

Sabbath Brothers

Time to Read Scripture

(76 Hours 13 Minutes)

Old Testament 57.65 Hours*

New Testament 18.57 Hours**

Estimated Time to Read	
The Law/Pentateuch/Torah	13.5 Hours
1. Genesis	3.5 Hours
2. Exodus	3 Hours
3. Leviticus	2 Hours
4. Numbers	3 Hours
5. Deuteronomy	2.5 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of History	18.67 Hours
6. Joshua	1.75 Hours
7. Judges	1.75 Hours
8. Ruth	15 Minutes
9. 1 Samuel	2.25 Hours
10. 2 Samuel	1.75 Hours
11. 1 Kings	2 Hours
12. 2 Kings	2.25 Hours
13. 1 Chronicles	2 Hours
14. 2 Chronicles	2.5 Hours
15. Ezra	40 Minutes
16. Nehemiah	1 Hour
17. Esther	30 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of Poetry	9.33 Hours
18. Job	1.75 Hours
19. Psalms	5 Hours
20. Proverbs	1.75 Hours
21. Ecclesiastes	30 Minutes
22. Song of Solomon	20 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Major Prophets	13.08 Hours
23. Isaiah	3.75 Hours
24. Jeremiah	4 Hours
25. Lamentations	20 Minutes
26. Ezekiel	3.75 Hours
27. Daniel	1.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Minor Prophets	3.07 Hours
28. Hosea	30 Minutes
29. Joel	12 Minutes
30. Amos	25 Minutes
31. Obadiah	4 Minutes
32. Jonah	8 Minutes
33. Micah	20 Minutes
34. Nahum	8 Minutes
35. Habakkuk	9 Minutes
36. Zephaniah	10 Minutes
37. Haggai	7 Minutes
38. Zechariah	40 Minutes
39. Malachi	11 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Gospels	8.5 Hours
40. Matthew	2.5 Hours
41. Mark	1.5 Hours
42. Luke	2.5 Hours
43. John	2 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Establishment of the Church	2.25 Hours
44. Acts	2.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Public Epistles	4.1 Hours
45. Romans	1 Hour
46. 1 Corinthians	1 Hour
47. 2 Corinthians	40 Minutes
48. Galatians	20 Minutes
49. Ephesians	20 Minutes
50. Philippians	14 Minutes
51. Colossians	13 Minutes
52. 1 Thessalonians	12 Minutes
53. 2 Thessalonians	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Private/Pastoral Epistles	34 Minutes
54. 1 Timothy	16 Minutes
55. 2 Timothy	11 Minutes
56. Titus	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
General Epistles	1.9 Hours
57. Philemon	3 Minutes
58. Hebrews	45 Minutes
59. James	16 Minutes
60. 1 Peter	16 Minutes
61. 2 Peter	10 Minutes
62. 1 John	16 Minutes
63. 2 John	2 Minutes
64. 3 John	2 Minutes
65. Jude	4 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
End Times Prophecy	1.25 Hours
66. Revelation	1.25 Hours

*Old Testament 57 Hours 39 Minutes

**New Testament 18 Hours 34 Minutes

The Apostle John

John was the son of Zebedee whose brother, James, was the first disciple of Jesus to be martyred (Acts 12). John is the only disciple to have remained at the foot of the cross during Christ's crucifixion (John 19:26), and he is the only one of the twelve who was not martyred for his beliefs.



ROMAN RULE

The Roman Emperor, Domitian (ruling 81AD – 96AD), was the son of Vespasian and brother of Titus, but when they were away on military campaigns (as when they sacked Jerusalem) Domitian would rule as praetor (Roman magistrate). Domitian completed the Roman Coliseum and was known for his reign of terror. Domitian forced people to address him as their lord/god, and he mandated that everyone worship Roman gods and follow the pagan religion.

John and his brother were called the “*sons of thunder*,” so they may have had fierce tempers. (Mark 3:17; Luke 9:51-56)



JOHN'S END OF LIFE

During Domitian's reign, it is tradition that John was sentenced to be executed in a boiling vat of oil for preaching the gospel; however, he continued to preach from the cauldron, so John was exiled to the island of Patmos (meaning “mortal”) in the Aegean Sea. John may have been a forced to mine (possibly marble) on Patmos, and it was on Patmos that John recorded Revelation. Upon release, John became the bishop of Ephesus for his final years on earth. \

John refers to himself as “*the disciple whom Jesus loved*.” (John 21:20-24) John was the cousin of Jesus as his mother (Salome) was the sister of Jesus' mother, Mary. (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40).

During His ministry, Jesus seemed to indicate that John would live a long time. (John 21:19-23)

Written to Believers

1 John: Fellowship with God
2 John: Defend Against False Teachers
3 John: Support for Genuine Teachers

The Book of 2 John

As with the gospel of John, this epistle is also anonymous. Although the author and recipient go unnamed, this text was treated as a letter/sermon from John to Ephesus before circulating to other believers.

This letter is written to a “Christian lady” who had been approached by false teachers.

The letter opposes the Gnostic teaching of spirit and flesh dualism (falsely stating that Jesus came only in spirit because the flesh is free to pursue pleasures).

In John’s other epistles, he refers to himself as “the elder.” Similar to Paul’s epistles (and unlike Peter’s two epistles), the books written by John bear similar characteristics between all of them.

REMINDER
The Greek language does not have capitalization, punctuation or verse/chapter separations, so these have been defined by the editors and compilers



Outline of 2 John	
2 John 1:1-3	Greetings to the Christian Lady & Church
2 John 1:4-6	Love by Being Obedient to God’s Truth
2 John 1:7-11	Oppose False Teachers
2 John 1:12-13	Closing

The Five Shortest Books in the Bible		
1.	3 John	219 Words
2.	2 John	245 Words
3.	Philemon	335 Words
4.	Obadiah	440 Words
5.	Jude	461 Words

The ultimate result of grace and mercy is peace with God through His Son.

Greetings to the Church (2 John 1:1-3)

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.

"SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE..."EPHESIANS 4:15



This "lady" is possibly symbolic for a church or one of the many women (like Lydia in Acts 16:14-15) who opened their homes to travelers.

The "elder" could describe an older man or a church official like the pastor or bishop (Titus 1:5-7).

Beyond the individual lady's children, the church also had members who were called children.(2 John 1:1, 13)

John uses the term "children" to represent believers in his writings. (John 12:36; 13:33; 1 John 2:1, 12, 13, 18; 2:28; 3:7, 18; 4:4; 5:21)

God's good gift of grace is the beginning of all things; grace is an unmerited gift initiated by God to an undeserving individual. (1 & 2 Timothy 1:2)

The underlying message to the believer is to temper truth with love. If no truth, one endorses and enables false living; if not love, one is judgmental and condemning.

The Greek term "love" (agape ἀγάπη) is God's unconditional, covenantal love for His people; this is similar to the Hebrew term "hesed" (חֶסֶד) of the Old Testament.

The Greek term "elder" (presbyteros πρεσβύτερος) is the root word for "presbyterian" and described the writer of 2 & 3 John (1:1).

The Greek term "lady" probably represents a woman who manages the home church as well as the church itself (1 Peter 5:1). The church is represented as the bride of Christ. (Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7-8; 21:2)

John's focus is God's truth contrasted to the false teachers. Truth is repeatedly emphasized in this brief letter. (2 John 1:1, 2, 3, 4)

The individual does deserve judgment for wrongdoing and sin; however, mercy means that the individual will not receive the punishment that they deserve.

The preposition "from" (para παρὰ) is repeated for God the Father and the Son which equates the two. John continues to emphasize that it is only through the Son that anyone can know God the Father.

John's Essence of Truth

John 14:17

Holy Spirit

John 8:32; 14:6

Jesus

1 John 3:23

The Gospel Message

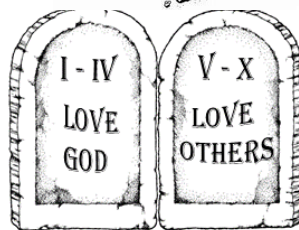
Believers Are To Walk In Loving Obedience to God

Loving Commandments (2 John 1:4-6)

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*.



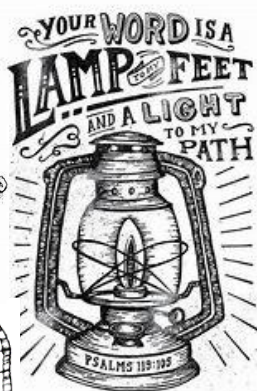
⁵ Now I ask you, lady, not as though *I were writing to you a new commandment*, but the one which we have had **from the beginning**, that we love one another.



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.



John had met believers from the lady's home church who were faithfully walking according to the Word of the Lord.

The term "walking" (peripatountas περιπατοῦντας) is synonymous with "lifestyle." Christianity is an initial decision (similar to a marriage vow) that initiates a relationship that is followed by a lifestyle of submissive obedience.

The sacrificial love of God established salvation through Christ His Son.



The greatest commandments are to love God and then to love others (Matthew 22:36-38; Mark 12:28-34)

John's Three Tests of Genuine Salvation

Selfless Love	(2 John 1:5; 1 John 2:7-11; 3:11-18; 4:7-12, 16-21; 5:1-2)
Obedient Lifestyle	(2 John 1:6; 1 John 2:3-6; 3:1-10; 5:2-3)
Doctrinal Truth/Spiritual Authority	(2 John 1:7; 1 John 1:1; 2:18-25; 4:1-6, 14-16; 5:1, 5, 10)

The Gospel of John begins by referencing the "beginning" (archē ἀρχή). *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."* (John 1:1-2)

Love equates to obedience; love is not an emotion, but instead, love is an action. (1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22; 1 John 4:7-21)

After salvation, the Christian continues in a lifestyle that aligns to God's desires as they are described in His Word. *"The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."* (1 John 2:6)

Believers should continue to mature in the application of fundamental beliefs; the truths don't change as one matures

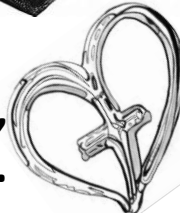
⁷ For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.



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



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.

False Teachers (2 John 1:7-11)

As fundamental Christianity was established; believers were warned that false teachers would arise. (Matthew 7:15; 24:11,24; Mark 13:22; 1 John 2:26; 3:7; 4:1)

The false teachers had left the Christian roots and adopted worldly desires and rationale (1 John 2:19)

The Gnostic false teachers believed there was a dualism between the "spiritual" (good) and "matter/flesh" (evil); therefore, Gnostics could not believe that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Two Primary Types of Gnostic False Teachers

Docetic	This was a denial of Jesus' humanity; they taught that Jesus appeared to be human, but was really a spirit
Cerinthian	This was a denial that Christ's spirit died on the cross; they taught that the "Christ spirit" came on the man Jesus at his baptism and left Him before He died on the cross

The singular term of "antichrist" refers to a specific individual while the plural term of "antichrists" refers to a wicked spirit throughout the ages that opposed God's will in a number of men. (Antiochus IV Epiphanes; Romans Emperors like Nero & Domitian; Adolph Hitler, etc.)

Christianity is based on simple principles of love and obedience. As believers grow in the Lord, it is important that personal imaginations and theories do not creep into sound theological doctrines.

The Greek term for "deceivers" (planoi πλάνοι) is etymologically associated with the word "planet." Ancient travelers would use stars to take their bearings and understand location/direction; however, certain heavenly objects (planets) moved irregularly which ancient astrologists called "wanderers."

The Lord Jesus Christ was and continues to be fully God and fully man.

John is the only Biblical writer that uses the term "antichrist" (antichristos ἀντίχριστος). (1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2 John 7)

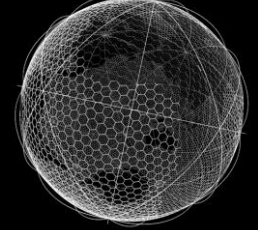
Believers should build upon Christ as the foundation with spiritual growth (1 Corinthians 3:10-15). The early apostles (through much prayer and work) had established Christ as the foundation, but the false teachers were undermining the doctrine that had been

Do not welcome those who are witnessing and testifying other religions (attempting to separate you from Christ) into your homes because it encourages him to continue sharing deceit.



The Gnostics

*Analytical Rationale & Pursuit of Spiritual Knowledge
(Human Reasoning over Divine Revelation)*



Two Sects of Gnostics

Jesus was Human

Cerinthian Gnosticism

Cerinthian Gnosticism originated from Cerinthus who lived in Ephesus during the latter half of the first century (at the same time as John who was his adversary). Cerinthus taught that Jesus was mortal and not the son of God.

Jesus was Spirit

Docetism

Docetic Gnosticism (Docetism) is derived from the term "to seem." Docetism taught that flesh is evil, and Jesus only appeared to have a mortal body (but He really did not). Docetism believes that the spirit is separate from the body, so bodily activities (i.e., sin) do not pollute the spirit.

Three Classifications of People

Pneumatikos (πνευματικῶς) from the Greek word meaning "Spirit"

The genuinely spiritual people who were the Gnostics.

SPIRITUAL

Psukikos (ψυχικός) from the Greek word meaning "Mind/Natural"

A mix between the fleshly and the spiritual, but possibly redeemable.

REDEEMABLE

Sarkikos (σαρκικός) from the Greek word meaning "Body/Flesh/Carnal"

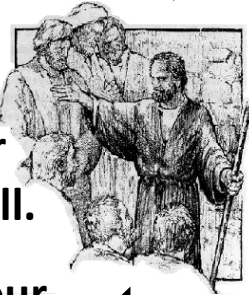
These were the heathens/unbelievers who were not redeemable.

LASCIVIOUS

Whereas a letter from a loved one is always welcomed, the visit by a loved one is even better.

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.



This verse may reference believers in another house church in Ephesus that John was overseeing.

This salutation aligns to 2 John 1:1 where these “sisters” may represent house churches or families. It is a great blessing for the Christian mother to have faithful children who continue in their mother’s instruction with a personal walk with Christ

Closing (2 John 1:12-13)

John had felt the urgent need to warn the church about false teachers immediately by written note. Traveling teachers were frequently housed in believer’s homes, and Scripture promotes hospitality towards these ministers. (Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 1:2)

In an effort towards Christlike living and showing love, believers should be hospitable to those who are truly needy. (Matthew 25:35; Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9; 3 John 5-6)

The ending of 2 John is similar to the conclusion of 3 John 1:13-14.

The term “paper and ink” is actually “papyrus and soot.” Papyrus is a reed that was slit and opened. A stone would be used to smooth out the reed as it overlapped with other reeds and glued together. As the writer used soot to write, the soot would bleed into the papyrus and could not be erased.



Sheets of ancient papyrus were discovered by archeologists in an ancient Egyptian “trash dump.” Most sheets were typically 8”x10,” so it would take multiple sheets for a single book of the Bible.



2 & 3 John are the shortest books in the Bible, and are the only two books that could fit on a single sheet of papyrus.