

intelligible on the basis of 1 John (cf. II John 9 and 1 John 2:23; III John 11 and 1 John 3:6; 4:20). The most reasonable conclusion, therefore, is that all three of these epistles were written by the author of the fourth Gospel, the apostle John.

Second John is addressed to the "chosen lady and her children," probably a group of believers somewhere in Asia. Gaius (3 John 1) was such a common name at the time that there is no way to be certain of his identity. The close connection between the letters may suggest that both were written to the same general area.

Second John was written to warn the Christians of false teachers, probably the false teachers mentioned in 1 John (2 John 7-9; cf. 1 John 2:18-23). Third John was written both to thank Gaius for his hospitality to John's representatives (5-8) and to commend Demetrius (perhaps the bearer of the letter) to Gaius's care (12). Both 2 and 3 John appear to have been written at about the same time as 1 John and the gospel--near the end of the apostle's life, c. AD 95-100.

Outlines:

- 1 John: I. Prologue 1:1-4
 II. Fellowship with God 1:5-2:6
 III. The New/Old Commandments 2:7-14
 IV. The Christian, the World and the Antichrists 2:15-27
 V. Children of God 2:28-3:24
 VI. The Test of Truth 4:1-6
 VII. The love of God 4:7-21
 VIII. The Victory of Faith 5:1-5
 IX. The Witness to the Son 5:6-12
 X. Eternal Life 5:13-21

The smaller epistles really need no independent outline..read them for content and general understanding.

History of Redemption:

God is love (1 John 4:8) and much of the epistle of 1 John flows from this statement. Christians are to love one another because children should emulate their father (4:11-12). God's love was tangible--he gave Jesus to die that we might live (3:16; 4:9-10). His death was a propitiation for our sins (2:1-2) and destroyed the works of the devil (3:8). In the same way our love for one another is proof that we know God (2:9-11; 3:11, 16, 20), but only when it is tangible also (3:16-17). The result of God's gift of his Son is eternal life for all who believe (5:9-13). Believers are delivered from the works of the devil (3:7-10) and have the confidence that they have overcome the world (4:4).

Just as Jesus came once (1:1; 4:1-3) so he will come again (2:28) which should motivate every Christian to persevere in righteousness even in difficult times (5:4-5, 18-19). This perseverance is called "walking in the light" (1:5-11). Even though believers