

Biblical Notes – 2 John 1:1

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 (1. Ο πρεσβύτερος ἐκλεκτῇ κυρίᾳ καὶ τοῖς τέκνοις αὐτῆς, οὓς ἐγὼ ἀγαπῶ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ, καὶ οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνος ἀλλὰ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἐγνωκότες τὴν ἀλήθειαν)

“Unto the elect lady - The elect or chosen Kyria. See the introduction, Section 2. He addresses her as one chosen of God to salvation, in the use of a term often applied to Christians in the New Testament.”

— Albert Barnes, Albert Barnes' Notes on the Whole Bible, Commentary on 2 John 1:1.

“She is elect, as being chosen out of the dominion of the evil one (1 John 5:19) into the Christian family.”

— The Pulpit Commentaries, Commentary on 2 John 1:1.

“She is called elect which means a person chosen of the Lord through obedience to the Gospel.”

— E.M. Zerr, E.M. Zerr's Commentary on Selected Books of the New Testament, Commentary on 2 John 1:1.

“the elect lady 5,13; Luke 1:3; Ephesians 1:4,5; 1 Thessalonians 1:3,4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14; 1 Peter 1:2.”

— Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, Commentary on 2 John 1:1.

“elect. Compare 1 Peter 1:2. But perhaps used in the sense of "excellent".”

— E.W. Bullinger's Companion Bible Notes, Commentary on 2 John 1:1.

“HEINSIUS argues well on this subject, and he is mostly original. He cites 1 Peter 5:13. The church which is at Babylon, elect together with you, to prove that St. John addressed, not a lady, but the church. And he adds from Jerome the like phrases. “The multitude of elect gentiles — the elect of Corinth — the elect of Macedonia — the elect of Ephesus — the elect lady — and the elect children.” For they viewed the whole Christian church as succeeding carnal Israel in favour. — These arguments may seem fair, yet the judgment of the ancients was in general, that this is a private letter to a noble Greek lady, whose children were Christians.”

— Sutcliffe's Commentary on the Old and New Testaments, Commentary on 2 John 1:1.

“Elect lady—The epithet elect is here used, as in 2 John 1:13, as an honorary term. Chosen of God through a blessed faith in Christ, and so a choice one among women.”

— Whendon's Commentary on the Bible, Commentary on 2 John 1:1.

In conclusion there is much dispute as to the nature of the “elect lady”, I've provided opposing commentaries who recognize that the “elect” here actually means a believer who was chosen.