

The First Epistle of John

AUTHOR

John, the son of Zebedee Matt 4:18-22
One of the Twelve Apostles Matt 10:1-ff
Eyewitness of Christ 1Jn 1:1-4
A witness of Christ's Glory Matt 17:1-8; 2Pet 1:16-19
 Mount of Transfiguration
Accepted Authority of an Apostle 1Jn 4:6
"The" (not "an") Elder 2Jn 1; 3Jn 1
 A designation for the Apostles
Early Christian writers cited the epistle as John's, including:
 Irenaeus
 Clement of Alexandria
 Tertullian

DATE OF BOOK

No clear Internal Indications of when any of John's writings were written
Gospel appears to have been written prior to AD70
No mention of Temple being destroyed (No book of the Bible mentions it,
 although Hebrews makes reference of its expected soon coming -
 Heb9:6-10; 10:1,11)
In Jn 5:2 the sheep gate is still standing.
Eusebius and Irenaeus believed John wrote his Gospel from Ephesus between
 AD 48 and 52.
The Book of Revelation was the last book John wrote again before the
 destruction of the Temple (AD 70)
Thus a date between AD 48 and 70.

1 JOHN

PURPOSE FOR WRITING

Fellowship and Refuting False Teachers

POSSIBLE FALSE TEACHINGS REFUTED

1. The man, Jesus, and the Divine Christ were two distinct beings - that Christ descended on Jesus at His baptism, and left prior to His death.
1Jn 5:6-8
(water:baptism, blood:death - The Spirit of Truth bears witness that Christ's death involved the One who came.)

Also: 1Jn 1:2 states that the eternal life which came was handled.

2. Involved the idea that a believer was separate from all physical experience and that the "believing new person" was perfect, through continuing to dwell in the "unbelieving person".
1Jn 2:3,4,7; 1Jn 3:23; 1Jn 4:21; 1Jn 5:2-3

3. Both Light and Darkness originated with God, Himself.
1 Jn1:5; 1Jn 2:29

4. A common "clarification" from all the false teachers was that their teaching was a revision from God of that which had first been revealed. Thus, a "John phrase" of "from the beginning"
1Jn 1:1; 2:7; 2:24; 3:11

5. Idolatry may well have been involved
1 Jn5:21

6. The false teachers were connected with the Apostolic circle in some way, originally
1Jn 2:19

1 JOHN