

1st, 2nd & 3rd John

#9, to the chosen lady, II Jn

Without question, III John is written to a person – Gaius. Good commentaries state that II John is also written to a person namely, “the chosen lady”. II John 1, The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth.

The situation is very similar to the discussion in the appendix at the end of the lesson. Therefore, in our study of II John we will look at some scriptural facts so that we can all arrive at our own conclusion. We will start the study with two word studies: “chosen” and “children”. First we will look at “chosen” (Strong’s number NT1588).

chosen, NT:1588 (*ek-lek-tos'*); from NT:1586; select; by implication, favorite:
KJV - chosen, elect.

chosen, NT:1586 (*ek-leg'-om-ahee*); middle voice from NT:1537 and NT:3004 (in its primary sense); to select:
KJV - make choice, choose (out), chosen.

Strong's Numbers and Concordance

Rom 16:13, Greet Rufus, a choice (1588) man in the Lord, also his mother and mine.

Col 3:12, So, as those who have been chosen (1588) of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

[1.] Rom 16:13 & Col 3:12, In the spaces below, write down who the verses were written to.

Rom 16:13: _____

Col 3:12: _____

[2.] Rom 16:13 & Col 3:12 again, In both verses, who was the one who did the choosing?

[3.] Col 3:12, So, as those who have been chosen, After being chosen, what was this group expected to do?

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Now we will look at the other “chosen” word (1586).

Acts 1:1-2, The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen (1586).

Eph 1:3-4, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose (1586) us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

[4.] Eph 1:3-4, When were these folks chosen?

[5.] question [4.] After being chosen, how was this group expected live?

Now we will go to our text, II John.

II Jn:1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth, 2 for the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

[6.] II Jn:1, The elder to, True or False, If you were writing a personal letter would you identify yourself with the title of your church position, such as, the missionary to or the Sunday School teacher to?

[7.] II Jn:1 again, Who is the letter written to?

[8.] II Jn:1 again, children, In our study of I John, lesson #3, we found that John referred to “children” numerous times (~14 times). How many times did he mean to the very young?

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4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father.

[9.] v:4, some of your children walking in truth, In questions [3.] & [5.] we read how the chosen were expected to live. Here, in v:4, suppose we are talking about a literal woman. It doesn't say her children are not chosen so, why would John write as though they are?

Skipping down to v:13.

13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

[10.] v:13, The children, If the chosen lady is literal, why doesn't the chosen ladies sister also greet the chosen lady. Why do just the children greet her?

Conclusion

It seems apparent that John is referring to the "the chosen lady" as a church (the bride of Christ) and her children are the born again members that make up the church. Here is your opportunity to decide for yourself.

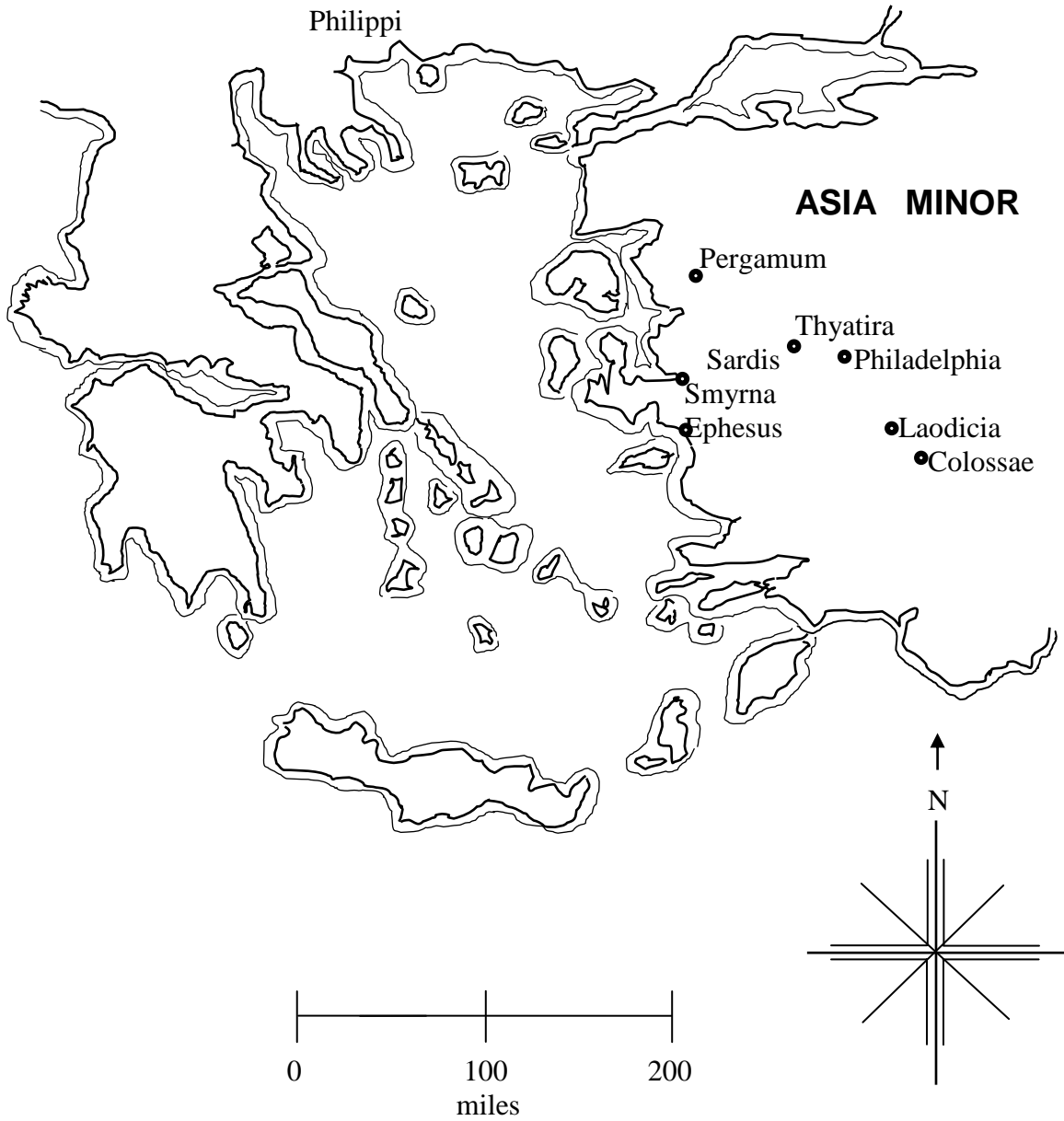
Why all the secrecy?

Who is John protecting?

If John is elder at the church at Ephesus, where are these other two churches (the lady and her sister) located? (see map next page)

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5 Now I ask you, lady, not as though I were writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.

Hindu caste system. 4 classes, the Brahmin being at the top. The Dalits or untouchables are ostracized.

7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

8 Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

[11.] v:5-6, love one another, Suppose your congregation is blessed with new converts from Hinduism who happen to be Brahmin. What, if any, problems might they have with this verse?

[12.] v:6, you should walk in it, This is a scriptural term. What does it mean?

[13.] v:6 again, In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul made the statement in I Cor 3:3-4. How can we know they were not obeying the commandment and what “in road” did they provide for Satan?

[14.] v:7, antichrist, From this verse, how could you identify antichrist?

[15.] v:7 again, deceiver, Suppose you don't buy the definition of antichrist. How would a deceiver take you apart?

[16.] v:8, If you believe that antichrist exists in your time, list some things that you can do to protect yourselves from deception.

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9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting;

11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

12 Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full. 13 The children of your chosen sister greet you.

[17.] v:9-10, anyone, If John would have named names, why wouldn't that do us any good in our time?

[18.] v:11, evil deeds, Suppose you get "taken in" by some of these folks, what could be the consequences of "participates in his evil deeds"?

[19.] v:12, that your joy may be made full, From the list below choose the best reason for this joy.

- a) Folks could come and get John's autograph.
- b) John would have more time to thoroughly cover the antichrist hazards.
- c) Folks wouldn't have to meditate on the content of John's letter.

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APPENDIX

code name Babylon

The book of Revelation contains many subjects that, to say the least, are mysterious. One of these mysteries is the identification of the cities mentioned in the book. One in particular is referred to as, “the great city”. It is first mentioned in Rev 11:8, And their dead bodies will lie in the street of ***the great city*** which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. We assume that the phrase, where also their Lord was crucified, identifies the city as “Jerusalem”. By scanning through the book, the next place the city is mentioned is, Rev 16:19, ***The great city*** was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. here the great city is also referred to as “Babylon”. The next time the city is described as, Rev 17:18, “The woman (HARLOT) whom you saw is ***the great city***, which reigns over the kings of the earth.” Revelation chapter 18 contains the final times the great city is mentioned. Rev 18:10, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘ Woe, woe, ***the great city***, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ And Rev 18:16, saying, ‘ Woe, woe, ***the great city***, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; **The destruction continues in** Rev 18:18-19, and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘ What city is like ***the great city***?’ 19 “And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘ Woe, woe, ***the great city***, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’ **And finally**, Rev 18:21, Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, ***the great city***, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.

So, what is being referred to when the great city is mentioned? Is it Jerusalem or Babylon or even Rome? It could pose an interesting question! However, all this being said, another mystery crops up. We read in I Peter 5:13, She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. There it is again, Babylon, and, it is a “she” and, it is “chosen”! Peter used open text when mentioning Mark but did not identify “she”. Why all the secrecy?

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I submit that it was because of the persecution of born-again believers (chosen) both in Jerusalem and Rome. Looking at I Pet 1: 1-2, we see it was written to, aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,

Since Mark was written in the open and “she” was not written in the open, “she” would more than likely refer to a body of believers (church) located amidst persecution.

NOTES