

**Anonymous**

*Epistle  
of Barnabas*

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# CHAPTER 1

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### *Greeting and introduction — Three doctrines — Prophecy*

1. Hail, sons and daughters, in the name of the Lord who loved us, in peace.

2. Exceedingly and abundantly do I rejoice over your blessed and glorious spirit for the greatness and richness of God's ordinances towards you; so innate a grace of the gift of the spirit have you received. 3. Wherefore I congratulate myself the more in my hope of salvation, because I truly see in you that the Spirit has been poured out upon you from the Lord, who is rich in his bounty;<sup>[1]</sup> so that the sight of you, for which I longed, amazed me. 4. Being persuaded then of this, and being conscious that since I spoke among you I have much understanding because the Lord has travelled with me in the way of righteousness, I am above all constrained to this, to love you above my own life, because great faith and love dwell in you in the “hope of his life.” 5. I have therefore reckoned that, if I make it my care in your behalf to communicate somewhat of that which I received, it shall bring me the reward of having ministered to such spirits, and I hasten to send you a short letter in order that your knowledge may be perfected along with your faith.

6. There are then three doctrines<sup>[2]</sup> of the Lord: “the hope of life” is the beginning and end of our faith; and righteousness is the beginning and end of judgment; love of