

I John

1 ¹What was from the beginning,¹ what we heard, what we saw with our eyes, what we watched and our hands handled, about the Message² of life—²and the life was revealed,³ and we have seen and give testimony, and we report also to you⁴ the eternal⁵ life which was beside⁶ 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 report⁷ to you: that God is light, and *as for* darkness inside Him, there is none at all.⁸ ⁶If we ever say that that we have partnership with Him and *yet* walk about in the darkness, we are lying and are not practising⁹ the truth. ⁷Whenever, 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 cleans¹⁰ us from all mistakenness. ⁸If we ever say that we do not have mistakenness, we cause ourselves to wander, and the truth is not in us. ⁹Whenever we acknowledge our mistakes, God is faithful and righteous¹¹ so that He can release us from *our* mistakes and clean us from all unrighteousness.¹² ¹⁰If we ever say that we have not made mistakes, we make¹³ 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 make mistake. And whenever anyone makes a mistake, we have an Advocate¹⁴ beside the Father, Jesus the righteous Anointed One. ²And he is the appeasement in regard to our mistakes; 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 system¹⁵, truly in him the love of God has been fulfilled¹⁶. 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 new¹⁷ commandment, but an old commandment, which you have had from the beginning.¹⁸ 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 pass-

¹Or 'from the authority' (as in sovereignty, rulership)

²Or 'System', or 'Logic', or 'Argument'

³Or 'made real', or 'made conspicuous/remarkable'; and hereafter

⁴Plural, and hereafter

⁵literally 'era-long', derived from *aion* 'era'; used in secular Greek literature as 'eternal, perpetual' as well

⁶Literally 'up against'

⁷Or 'proclaim', or 'bring news of'

⁸Lit. 'there is not none'; a negative concord

construction

⁹Or 'doing', or 'engaging in', or perhaps 'bringing about'

¹⁰Or 'prunes', or 'sifts'; and hereafter

¹¹Or 'just', or 'dutiful'

¹²Or 'unjustness', or 'wrongdoing'

¹³*Poioumen*; the same verb as 'practice' above

¹⁴A technical legal term

¹⁵The same word as 'message' above

¹⁶Or 'accomplished', or 'perfected'

¹⁷*Kainén*, or 'fresh'; not *néén* 'new, young'

¹⁸The same 'beginning' as in vi

ing away, and the true light is already shining. ⁹The one who claims to be in the 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* mistakes have been forgiven *for* you for the sake of his name.¹

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 defeated the evil *one*.

I wrote to you, children,²
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*.

¹⁵Don't esteem³ the world⁴ or the *things that are* in the world. Whenever anyone esteems the world, there is not the esteem⁵ of the Father⁶ in him, ¹⁶because all that which *is* in the world—the desire of⁷ the meat, and the desire of the eyes, and the the boastfulness⁸ of life—is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the desire of it; however, the *one who is* practising⁹ the intention of God remains until the era.¹⁰

¹⁸Children,¹¹ it is the utmost period,¹² and just as you have heard that *an* anti-anointed is coming,¹³ even now many anti-anointed have come to be, for which reason we know that it is the utmost period. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not from us¹⁴—since if they had been from us, they would have remained among us, but *it is* so that they can be revealed, because¹⁵ they are not all from us.¹⁶ ²⁰But¹⁷ you have *an* anointing from the Holy *One*, and you all know.¹⁸ ²¹I didn't write to you because¹⁹ you don't know the truth, but because you know it, and because any²⁰ lie is not of²¹ the truth. ²²Who is the liar, if not the *one who* denies *and says* that

¹i.e. for his reputation

²A different word from that in v.12—here *paidía*, there *teknía*

³*Agápate*; or perhaps 'be content with', or perhaps 'prize'

⁴or 'the universe', and hereafter

⁵*Agápe*

⁶Ambiguous as to whether this is the Father's esteem for him or his esteem for the Father

⁷Possibly 'desire for', and hereafter

⁸Or 'posturing'

⁹Again, *poion* 'doing'

¹⁰i.e. 'forever'; c.f. *aionios* 'eternal' above

¹¹*Paidía*

¹²*Hora*, which can be for any cyclical time

period—hour, season, year, etc

¹³Or 'is arriving', or 'is on the way', or 'is setting out'

¹⁴Or 'of us', 'part of us'

¹⁵Or 'that', or 'with regard to the fact that', or 'as is shown by the fact that'

¹⁶Or 'not all are from us', or 'all are not from us'

¹⁷Literally 'and'

¹⁸A different verb from all others so far—*eido* 'know as fact', rather than *gignosko* 'come to know, understand'—and following. Also, some manuscripts have 'you know all things'.

¹⁹Or 'that', and following

²⁰Or 'the whole'

²¹Or 'from'

Jesus is not the Anointed One? This is the anti-anointed—the *one who* denies the Father and the Son. ²³Everyone *who* denies the Son also does not have the Father; the *one who* accepts¹ the Son also has the Father. ²⁴*As for* you, what you heard from the beginning, let it remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵And this is the promise² that he promised us—eternal life.

²⁶*As for* these things, I wrote *them* to you about those *who are* causing you to wander. ²⁷And *as for* you, the anointing that you obtained from him remains in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you. But as³ the same anointing⁴ teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it taught you, you remain⁵ in him.

²⁸And now, children⁶, remain in him, so that when⁷ he is revealed we can have boldness⁸ and not be dishonoured⁹ because of¹⁰ him in his presence.¹¹ ²⁹If you know¹² that he is righteous¹³, you are coming to know¹⁴ that also everyone *who* does righteousness¹⁵ is born out of him.

- 3 ¹Look at what kind of love¹⁶ the Father has given us, so that we can be called children¹⁷ of God, and *so* we are! Because of this,¹⁸ the world does not know¹⁹ us, because it did not know²⁰ him. ²Loved²¹ *ones*, now we are God's children²², and *it* has not yet been revealed what we will be. We know²³ that when²⁴ he is revealed, we will be like him; because²⁵ we will see him just as he is. ³And everyone *who* has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone *who* performs mistakes also performs lawlessness, and mistakenness is lawlessness. ⁵And you know²⁶ that he appeared in order to take away mistakes, and there is no mistakenness in him. ⁶Everyone *who* remains in him does not make mistakes; everyone *who* makes mistakes has not seen him, and has not come to know²⁷ him. ⁷Children²⁸, do not let anyone lead you astray: the one doing righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸The one who performs mistakes is from the slanderer²⁹, because from the beginning the slanderer has been making mistakes. For this reason the Son of God was revealed, so that he could undo the works of the slanderer.

¹i.e. admits, grants—*homologeîn* 'say the same'

²Or 'announcement'

³Or 'since, because'

⁴Some manuscripts have 'his anointing', which is one letter different

⁵Or imperative 'remain'

⁶*Teknia*

⁷Literally *ean* 'if', but possibly used here in imitation of Hebrew *im*; this usage occasionally appears when *botan* 'when, whenever' would likely have been more natural

⁸Or 'frankness'

⁹Or 'ashamed'

¹⁰literally 'from'

¹¹Possibly 'at his arrival'

¹²*Eidete*

¹³Or 'just'

¹⁴*Ginoskete*

¹⁵Or 'justice'

¹⁶*Agapen*

¹⁷*Tekna*

¹⁸Or '...we are because of this'; 'because' may also be 'through'

¹⁹*Ginoskei*

²⁰*Egno*; the same verb

²¹*Agapetoi*

²²*Tekna*

²³*Oidamen*

²⁴*Ean* again; see footnote 7

²⁵Or 'that'

²⁶*Oidate*

²⁷*Egnoken*

²⁸*Teknia*

²⁹i.e. the devil