

# Discover the New Testament – II & III John & Jude

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## II John

- II John is believed to be written by John from Ephesus around 85 or 90 A.D.
- The theme of the letter is, “Abiding in Truth,” as John uses the words, “truth,” “commandment,” and “teaching” 12 times in this brief letter.

**II John 1:4-6** – <sup>4</sup> It has given me great joy to find some of your children **walking in the truth**, just as the Father commanded us. <sup>5</sup> And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we **love one another**. <sup>6</sup> And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. As you have heard from the beginning, **His command is that you walk in love**.

## Jesus teaching on love

**John 15:9-13** – <sup>9</sup> “**As the Father** loved Me, I also **have loved you**; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will **abide in My love**, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> “These things I have spoken to you, that **My joy may remain in you**, and that **your joy may be full**. <sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that **you love one another as I have loved you**. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

## Don't be deceived!

**II John 1:7-10** – <sup>7</sup> **Many deceivers**, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. <sup>8</sup> Watch out that you **do not lose what you have worked for**, but that you may be rewarded fully. <sup>9</sup> Anyone who runs ahead and does not **continue in the teaching of Christ** does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup> If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not take him into your house or welcome him**.

John makes clear that **walking in love** is about the relationship you have with **people**, and **dealing with deception** is about the relationship you have with **truth**.

## III John

- Written by John to Gaius from Ephesus around 90 A.D.
- The letter emphasizes the demonstration of truth or error in the believer's life.

**III John 1:2** - Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

### **Faithful to the truth and walk in truth**

**III John 1:3-4** – <sup>3</sup> It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your **faithfulness to the truth** and how you continue to **walk in the truth**. <sup>4</sup> I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are **walking in the truth**.

We are called to be **loyal** or **faithful** to the truth and it is to be demonstrated by our **walking in the truth**.

### **Jude**

- Jude was the half-brother of Jesus
- The theme of Jude is contending for the faith in the last days.

**Jude 1:3-4** – <sup>3</sup> Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to **contend for the faith** that was once for all entrusted to the saints. <sup>4</sup> For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

### **The consequence of departing from the faith**

**Jude 1:5-7** – <sup>5</sup> Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered **his people out of Egypt**, but later destroyed those who did not believe. <sup>6</sup> And **the angels** who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. <sup>7</sup> In a similar way, **Sodom and Gomorrah** and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of **eternal fire**.

**Jude 1:11-12,16-19** – <sup>12</sup> Woe to them! They have taken **the way of Cain**; they have rushed for profit into **Balaam's error**; they have been destroyed in **Korah's rebellion**. <sup>16</sup> These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. <sup>17</sup> But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. <sup>18</sup> They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." <sup>19</sup> These

are the **men who divide you**, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

**The Consequence List:**

- Those delivered from Egypt were later judged.
- The angels that fell with Satan were bound in chains.
- Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire.
- Cain's rebellion against Abel's sacrifice resulted in his efforts being cursed and never fully producing.
- Balaam erred in putting money first. The angel killed him to stop his false prophecy.
- Korah rebelled against Moses' and Aaron's leadership, and the earth swallowed him up.

**Jude 1:20-21** – <sup>20</sup> But you, beloved, **build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.** <sup>21</sup> **Keep yourselves in God's love** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.