

## II John (*Introduction*)

**II John is probably written around the same place and time as I John. Refer to the Introduction to I John for general information about John and the possible time this letter is written.**

In this letter John refers to himself as “*the elder*”. Some believe that John served as one of the elders in the church at Ephesus. Others believe John is simply referring to himself and “*the old man*” or “*the older one*”. If he wrote the latter half of the first century, John would have been in his 80’s. Even if he wrote in 65 AD when John may have been in his 50’s, he was still one of the “*older*” ones in that he was with Christ at the very beginning.

While I John seems to be a general letter designed to be circulated throughout the churches, II John was written to “*the elect lady and her children*” (II John 1).

Some believe this is a particular individual. Others believe the “*elect lady and her children*” is a phrase referring to the church. This could be the church as a whole which would mean the letter was intended to be circulated like John’s first letter, or it could be intended for a particular congregation in the area of Asia Minor.

Regardless of the intended audience, we receive the benefit. John is very much concerned about love among the brethren and the preservation of truth. This short letter is a genuine plea to practice both.