

The Family 35 archetype for 2 & 3 John & Jude—final form

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This article is based on a complete collation of the following 47 representatives of the family for 2 & 3 John: 18, 35, 141, 149, 201, 204, 328, 386, 394, 432, 444, 604, 757, 824, 928, 986, 1072, 1075, 1100, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1503, 1548, 1628, 1637, 1725, 1732, 1754, 1761, 1768, 1855, 1858, 1864, 1865, 1876, 1892, 1897, 2221, 2352, 2431, 2466, 2554, 2587, 2626 and 2723. There is no division of at least 10% (of the 47) in 2 John or Jude, and just one in 3 John. At that single place I spot-checked the following 43 MSS: 209,226,368,634,664,801,1040,1058,1101,1140,1250,1482,1508,1617,1618,1619,1636, 1652,1656,1704,1723,1726,1733,1737,1740,1745,1746,1748,1749,1752,1763,1766,1767,1856, 1899,2080, 2218,2261,2378,(2501), (2653),2691,2704,2777. Those 90 MSS represent a nearly complete roster of the family representatives that are presently available; I neglected four others that are scrambled, incomplete or hard to read. A few more family representatives may come to light, but not enough to challenge any decisions made here. My ‘presently available’ refers to the images that have been posted by both the INTF and the CSNTM. I say a sincere “Thank you” to both organizations.

I now discuss the division that was spot-checked. Only the MSS that support the minority variant are listed. Those within { } were spot-checked. The percentages within [] refer to the total of known MSS.

3John 10 – εκ || --- [20%] 149,201,432,604,1768,1865,2466 {209,368,1737,1767,2218,2261,2501,2777}

Out of the 90 MSS, two are illegible, so out of 88 extant MSS (within the family) 15 have the variant, which equals 17%. Because of case, the preposition can be understood, but making it overt is better. In any event, with only 17% attestation, the variant is not a serious contender. The first form reproduces the archetype, beyond reasonable doubt.

That completes the discussion of the single place where there is a division of at least 10% (of the 47). As I have demonstrated, we are able to affirm the precise form of the family archetype for the books of 2 & 3 John, beyond reasonable doubt. It is reproduced in my Greek Text, *The Greek New Testament according to Family 35*.

I will now consider the force of the evidence for the three ‘chapters’, simply counting the MSS that have been fully collated.¹

2 John: No variant has more than three MSS. Of the 47 collated MSS, 31 are perfect representatives of the archetype in this book, and the MSS yet to be collated will probably add a few more. If we disregard singular readings (within the family), we add 10 more. It follows that we know the precise archetypal form of 2 John.

3 John: No variant has more than seven MSS. Of the 47 collated MSS, 31 are perfect representatives of the archetype in this book, and the MSS yet to be collated will probably add a few more. If we disregard singular readings (within the family), we add 4 more. It follows that we know the precise archetypal form of 3 John.

Jude: No variant has more than three MSS. Of the 47 collated MSS, 25 are perfect representatives of the archetype in this book, and the MSS yet to be collated will probably add a few more. If we disregard singular readings (within the family), we add 12 more. It follows that we know the precise archetypal form of Jude.

¹ I do not guarantee complete accuracy. An occasional mistake will not alter the big picture.

Conclusion: I have demonstrated empirically that we know the precise archetypal form of Family 35 for the books of 2 & 3 John and Jude, based on the available evidence. What I have done for the General Epistles and the first six books, I believe that I can do for the remaining NT books as well.

God has preserved His Text!