

## 2 John

1:1

[1-2] the elder (person) to (the) elect lady and to her children

[3] whom I love in truth<sup>1</sup> –

[4-5] and (it is) not I, alone –

[6] but also all who have been knowing the truth<sup>2</sup>

[7] through the truth<sup>3</sup> which is abiding in us

[8] and with us, will be, to the age

[9-10] (there) will be with us grace, mercy

[1-2] peace – from God, Father

[3-4] and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son – with truth<sup>4</sup>

[5]\* and love

[1-2] I rejoiced, exceedingly

[3-4] that I have found, from your children, (those) walking in truth<sup>5</sup>

[5]\* just as a commandment, we received from the Father

[1-2] and now I ask you, Lady –

[3-4] not like a commandment, new, (I) am writing to you, but which we have had from (the) beginning –

[5] that we love one-another

[6-7] and this is the love: that we walk according to His commandments

[8-9] this, the commandment, is – just as you have heard from beginning –

[10] that in it, you should walk

[1] because many deceitful (people) have gone out to the world

[2-3] who are not acknowledging Jesus Christ, having come in flesh

[4-5] this is the deceitful (one) and the antichrist

[1-2] (you) watch yourselves!

[3] in order that you may not lose

[4] what we produced

[5-6] but a reward, full, you may receive

[1-2] everyone who is going-ahead and is not abiding in the instruction of Christ –

[3] God, (he) does not have

[7] (he) who is abiding in the instruction –

[8-9] this-one, also the Father, also the Son, has

[4-5] if a certain-one comes to you, and this teaching, he does not bring

[10] do not receive him into (the) house

[1-2] and, to greet him, do not speak

[3-5]\* for (he) who is speaking to him, to greet, shares in his works, the wicked

[1-2] many (things) having, to you, to write

[3-4] I do not want, through paper and ink

[5-7] but I hope, to come to you, and mouth to mouth, to speak

[8] in order that your joy, having been filled, may be

[9-10] (there) greet you, the children of your sister, the elect

1:13

This is a translation and a study of the letter, 2 John. This work presents the possible presence of a literary numbering system in 2 John. Following the PebbleCounting hypothesis, this numbering system appears to be inherent in the Ancient Greek and consistently used throughout 2 John, as it is in other books of Scripture.

This study is freely available at [www.pebblecounting.com](http://www.pebblecounting.com), along with studies/translations of other books of Scripture. If you haven't had a chance, the "Intro to PebbleCounting" PDFs are a good place to begin. © Steve, 2024-2026. Update: May 18, 2026.

“and love” | The opening of this letter is a fifteen-element segment ending in the blessing of those five things being given by Father and Son: grace, mercy, peace, truth, and love. The fivefold literary half-set corresponds with this gift being given.

“we received from the Father” | John uses another fivefold literary half-set to highlight another thing that has been given by God: a commandment.

“shares in his works, the wicked” | The fivefold literary half-set may cue the future judgment of those who share in wicked works. In context, this would entail the loss of a “reward, full,” as discussed in the previous tenfold set.

The total literary count for this letter is as follows:

(55x)	Truth
(10x)	Deceit
(65x)	Total

The total count for truth, 55, may be a deliberate literary composite (50 + 5) reflecting two things being given:

- In the digits place, a fivefold gift is given by Father and Son (grace, mercy, peace, truth, and love).
- In the tens place, a fivefold theme “truth” is adopted by John as a primary domain for his letter. In the opening set, John loves “in truth,” identifies with those who “have been knowing the truth,” and acknowledges that the truth “is abiding” within. For the tens place:  
(fivefold) x (literary identity) = (5x “truth”) x (John) = (5) x (10) = 50