



Big Photo:

Became Flesh

1

I John

Epistle of
Incarnation

2

Martin Story: Throw
Momma from the Train



3

Author:

Uh...doesn't
say!

4

Who was John?
Five reasons it's
John, son of Zebedee

- 1. Same style as Gospel of John-- simple Greek, light-dark, life-death, truth-lies "dichotomies"
- 2. Similar phrases & expressions: 1:1 to 1:1; I John 1:6-7 to John 3:19-21; 4:6 - 8:47

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Who was John?
Five reasons it's
John, son of Zebedee

- 3. 1:1-4 "eyewitness testimony"
- 4. Authoritative--commands, assertions, error-corrections 2:4, 6, 15, 24, 28
- 5. Close relationship w/ Jesus: 1:1, 2:4-6, 2:27-28, more

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Author:

- Uh...doesn't say!
- But, it's clearly John, the apostle--one of Jesus BFFs (w/ James & Peter)

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Who was John?

- Again, wrote the Gospel of John, aka "John"
- Son of Zebedee; one of the 12 apostles "the disciple whom Jesus loved"--John 19:26 et al
- Close personal friend of Jesus; transfiguration, Gethsemane, the cross--mother--son 19:26-27

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Date Written:

- A. He's old
- B. Written after the Gospel
- C. Combats gnosticism
- So, much later than Paul's letters--

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Date Written

● 90 AD?

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Recipients:

2:12-14 "deer children, young men, fathers"



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Recipients:

Christians

12



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Key Verse:

1: 2

“The life was made manifest, and we have seen it and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life...”ESV

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Key Chapter (Required Reading):

1

1: 1-4 talks about seeing, touching, hearing Jesus; John was a personal witness to the fact that Jesus was the Son of God and offers eternal life

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TCF #1

Combating
Gnosticism:

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TCF #1

- Beliefs of Gnosticism:
- Man's body is evil; Spirit is good
- Salvation is escape from the body--not through Christ but by "special knowledge"
- Christ wasn't man
- Since the body is evil, breaking God's laws didn't matter

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TCF #2

- _____ of _____
for _____:
- 5:13, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life..."ESV
- 5:20b "...in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." ESV

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TCF #2

- Assurance of eternal life for believers & Fellowship with God
- 2:28, "And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming"
- 5:13, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life..."ESV
- 5:20b "...in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life." ESV

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TCF #3

- Expose False Teachers
- 2:18-28 "I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you..."ESV(26)
- 4:1-6 "Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us..."ESV (6)

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TCF #4

- Have you heard these before? LCMS loves I John:
- 1:8-9, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."ESV
- 4:19 "We love because he first _____."ESV

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TCF #5

- Light: just like John's Gospel, Light is a major theme:
- 1:5-7 "...in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie...but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..."ESV
- Spiritual level--kind of like a sci-fi movie

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TCF #6

- Luther:
- "The first epistle of John... ought to follow right after his gospel...here he opposes faith without works...he does this...by stimulating us to love even as God has loved us." (LW 35:393)

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Activity to Remember

Jeopardy!

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Life Lessons from I John

- 4:19 "We love because He first loved us"
- How does this life lesson help you understand your relationship with God?
- How does this life lesson help you understand your relationship with your neighbors?
- It's easy to love someone who already loves you. It's hard to love someone who hates you.

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