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Biblica Study Notes (Book Intros)

1 John

What is the book of 1 John?

- The book of 1 John is a letter. The letter doesn't say who the writer was. It's thought that the apostle John wrote it. The way the letter is written is very much like the Gospel of John.
- It's thought that John wrote this letter after writing the Gospel of John. It's thought that he wrote it between the years AD 85 and 90.
- The New Testament includes three letters that are thought to be written by John. This is the first letter.

Who was 1 John written to?

- It isn't known exactly who 1 John was written to. It's thought that John sent it to believers in the area of Ephesus.
- Followers of Jesus recognise that 1 John shares the truth about Jesus. It's for all people everywhere.

Why was 1 John written?

- To oppose teachers who taught that Jesus wasn't both a human being and God's Son.
- To teach about faith in Jesus.

Main ideas

- God is love.
- Those who know God and show love to others are God's children.
- Jesus is completely human and completely God.
- Jesus paid for people's sins.

Outline

The Word of Life became a human being (1:1-4).

Light and darkness, loving and hating (1:5 - 2:28).

God's children and the devil's children (2:29 - 3:24).

Testing the spirits (4:1-6).

God's love made complete (4:7-21).

Jesus is the true God and giver of eternal life (5).