

1 John 1:1-2:2

1 John 1:1-4

1. This is all one, long sentence and is exceedingly complex in the Greek language. This would have been a symbol of elegance and a refined education. The goal was threefold
 - a. Capture the attention and interest of the listener
 - b. State the purpose of the writing
 - c. Divulge the essential plan and scheme of the writing
2. John makes the case that he is advancing nothing new or invented. It was from the beginning and has eyewitnesses.
 - a. Ancients gave greater authority to that which was old rather than new.
 - b. He uses the senses to describe the experience of the eyewitnesses
3. In many ways, this has echoes of the beginning of the Gospel of John and the eyewitnesses can attest to the enfleshment of God who was from the beginning.
4. For what purpose did he write? (v. 3-4)

1 John 1:5-7

5. Appealing to his promised opening that what was from the beginning which we have heard and seen with our eyes, John begins to share the teachings of Jesus. He even brings in echoes of Genesis into the description of the human sinful reality.
6. John now takes us to the purity of God and uses light to describe the overwhelming reality of his purity. Light cannot contain darkness- it dispels it. He is laying the groundwork for his upcoming argument about fellowship and sin.
7. How does he lay out the self-deception of sin in verse six?
8. In verse 7, John specifically mentions sin for the first time and he does so by directly linking it to Christ and salvation. In doing so, he gives us the formula for the Nicene Creed, "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God."

1 John 1:8-10

9. What does verse 9 reveal about our relationship with the Father?
10. John is refuting three heresies in this passage
 - a. 1:6- if we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness we lie and do not practice the truth
 - b. 1:8- if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us
 - c. 1:10- if we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar and his word is not in us

1 John 2:1-2

11. Now that he has established the nature of our character and desire for lies and deceptions, he returns us to Christ and gives hope in his role as the advocate and the one who is righteous.
12. Propitiation is the act of making peace or doing something pleasing to a deity. Jesus has fulfilled this through his sacrifice on the cross.