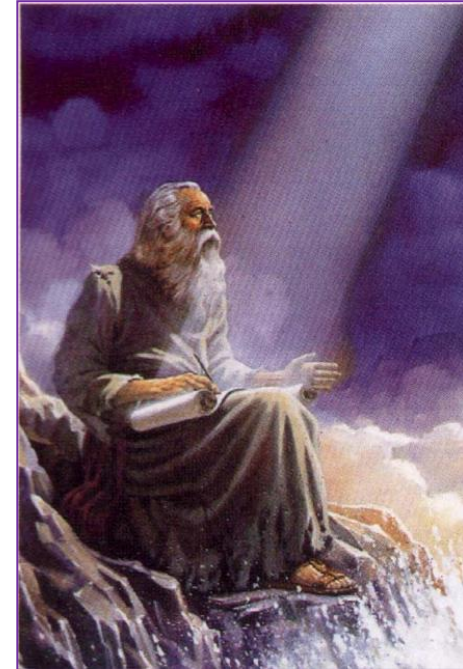
Event	Reference
Jairus' Daughter	Mark 5:37 
Transfiguration	Matthew 17:1 
Gethsemane	Matthew 26:37 
Olivet Discourse	Mark 13:3 



Peter, James & John



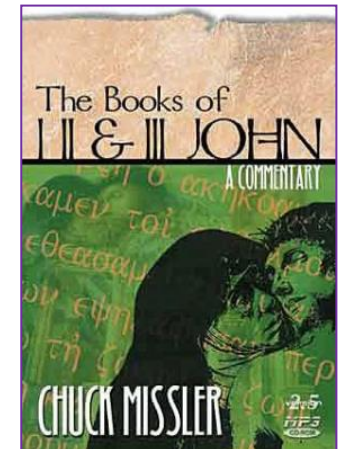
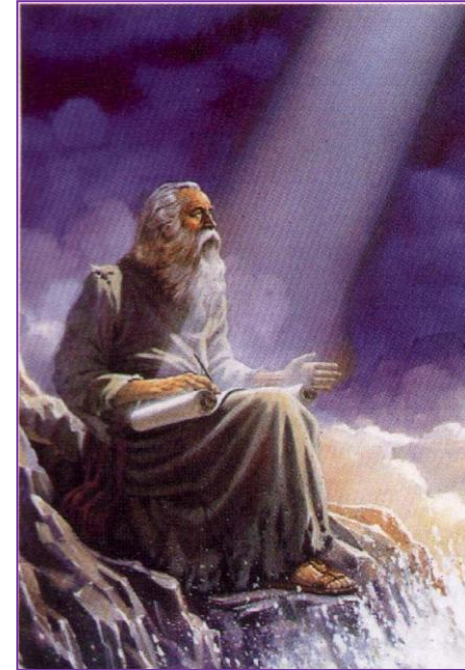
Andrew, Peter, James & John



Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- **FINAL WEEK**

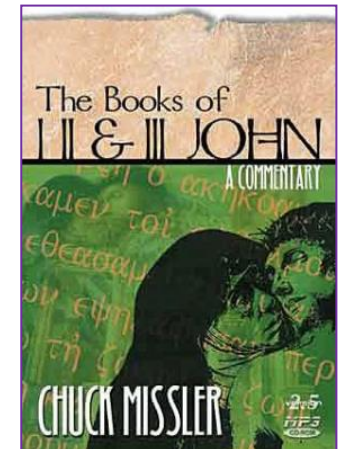
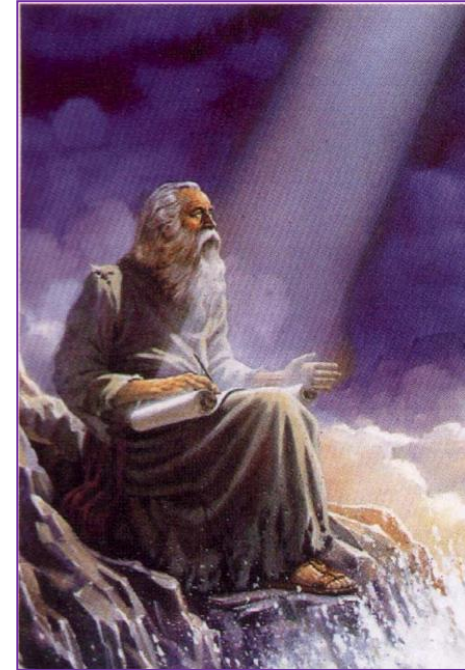
- At the betrayal, **John** and Peter followed Christ afar off, while the others fled
 - John 18:1
- At the six trials **John** followed Christ into the council chamber, then to the praetorium, and then to the place of crucifixion
 - John 18:16,19,28; 19:26,27
- Mary was consigned to **John's** care at the Cross rather than to her other sons!



Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- **FINAL WEEK**

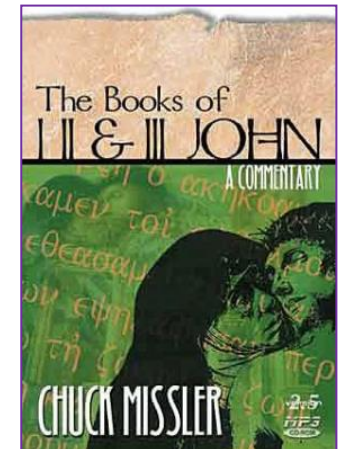
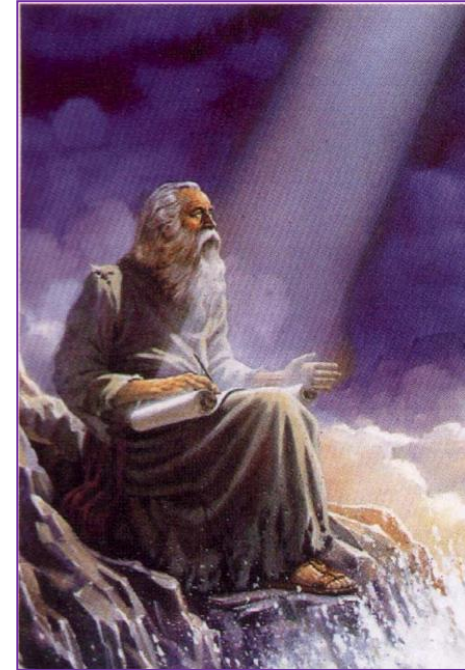
- To **John** and Peter, Mary first conveyed tidings of the resurrection
- **John** and Peter were the first to go and see what her strange words meant
 - John 20:2
- After the resurrection **John** and Peter again returned to the Sea of Galilee,
- Where the Lord revealed himself to them
 - John 21:1,7
- We find Peter and **John** frequently together after this
 - Acts 3:1; 4:13



Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- **FINAL YEARS**

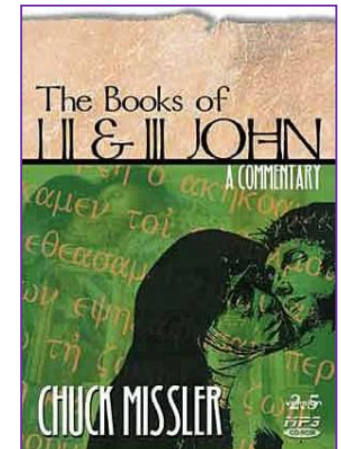
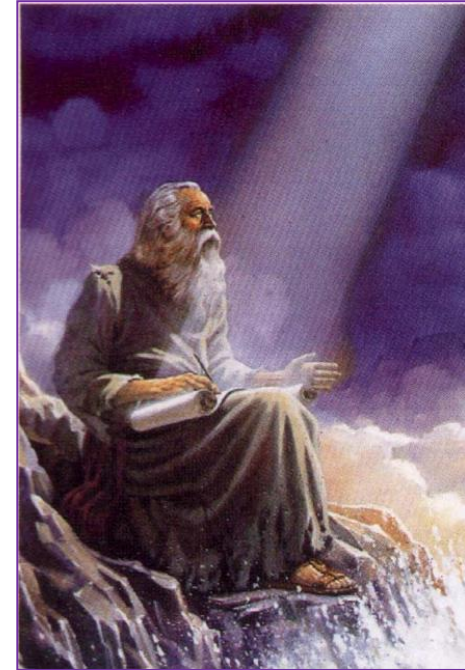
- **John** remained in Jerusalem among the leadership
 - Acts 15:6; Galatians 2:9
- **John** was not there at the time of Paul's last visit
 - Acts 21:15-40



Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- **FINAL YEARS**

- **John** retired to Ephesus, but at what time is unknown.
- The three epistles were written from Ephesus.
- **John** suffered under persecution, and was banished to Patmos
 - Revelation 1:9
- From Patmos **John** again returned to Ephesus, where he died (~AD 98).



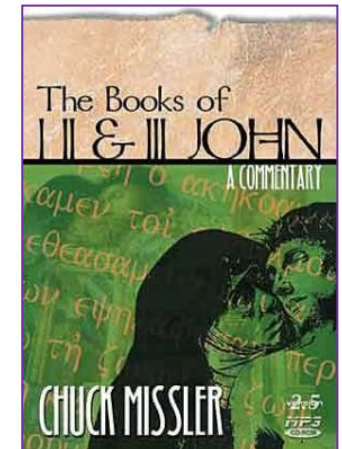
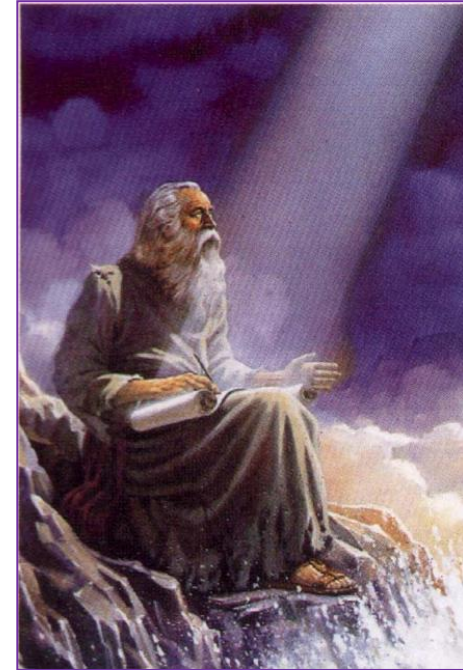
Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- WRITINGS

- John wrote five books of the NT:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|--|
| 1) | The Gospel | the Past { <i>Salvation</i> } |
| 2) | Three epistles | the Present { <i>Sanctification</i> } |
| 3) | Revelation | the Future { <i>Glorious Appearing</i> } |

- Most scholars assume that the Epistles were written last, just before the close of the first century.



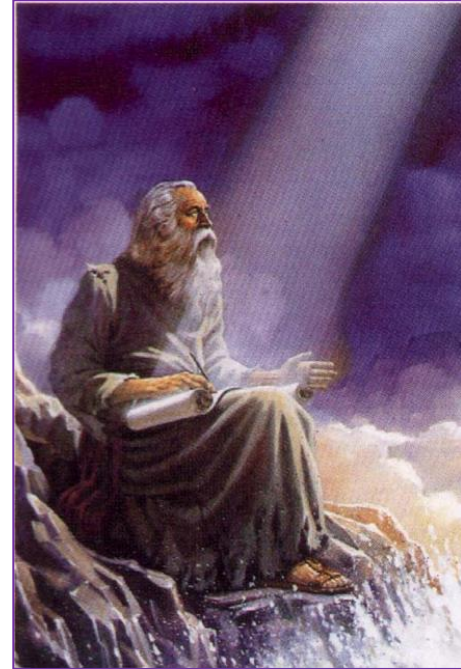
Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

- WRITINGS

- The Gospel of John:

- PURPOSE: John 20:30-31

³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.



- Heptadic Structure not as obvious as in Revelation

- Seven Miracles
 - Seven I Am Statements

Lesson 01 - Outline

▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

• Lesson 01: Overview

✓ CONTEXT

- Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR

 - Book Structure - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

- Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM

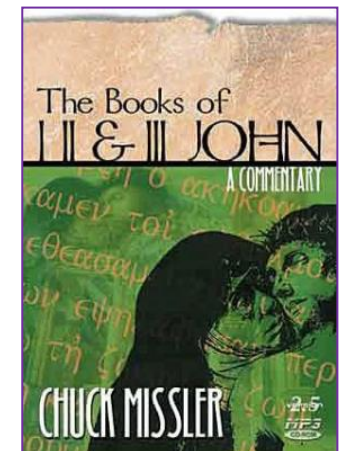
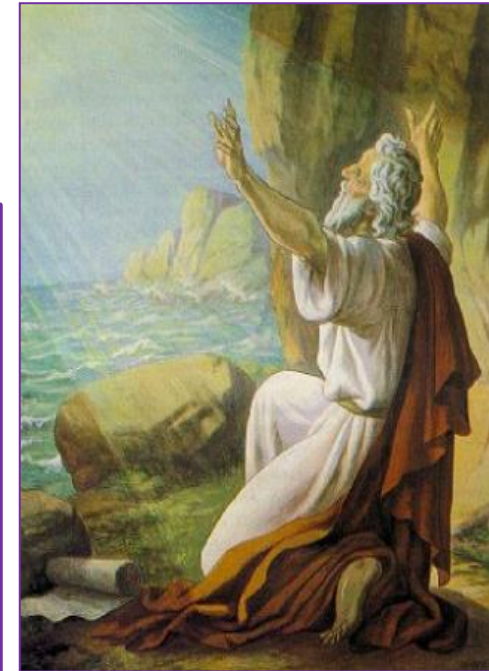


BOOK STRUCTURE - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

- **First Epistle of John:**
 - **Heptadic Structure:**

SEVEN CONTRASTS: TRUTH VERSUS ERROR

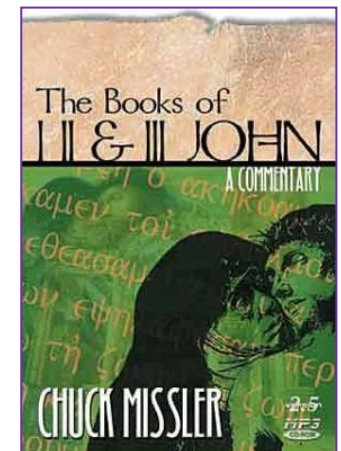
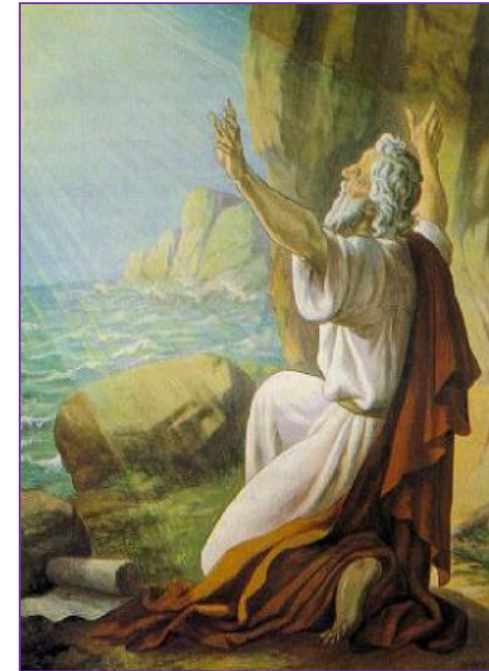
The Light	The Darkness	1 John 1:5-2:11
The Father	The World	1 John 2:12-2:17
Christ	The Antichrist	1 John 2:18-2:28
Good Works	Evil Works	1 John 2:29-3:24
Holy Spirit	Error	1 John 4:1-4:6
Love	Pious Pretense	1 John 4:7-4:21
The God-Born	Others	1 John 5:1-5:21



BOOK STRUCTURE - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

- **First Epistle of John:**
 - **Heptadic Structure:**

SEVEN TESTS OF ...	
Profession	1 John 1:5-2:11
Desire	1 John 2:12-2:17
Doctrine	1 John 2:18-2:28
Conduct	1 John 2:29-3:24
Discernment	1 John 4:1-4:6
Motive	1 John 4:7-4:21
New Birth	1 John 5:1-5:21



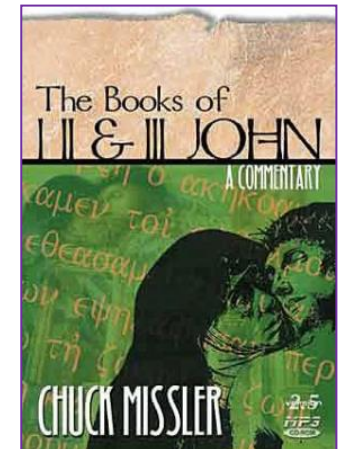
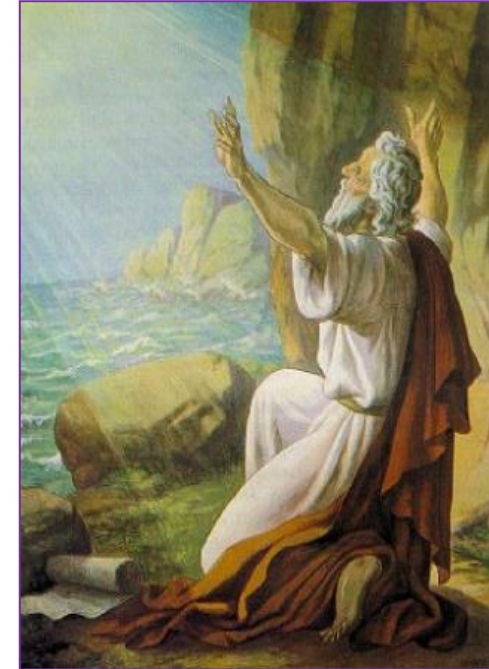
BOOK STRUCTURE - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

- **First Epistle of John:**

- **Heptadic Structure:**

- Seven Traits of the Born Again
 - 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1 (2X), 4, 18
- Seven Reasons Why Epistle was Written
 - 1 John 1:3, 4, 2:1, 13-17, 21-24, 26, 5:13
- Seven Tests of Christian Genuineness
 - 1 John 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9, 4:20
- Seven Tests of Honesty and Reality
 - 1 John 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9; 4:20

PURPOSE



BOOK STRUCTURE - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

- **First Epistle of John:**
 - **Incomplete Structure - Man's Number (6):**

SIX LIES

1) If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we **lie** and do not practice the truth.

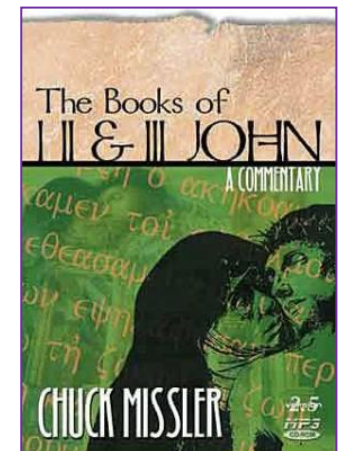
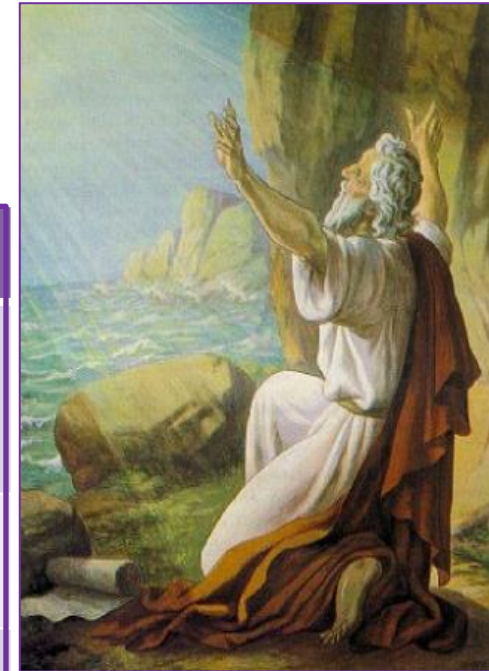
1 John 1:6

2) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a **liar**, and His word is not in us.

1 John 1:10

3) He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a **liar**, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:4



BOOK STRUCTURE - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

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 - **Incomplete Structure - Man's Number (6):**

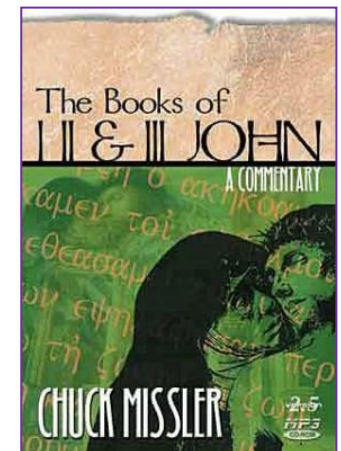
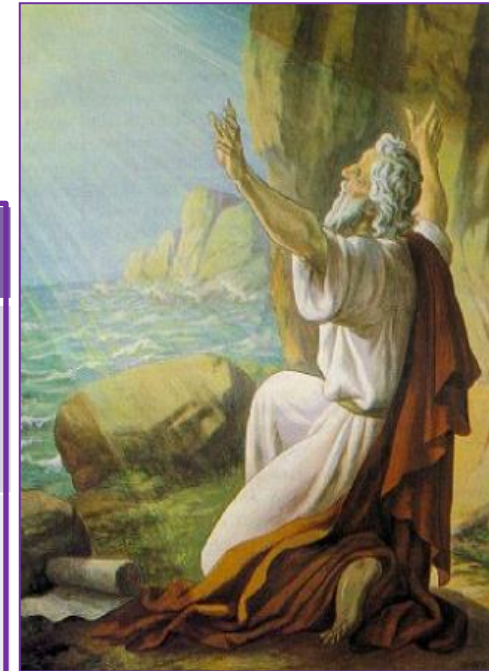
SIX LIES

4) Who is a **liar** but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

1 John 2:22

5) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a **liar**; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

1 John 4:20



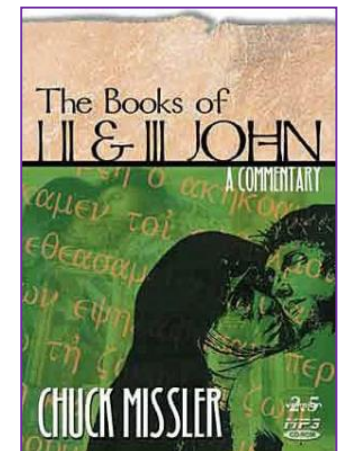
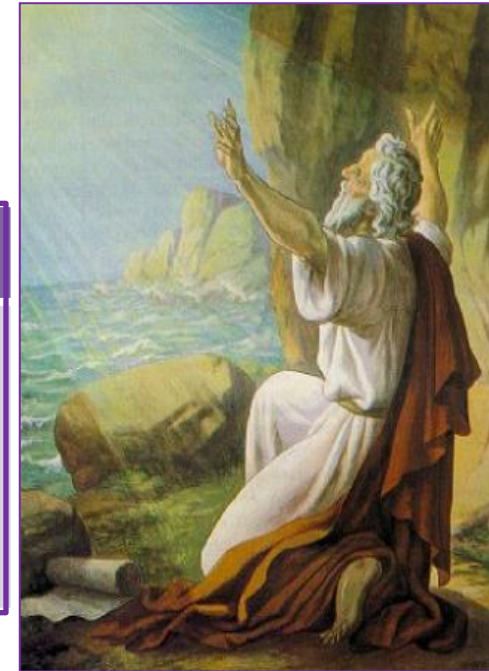
BOOK STRUCTURE - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

- **First Epistle of John:**
 - **Incomplete Structure - Man's Number (6):**

SIX LIES

6) He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a **liar**, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

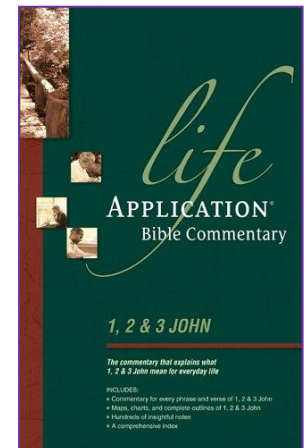
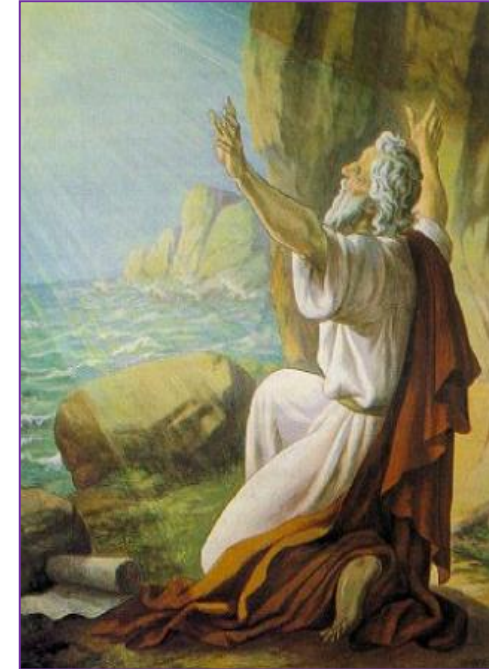
1 John 5:10



BOOK STRUCTURE - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

- Outline Structure

Section	Reference
God is Light	1 John 1:1 – 2:29
God is Love	1 John 3:1 – 4:21
God is Life	1 John 5:1 - 21



Lesson 01 - Outline

▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

• Lesson 01: Overview

✓ CONTEXT

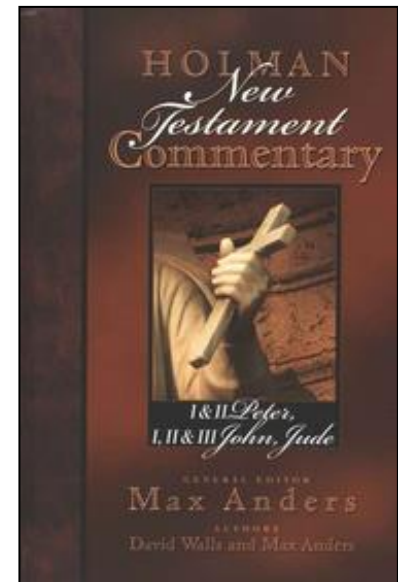
- Book Vitals - PURPOSE, AUDIENCE AND AUTHOR
- Book Structure - HEPTADS AND OUTLINES

➔ - Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM



Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM

- Gnosticism
 - Played a significant role in the writing of the **1st Epistle of John**.
 - **Gnosticism** was a heresy prevalent in the infant stages during the years when the New Testament was written, and a number of books in the New Testament spend some time refuting **Gnosticism**.
 - What is Gnosticism?



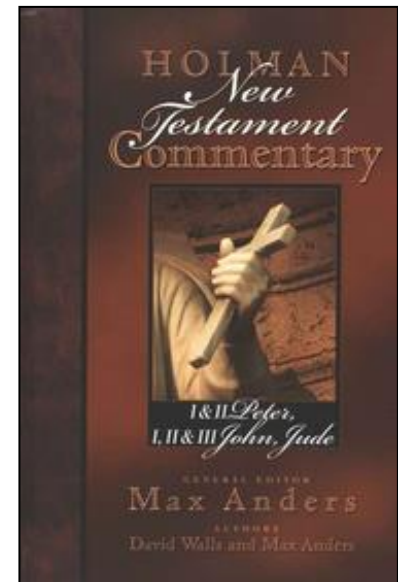
Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM

- Gnosticism
 - Greek word for *“to know”*
 - Teaching had **Two** major features

- 1) Salvation was found in a higher, spiritual knowledge. Those who entered into this knowledge were considered “enlightened ones”.

Ordinary people, even Christians, did not have this knowledge. They had to get it through mystical ways.

Sound familiar ... *“New Age”,*
“Christian Science”



Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM

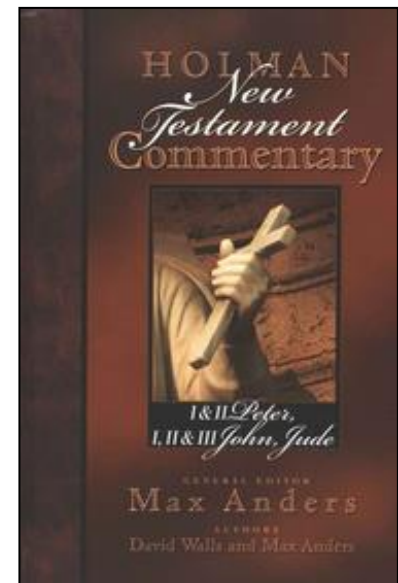
- Gnosticism

- 2) Spirit and flesh were thought of as separate entities. **Spirit** was good: **flesh** was bad.

The spirit was untouched by fleshly influences, no matter what the flesh did. Therefore, the flesh could sin at will if it desired, and the spirit was unaffected.

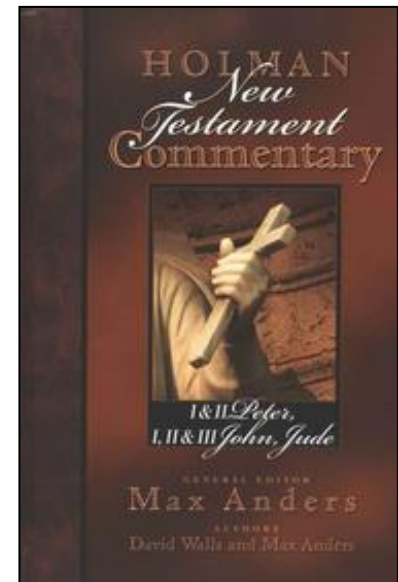
Therefore, a Gnostic could live a very immoral lifestyle and still claim to be a spiritual person.

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— **1 John 1:1 ... NKJV**



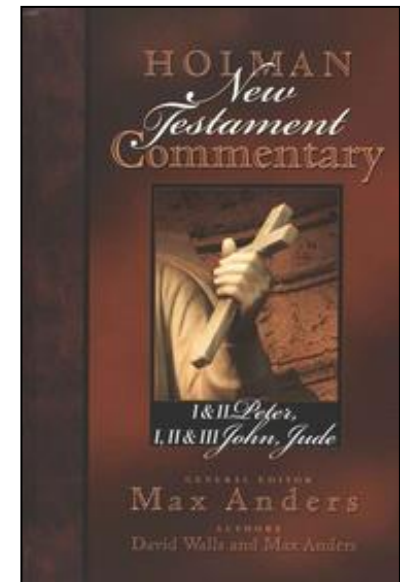
Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM

- Gnosticism
 - **Gnosticism** was rooted in ancient Greek philosophy (*Plato & Philo*).
 - When the church spread from Jerusalem to Greece, it encountered this philosophy.
 - **Gnostics** could not see how a good God could have created an evil physical world, so they created a worldview that absolved God of any responsibility for this world by separating the spiritual world from the physical world.



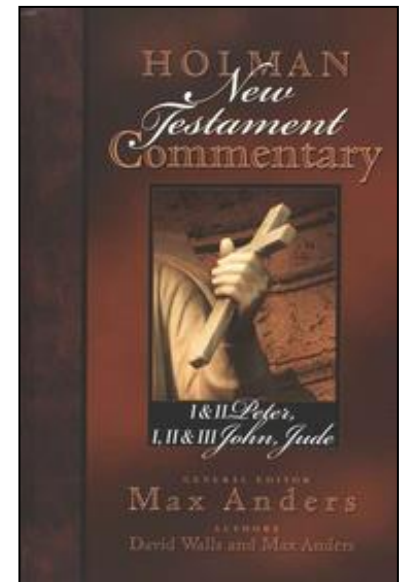
Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM

- Docetism ... a form of Gnosticism
 - **Docetism** was related to **Gnosticism**.
 - Greek word for *“to seem”*
 - **Docetism** taught that it was impossible for God, who was spirit (good), to take on a physical (bad) body, so they assert that Jesus did not have a real physical body, but only *seemed* to have a physical body.



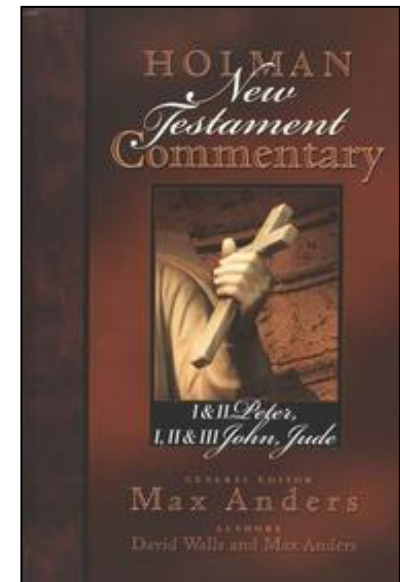
Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM

- Docetism ... a form of Gnosticism
 - Others taught that the power of Christ came upon Jesus when He was baptized and departed from Him before His death on the cross.
 - So it was simply the man Jesus who died, not God in the flesh



Heresy Countered - GNOSTICISM

- Gnosticism
 - Whatever form of **Gnosticism** or variation existed, it struck at the very heart of the Christian faith by **denying** the physical death and resurrection of Jesus, the God-Man.
 - Therefore, salvation did not come through the substitutionary atonement of Christ for our sins, but through gaining the mystical, special knowledge of God.



Jesus is Coming Soon!





1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

Lesson 02: Jesus Christ is God's Son

Next Week's Lesson

Next Week's Lesson

▪ 1 John: God is Light, Love and Life

- Lesson 01: Overview ... [1 JOHN]
- Lesson 02: Jesus Christ is God's Son ... [1:1-4]
- Lesson 03: Fellowship ... [1:5-2:2]
- Lesson 04: The Test of Knowing Him ... [2:3-11]
- Lesson 05: Do Not Love the Evil World ... [2:12-17]
- Lesson 06: Antichrists Warning ... [2:18-27]
- Lesson 07: Children of God ... [2:28-3:9]
- Lesson 08: The Imperative of Love ... [3:10-23]
- Lesson 09: Spirit of Truth ... [3:24-4:6]
- Lesson 10: The Consummation of Love ... [4:7-19]
- Lesson 11: Obedience by Faith ... [4:20-5:5]
- Lesson 12: God's Witness ... [5:6-13]
- Lesson 13: Knowing the Truth ... [5:14-21]

