

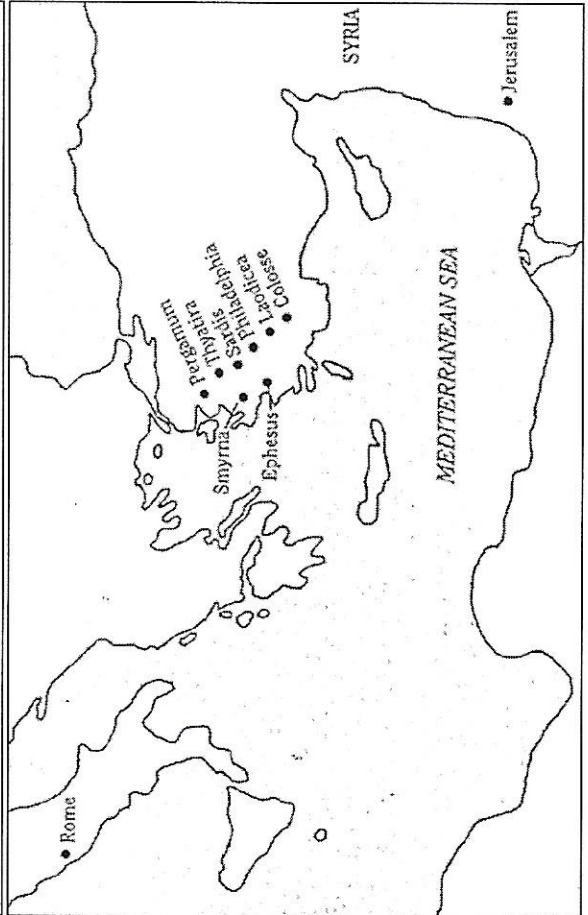
Week One - Epistles of John: 1 John: 1 – 4.

Context

Timeline of John's Ministry

(All dates are approximate)

Jesus' public ministry	AD 28–30
John an apostle in Jerusalem	30–70
Jewish rebellion	66–70
Romans destroy Jerusalem, Christians flee	70
John in Ephesus	70–95
Domitian is Emperor of Rome	81–96
Gospel of John written	85–90
Epistles of John written	90–94
Domitian persecutes Christians; John is exiled to the island of Patmos and writes Revelation	95–96
John in Ephesus until his death	96–100



Discussion

1. The word *which* is found six times in verses one through three: what is “which”?
2. The word *we* is found six times in verses one through three: who is “we”?
3. What does “we” say about “which” to “you(us)”?
4. Verse one states “we have heard, seen and touched that which was from the beginning.” Read what Jesus said to the apostles in Matthew 13: 16, 17, and in Luke 24: 38, 39.
5. Verse four states, “...so that our joy may be complete.” The oldest manuscripts contain *our*, but textual variants by scribes exist that change it to ‘your’. Read 2 John: 12, and 1 Thessalonians 3: 9 to show that ‘our’ is consistent with the theme.

Discussion: The message of verses one through four