**The Epistles of St John: An Introduction**

As a member of Jesus’s inner circle, similar to the experiences of Peter, John is able to speak from personal experience as an eyewitness to Jesus’s ministry. This letter, according to scholars, was written around 85 AD, following the harrowing persecution of the Church. Although he was not addressing the churches during their exact time of suffering, John did still have the desire to assure and encourage these first generation Christians. The church remained scattered, and there was obviously the presence of false teachers. John emphasizes, as he does in his gospel, Jesus as the Incarnate Son of God, Light, and Life. Also, he emphasizes the truth as a part of our Faith and the importance of recognizing ourselves as sinners. Love for one another is critical, and he chastises anyone who refuses to love his or her brother or sister. These letters are recorded as being written from Ephesus, before John arrived to the island of Patmos.

**Terms to Know**

Advocate

Incarnate

Light, darkness

Love, hate

Repentance

Truth

Anti-Christ

**Notes / Reminders**