

I John

1 ¹What was from the beginning,^a what we heard, what we saw with our eyes, what we watched and our hands handled, concerning the Message^b of life—²and the life was revealed,^c and we have seen and give testimony, and we report also to you^d the eternal life which was beside^e the Father and was revealed to us—³that which we have seen and heard, we report to you, so that you can have partnership with us. But indeed our partnership *is* together with the Father, and together with His Son, Jesus the Anointed One. ⁴And we write these things to you so that our joy can be filled up.

⁵And this is the report that we have heard from Him, and *that* we report^f to you: that God is light, and *as for* darkness inside Him, there is none at all.^g ⁶If we were to say that that we have partnership with Him and *yet* walk about in the darkness, we are lying and are not practising^h the truth. ⁷If, though, we are walking about in the light, as He is in the light, we have partnership with each other, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleansⁱ us from all sin. ⁸If we should say that we do not have sin, we lead ourselves astray, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we acknowledge our sins, God is faithful and righteous^j so that He can release us from *our* sins and clean us from all unrighteousness.^k ¹⁰If we were to say that we have not sinned, we make^l Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

2 ¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you will not sin. And if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate^m beside the Father, Jesus the righteous Anointed One. ²And he is the appeasement in regard to our sins; not only in regard to ours, but to the entire world. ³And in this we know that we have known him, if we keep his commands. ⁴The one who says 'I have known him' and does not keep his commandments is a liar, and in him the truth is not present. ⁵But whoever would keep his systemⁿ, truly in him the love of God has been fulfilled^o. By this we know that we are in him—⁶the one who claims to remain in him is obligated to, just as he in that way walked about, in the same way walk about.

⁷Loved ones, I am not writing to you a new^p commandment, but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning.^q The old commandment is the message that you heard. ⁸On the other hand, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹The one who claims to be in the

^aOr 'from the authority' (as in sovereignty, rulership) ing about'

^bOr 'System', or 'Logic', or 'Argument'

^cOr 'made real', or 'made conspicuous/remarkable'; and hereafter

^dPlural, and hereafter

^eLiterally 'up against'

^fOr 'proclaim', or 'bring news of'

^gLit. 'there is not none'; a negative concord construction

^hOr 'doing', or 'engaging in', or perhaps 'bring-

ⁱOr 'prunes', or 'sifts'; and hereafter

^jOr 'just', or 'dutiful'

^kOr 'unjustness', or 'wrongdoing'

^l*Poioumen*; the same verb as 'practice' above

^mA technical legal term

ⁿThe same word as 'message' above

^oOr 'accomplished', or 'perfected'

^p*Kainén*, or 'fresh'; not *néen* 'new, young'

^qThe same 'beginning' as in vi

light but hates his brother—he is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰The one who loves his brother—he remains in the light and there is no trap in him. ¹¹But the one who hates his brother—he is in the darkness and walks about in the darkness; and he does not know where he is going off to, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹²I am writing to you, children,
because *your* sins have been forgiven for you for the sake of his name.^a

¹³I am writing to you, fathers,
because you have known the *one who is* from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil *one*.

I wrote to you, little ones,^b
because you have known the Father.

¹⁴I wrote to you, fathers,
because you have known the *one who is* from the beginning.

I wrote to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the Message of God remains in you,
and you have defeated the evil *one*.

^aA reference to Hebrew idiomatic uses of
'name'

^bLiterally 'children', but a different word from
that in v.12