

1 JOHN: 'THE LIFE ETERNAL'

AN EXAMPLE (PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN) OF READING AS THE WRITER INTENDED:
A First-Century-Style Reading of the 'Original' Greek Text (?) presented in Literal English

David G Palmer, August 2018 (with minor revisions, 2nd April 2025)

Section A: 1.1-2.14 - Testimony; God is Light, Live in His Light

- A A What was from the beginning, / what we have heard, / what we have seen with our eyes,
 what we looked upon (see 4.14) / and our hands touched / concerning the word of the life
 and the life was manifested / and we have seen / and we testify (see 4.14)
 and we announce to you the life eternal / which was with the Father / and was manifested to us,
 what we have seen and heard / we announce also to you / that you also may have fellowship with us
 and indeed our fellowship is with the Father / and with the son of Him, / Jesus Christ,
 and these things we write to you / that our joy may be complete.
- B And this is the message / which we have heard from Him / and we announce to you
 that God is light (see 4.16)
 and in Him is no darkness at all.
 If we say we have fellowship with Him and in the darkness walk,
 we lie
 and do not the truth.
 But if we in the light walk, as He is in the light
 we have fellowship with each other
 and the blood of Jesus His son cleanses us from all sin
- B' If we say that we have no sin / ourselves we deceive / and the truth is not in us.
 If we confess our sins / faithful He is / and righteous
 that He may forgive our sins
 and may cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
 If we say that we have not sinned,
 a liar we make Him
 and His word is not in us.
- B A My little children, / these things I write to you / in order that you do not sin.
 And if anyone sins, / an advocate we have with the Father, / (the) righteous Jesus Christ.
 And He is a propitiation concerning our sins, / but not for ours only / but also for the sins of the whole world.
- B And by this we know / that we have known Him, / if we keep His commandments.
 The one saying, / "I have come to know Him," / but does not keep His commandments
 is a liar,
 and in him the truth is not; ⁵
 but whoever keeps His word, / truly in this one / the love of God is perfected.
- B' By this we know that in Him we are. ⁶
 The one saying, "In Him, I abide,"
 he ought, / as that one walked, / also himself thus to walk.
- B' A Beloved, no new commandment I write to you,
 but an old commandment / that you have had / from the beginning;
 the old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸
 Yet a new commandment / I am writing you / that is true in Him and in you,
 because the darkness is passing away
 and the true light is already shining. ⁹
 The one saying, "I am in the light," while hating his brother, is still in the darkness. ¹⁰
 The one loving his brother remains in the light, and in him is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹
 But the one hating his brother is in the darkness and in the darkness walks,
 and knows not where he is going,
 because the darkness has blinded his eyes.
- B I am writing to you, / little children, / because your sins are forgiven on account of his name.
 I am writing to you, / fathers, / because you know Him who is from the beginning.
 I am writing to you, / young men, / because you have conquered the evil one.
- B' I wrote to you, / young children, / because you know the Father.
 I wrote to you, / fathers, / because you know Him who is from the beginning.
 I wrote to you, / young men, / because you are strong
 and the word of God abides in you,
 and you have overcome the evil one.

Section B: 2.15-3.10 - Love not the World, Resist the Devil's Ways

- A A Love not the world, nor the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, / the love of the Father is not in him,
because all that is in the world,
the desire of the flesh, / and the desire of the eyes, / and the pride in riches,
is not from the Father / but is of the world. ¹⁷
And the world, it is passing away / and the desire of it,
but the one doing the will of God remains **in eternity**.
- B Children, the last hour it is!
And just as you heard / that antichrist is coming, / also now many antichrists have come
whence we know that the last hour it is. ¹⁹
From us they went out,
but they were not of us; / for if they had been of us, / they would have remained with us,
but (they went out) / that it might be made plain / that they are not all of us. ²⁰
And you an anointing have from the Holy One, / and all of you know. ²¹
- B' I wrote not to you,
because you do not know the truth,
but because you know it, / and because every lie -/ of the truth - it is not. ²²
Who is the liar
except the one denying:
'Jesus is *not* the Christ'?
This is the antichrist, / the one denying the Father / and the Son. ²³
Everyone denying the Son has not the Father.
The one confessing the Son has the Father also. ²⁴
- B A Let what you heard from the beginning / in you /remain.
If in you remains / what you heard from the beginning, /also you in the Son and in the Father remain. ²⁵
And this is the promise / which He promised us, / **life eternal**.
- B These things I wrote to you concerning your deceivers. ²⁷
And you, / the anointing that you received from Him remains in you, / and no need you have that anyone should teach you.
But as His anointing teaches you about all things, / and is true / and is not a lie,
also just as it has taught you,
remain in Him.
- B' And now, / little children, / remain in Him,
that if He is revealed we may have confidence
and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
If you know that He is righteous,
you know that everyone also practising righteousness
of Him has been born. ¹
See what manner of love the Father has given us, / that we should be called children of God / and we are,
therefore the world does not know us
because it did not know Him. ²
- B' A Beloved, now we are God's children; and it is not yet revealed what we shall be,
we know
that when He is revealed, / like Him / we will be,
because we will see Him as he is ³
and everyone who has this hope in him
will purify himself,
just as He is pure.
- B Everyone committing sin
is guilty also of lawlessness;
and sin is lawlessness. ⁵
And you know
that that one was revealed
that He might take away sins.
And in Him there is no sin. ⁶
Everyone remaining in Him does not sin.
Everyone who sins / has neither seen Him / nor known Him. ⁷
- B' Little children, let no one deceive you.
The one doing what is right / righteous is, / just as He is righteous. ⁸
The one committing sin / of the Devil is; / because from the beginning the Devil sins.
For this, the Son of God was revealed that He might destroy the works of the Devil:⁹
everyone born of God does not sin, because His seed in him remains
and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰
By this, the children of God are revealed and the children of the Devil:
everyone not doing what is right is not from God
and the one not loving his brother.

Section B': 3.11-4.13 - Love One Another, Let God dwell in you

- A A For this is the message / that you have heard from the beginning, / that we should love one another. ¹²
Not like Cain / who was of the evil one / and murdered his brother.
And for the sake of what did he murder him, / because his own works were evil, / but the works of his brother righteous? ¹³
- B Do not be astonished, brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴
We know // that we have passed / from death / into life // because we love one another.
The one not loving remains in death:.
everyone hating his brother a murderer is
and you know that no murderer has life eternal remaining in him. ¹⁶
- B' By this, we have known love,
because that one on our behalf laid down His life
and we ought on behalf of the brothers to lay down our lives. ¹⁷
Whoever has the worldly means of life
and sees his brother having need
and hides his heart from him,
how does the love of God remain in him?
- B A Little children,
let us not love in word, or in speech,
but in work and truth. ¹⁹
And by this we will know
that of the truth, we are
and before Him, our heart shall persuade
that if our heart condemns;
that God is greater than our heart,
and He knows everything. ²¹
- B Beloved, / if our heart does not condemn, / we have boldness before God; ²²
and whatever we ask, we receive from Him
because we keep His commandments and do the pleasing things before Him
And this is His commandment,
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as He gave commandment to us. ²⁴
And the one keeping His commandments, / in Him remains, / and he in Him;
and by this we know that He remains in us;
by the Spirit whom He has given to us.
- B' Beloved, do not believe every spirit,
but test the spirits if of God they are;
because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²
By this you know the Spirit of God:
every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³
and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not of God.
And this is the one of the antichrist,
of which you have heard that it is coming;
and now in the world is already. ⁴
- B' A You are of God, little children, and have conquered them;
because greater is / the one in you / than the one in the world. ⁵
They are of the world; / therefore of the world they speak, / and the world hears them. ⁶
We are from God:
the one knowing God hears us;
and the one who is not from God does not hear us.
By this we know
the spirit of truth
and the spirit of error.
- B Beloved, / let us love one another, / because love is from God.
And everyone loving / of God is born / and knows God. ⁸
The one not loving / does not know God, / because God is love. ⁹
By this is revealed the love of God in us:
that His only born Son God sent into the world
that we might live through Him. ¹⁰
In this is love,
not that we loved God
but that He loved us and sent his Son, a propitiation for our sins. ¹¹
- B' Beloved, / since God so loved us, / we also ought to love one another. ¹²
God no one has ever seen; / if we love one another God dwells in us / and His love in us is perfected.
By this we know / that in Him we dwell and He in us, / because of His Spirit He has given to us. ¹⁴

Section A': 4.14-5.20 - Testimony; God is Love, Live in His Love

- A A And we have looked on and we testify that the Father has sent his Son as Saviour of the world. ¹⁵
Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, / God dwells in him / and he in God. ¹⁶
And we have known and have believed the love that God has for us.
- B God is love, / and the one remaining in love in God remains, / and God in him remains. ¹⁷
By this is perfected love among us that we may have boldness on the Day of Judgment,
because just as that one is,
also are we in this world. ¹⁸
There is no fear in love,
but perfect love casts out fear;
because fear has to do with punishment and the one fearing has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹
- B' We love because he first loved us. ²⁰
If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar;
for the one not loving his brother whom he has seen,
the God he has not seen he cannot love. ²¹
And this commandment we have from Him:
that the one loving God
also loves his brother.
- B A Everyone believing that Jesus is the Christ, of God is born.
And everyone loving the parent loves the one born of him. ²
By this we know that we love the children of God, / when we love God / and do His commandments. ³
For the love of God is this:
that we keep His commandments,
and His commandments are not burdensome.
Because everyone born of God conquers the world.
And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵
Who is the one conquering the world if not the one believing that Jesus is the Son of God?
- B This is the one who came by water and blood,
Jesus Christ, / not in water only / but in the water and in the blood.
And the Spirit is the one testifying, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷
There are three that testify in heaven:
[the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit,
and these three are one:
And there are three that testify in the earth:] ⁸
the Spirit and the water and the blood,
and the three are in one. ⁹
- B' If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater;
because this is the testimony of God:
because He has testified concerning his Son, ¹⁰
the one believing in the Son of God has the testimony in him;
the one not believing in God has made Him a liar,
because he has not believed in the testimony
that God has testified concerning His Son. ¹¹
And this is the testimony: / God gave to us / life eternal.
And this life is in His Son: ¹² / the one having the Son has life; / the one not having the Son of God has not life.
- B' A These things I wrote to you
that you may know that you have life eternal,
the ones believing in the name of the Son of God.
And this is the boldness which we have towards Him, / that if we ask anything according to His will, / He hears us. ¹⁵
And if we know that He hears us / whatever we ask / we know that we have the requests that we asked of Him. ¹⁶
- B If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not to death / he shall ask / and He will give him life, to the ones sinning not to death.
There is sin to death; / not concerning that do I say / that you should ask. ¹⁷
All unrighteousness is sin, / but there is sin / that is to death.
- B' We know
that everyone born of God sins not,
but the one born of God, He keeps him and the evil one does not touch him. ¹⁹
We know
that of God we are,
and that the whole world in the evil one lies. ²⁰
And we know
that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding that we may know the true one;
and we are in the one who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ: this is the true God and life eternal.