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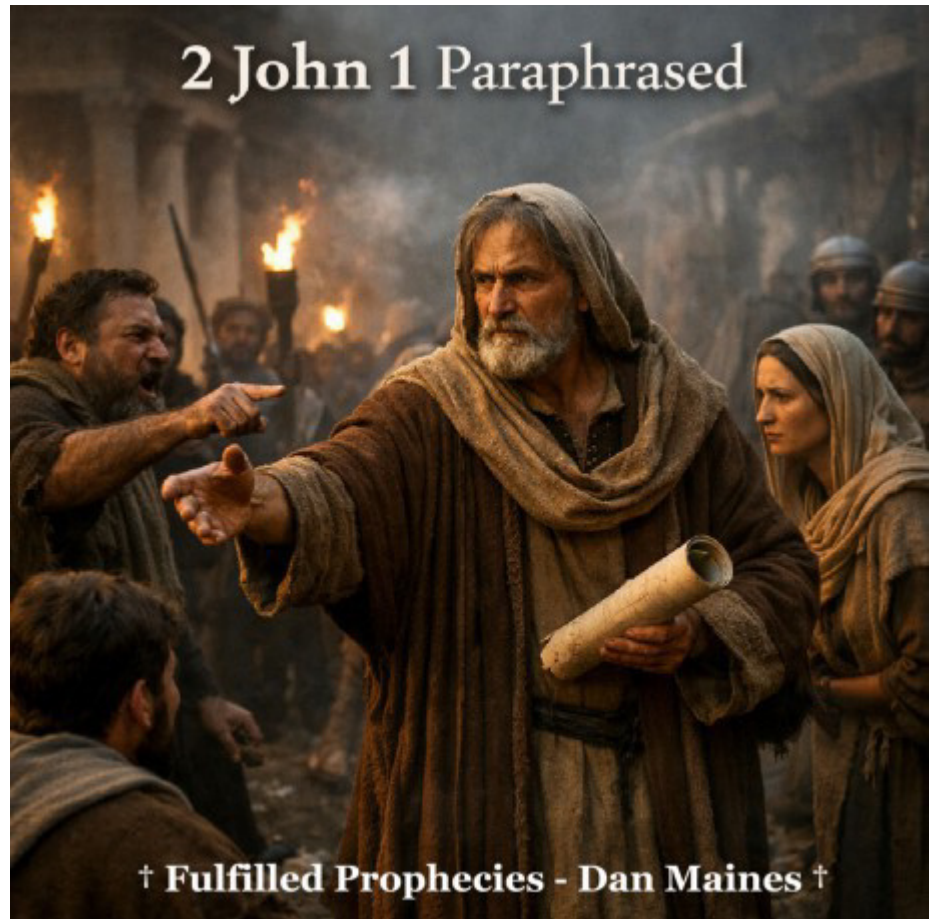
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2 John 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

2 John 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† The short letter of 2 John was written to encourage believers to remain faithful to the truth and to guard themselves against false teachers who were already spreading error among the churches (Acts 20:29-30).

† John emphasizes two central themes throughout the letter, truth and love. In the fulfilled perspective, the early church was

living during the closing years of the Old Covenant age, and the apostles continually warned believers not to abandon the teaching they had received (Hebrews 1:1-2).

† This letter shows that the greatest threat to the church was not persecution from outside but deception from within. John calls believers to walk in truth and to refuse fellowship with those who deny Christ (1 John 4:1-3).

2 John 1:1

The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I truly love, and not only I, but also all who know the truth.

† John identifies himself simply as the elder, showing his role as a shepherd over the churches rather than seeking personal status (1 Peter 5:1-2).

† The chosen lady and her children likely refers to a local congregation and its members. Early Christians often used family language to describe the church because believers were now part of God's household (Ephesians 2:19).

† Love among believers was grounded in truth, not sentiment. Their shared commitment to Christ's teaching united them together (John 13:34-35).

2 John 1:2

Because of the truth that lives in us and will remain with us forever.

† The truth John speaks about is the gospel message that Christ brought and the apostles proclaimed (John 8:31-32).

† This truth remained with believers because the new covenant had been established and the Spirit was guiding the church into

understanding (John 16:13).

† The permanence of the truth shows that the covenant Christ established would not be replaced or changed by later teachers (Hebrews 13:8).

2 John 1:3

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, in truth and love.

† John's greeting shows the unity between the Father and the Son. The blessings of grace, mercy, and peace come through Christ as the mediator of the new covenant (Hebrews 9:15).

† These blessings are connected to truth and love. Christian life cannot exist without both right teaching and genuine love for others (1 John 3:18).

† The apostles consistently taught that Christ is the source of peace between God and humanity (Romans 5:1).

2 John 1:4

I was very glad to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.

† Walking in truth means living according to Christ's teachings rather than merely knowing them (James 1:22).

† John's joy reflects the responsibility apostles felt toward the spiritual health of the churches (3 John 1:4).

† The Father's command refers to the message given through Christ and delivered through the apostles to the church

(Matthew 28:20).

2 John 1:5

Now I ask you, dear lady, not as if I were writing a new commandment to you, but the one we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

† The command to love one another was foundational to the Christian faith and had been taught by Jesus from the beginning of the church (John 15:12).

† Love among believers demonstrated that they belonged to Christ and were following his example (1 John 4:7).

† This command was not new because it had already been firmly established in the teaching of the apostles (John 13:34).

2 John 1:6

And this is love, that we live according to his commandments. This is the commandment, just as you heard from the beginning, that you should live in it.

† Love is defined by obedience to God's commands rather than by emotional expressions alone (1 John 5:3).

† The teaching the believers heard from the beginning refers to the apostolic gospel delivered during the early years of the church (Acts 2:42).

† Living in love means continuing in the teachings of Christ without turning aside to new doctrines (Colossians 2:6-7).

2 John 1:7

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

† False teachers were denying the true humanity of Christ, an early form of deception that threatened the church (1 John 4:2-3).

† John identifies such teachers as antichrist because they oppose the truth about Christ and lead others away from it.

† The warning shows that doctrinal error was already spreading during the first century and needed to be resisted (2 Peter 2:1).

2 John 1:8

Watch yourselves so that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward.

† John warns believers to remain faithful so that the work done in building the church would not be undone by deception (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

† The full reward refers to the blessing of remaining faithful to Christ and sharing in the completed kingdom he established (Matthew 25:21).

† The apostles often warned believers to guard the faith they had received (Jude 1:3).

2 John 1:9

Anyone who goes too far and does not remain in the teaching of Christ does not have God. The one who remains in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

† Departing from Christ's teaching separates a person from fellowship with God (Galatians 1:6-9).

† Remaining in the teaching means holding firmly to the gospel delivered by the apostles (2 Thessalonians 2:15).

† The unity of the Father and the Son in salvation shows that faith in Christ is inseparable from knowing God (John 14:6).

2 John 1:10

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house and do not welcome him.

† Early Christians often met in homes, so refusing hospitality prevented false teachers from gaining influence within the church (Romans 16:5).

† This instruction was not about personal hostility but about protecting the church from deception (Titus 3:10).

† The apostles consistently taught believers to separate themselves from teachers who distorted the gospel (2 Timothy 3:5).

2 John 1:11

For the one who welcomes him shares in his evil deeds.

† Supporting false teachers, even indirectly, allows their message to spread and harms the church (2 John 1:10).

† Fellowship in the early church involved partnership in the truth, so sharing fellowship with deceivers meant sharing responsibility for their influence.

† This warning shows the seriousness of protecting the truth of Christ's teaching (1 Timothy 6:3-5).

2 John 1:12

Though I have many things to write to you, I don't want to do so with paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

† Personal fellowship was highly valued among the early Christians, and apostles often traveled to strengthen the churches (Acts 15:36).

† Speaking face to face allowed deeper encouragement and instruction than written words alone (3 John 1:13-14).

† Joy in the church was closely connected to unity in truth and fellowship among believers (Philippians 2:2).

2 John 1:13

The children of your chosen sister greet you.

† This greeting likely came from another congregation, showing the close connection between early Christian communities (Colossians 4:15).

† The churches viewed themselves as one family across different cities and regions (Ephesians 4:4-6).

† Such greetings were common in apostolic letters and strengthened the unity of believers (Romans 16:16).

Historical References

† Irenaeus wrote that the apostle John warned believers strongly against teachers who denied the incarnation of Christ,

showing that these warnings were taken seriously in the early church.

† Eusebius recorded that John's later ministry focused heavily on protecting the churches from false doctrine and preserving the original apostolic teaching.

† Clement of Alexandria described John as a shepherd who continually called believers back to love and truth as the foundation of the Christian life.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Believers today must still remain anchored in the teaching of Christ and avoid doctrines that distort the gospel.

† Love and truth must remain united. True love for others never abandons the truth of God's word.

† Guarding the truth is a responsibility for every believer, not just church leaders.

† The unity of believers must always be centered on Christ's teaching rather than on human opinions.

Q & A Appendix

Q Why did John warn believers about false teachers?

A Because many were already spreading deception about Christ's nature and threatening the churches (2 John 1:7).

Q What does it mean to walk in the truth?

A It means living according to the teachings of Christ and the apostles (2 John 1:4).

Q Why did John emphasize love among believers?

A Because love demonstrates obedience to Christ's command

and identifies his followers (2 John 1:5).

Q Why were believers told not to welcome false teachers?

A Because supporting them would help spread their error and harm the church (2 John 1:10-11).

Q What blessing did John promise believers?

A Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ (2 John 1:3).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 2 John 1

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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