**Background of I, II, III John**

1. Writer – The Apostle John – Called “the elder” in the second and third books.
2. Date – Some believe it was between 60-65 AD, while others believe it was around 90 AD. It is very hard to determine.

III. Readers:

I John – Probably the churches of Asia

II John – Either an individual lady and her personal

children or a church and its members.

III John – Gaius

IV. Doctrinal error dealt with in the books (Primarily I John)

1. Gnostic – Teaches sin is not a moral opposition (the act of opposing, resisting or combating) of the human personality to God but a physical principle inherent in all matter. It teaches our spiritual life and our physical life have nothing to do with each other. They also claim to have a higher knowledge of God.
2. Docetism – Teaches that Jesus’ humanity was not real; he only appeared to have a physical body.
3. Cerinthus – Teaches that Jesus was only a man, on whom the divine Christ descended at baptism and left before the crucifixion.