

# Contents

PREFACE	vii
ABBREVIATIONS	xv
I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE JOHANNINE LITERATURE	1
A. THE IDENTITY OF THE JOHANNINE AUTHOR	1
1. <i>The Possibility of a Common Author</i>	1
2. <i>The Identity of the Common Author</i>	3
B. THE CHARACTER OF THE JOHANNINE AUTHOR	5
C. THE SEQUENCE OF THE JOHANNINE LITERATURE	8
II. PROLOGUE TO THE GOSPEL OF ETERNAL LIFE	9
A. INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER	9
1. <i>The Purpose of the Letter</i>	9
2. <i>The Plan of the Letter</i>	11
B. INTERPRETATION OF THE LETTER	12
1. <i>The Theme of the Letter (1:1–4)</i>	12
2. <i>The First Movement: Christian Life Is Light (1:5–2:27)</i>	15
a) <i>Statement (1:5–7)</i>	15
b) <i>Negative Development (1:8–2:2)</i>	16
c) <i>Positive Development (2:3–11)</i>	16
d) <i>Application to the Heresy (2:12–27)</i>	18
3. <i>The Second Movement: Christian Life Is Fidelity (2:28–4:6)</i>	21
a) <i>Statement (2:28–3:3)</i>	21
b) <i>Negative Development (3:4–10)</i>	23
c) <i>Positive Development (3:11–24)</i>	24
d) <i>Application to the Heresy (4:1–6)</i>	26
4. <i>The Third Movement: Christian Life Is Love (4:7–5:12)</i>	27

## CONTENTS

a) Statement (4:7–16)	27
b) Negative Development (4:17–18)	28
c) Positive Development (4:19–5:4)	28
d) Application to the Heresy (5:5–12)	29
5. The Conclusion of the Letter (5:13–21)	30
 III. THE GOSPEL OF ETERNAL LIFE	 32
A. INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL	32
1. The Gospel and History	32
a) The Gospel Rejected as History	33
b) The Gospel Accepted as Metahistory	36
2. The Gospel and Jesus	38
3. The Gospel and Its Structure	41
B. INTERPRETATION OF THE GOSPEL	44
1. The Overture to the Gospel (1:1–18)	44
a) Structure of the Overture	44
b) The Meaning of the Overture	46
2. The Challenge to Rebirth (1:19–4:42)	49
a) Structure and Theology	49
b) The New Creation (1:19–2:11)	50
1) The First Day (1:19–28)	51
2) The Second Day (1:29–34)	52
3) The Third Day (1:35–39)	53
4) The Fourth Day (1:40–42)	54
5) The Fifth Day (1:43–46)	55
6) The Sixth Day (1:47–51)	56
7) The Seventh Day (2:1–11)	56
c) The New Temple (2:12–25)	59
d) Into the New Creation (3:1–36)	61
e) In the New Temple (4:1–45)	65
3. The Victory Over Death (4:43–5:47)	67
a) Life Against Death (4:43–54)	68
b) Life Against Paralysis (5:1–9)	70
c) The Source of Life (5:10–47)	71
4. The Promise of Life (6:1–71)	74
a) The Multiplication of Bread (6:1–13)	77
b) The Reaction of Misunderstanding (6:14–15)	78

## CONTENTS

c) The Gift of Understanding (6:16–21)	78
d) The Meaning of the Bread (6:22–59)	79
e) The Result of Misunderstanding (6:60–66)	82
f) The Reply of Understanding (6:67–71)	83
5. The Crisis of Decision (7:1–8:59)	83
a) The Setting for the Dialogues (7:1–13)	86
b) The Seven Dialogues (7:14–8:59)	86
1) Moses and Jesus (7:14–24)	87
2) The Decision Is Now (7:25–36)	87
3) The Offer of Life (7:37–44)	88
4) Division Among the Authorities (7:45–52)	90
5) The Offer of Light (8:12–20)	90
6) The Decision Is Now (8:21–30)	91
7) Abraham and Jesus (8:31–59)	92
c) Appendix: The Woman Taken in Adultery (8:1–11)	92
6. The Promise of Light (9:1–10:42)	93
a) Healing and Judgment (9:1–38)	94
b) The Meaning of Judgment (9:39–10:42)	96
7. The Victory Over Death (11:1–54)	100
a) Prologue (11:1–4)	101
b) The Seven Dialogues (11:5–44)	101
c) Epilogue (11:45–57)	103
8. The Challenge to Rebirth (12:1–36)	103
a) The Advent of Death (12:1–11)	104
b) The Promise of Glory (12:12–16)	105
c) The Faith of the World (12:17–22)	105
d) The Price of Victory (12:23–36)	106
9. Summary and Sorrow (12:37–50)	106
10. The Consummation of the Gift	107
a) The Words of Consummation (13:1–17:26)	108
1) Dialogue With Betrayal (13:1–35)	109
2) Dialogue With the Apostles (13:36–16:33)	112
3) Dialogue With God (17:1–26)	121
b) The Works of Consummation (18:1–20:31)	122
1) The Passion of Jesus (18:1–19:42)	122
2) The Resurrection (20:1–10)	131

3) The Ascension (20:11–18)	131
4) The Gift of the Spirit (20:19–23)	132
5) The Community of the Spirit (20:24–31)	133
Appendix I: On the Relative Chronology of the Passion	133
i) The Problem	134
ii) The Proposed Solution	134
Appendix II: On the Post-Resurrection Apparitions of Jesus	139
11. Postscript (21:1–25)	144
 IV. EPILOGUE TO THE GOSPEL OF ETERNAL LIFE	146
A. INTRODUCTION TO THE APOCALYPSE	146
1. The Literary Form of Apocalypse	147
a) From Prophecy to Apocalypse	150
b) The Message of Cosmic Hope	150
2. The Structure of the Apocalypse	154
B. EXPLANATION OF APOCALYPSE	156
1. Introduction (1:1–8)	156
2. Message to the Seven Churches (1:9–3:22)	157
3. Announcement of the Day of the Lord (4:1–16:21)	158
a) The Scroll Vision (4:1–5:14; 10:1–11)	158
b) First Announcement of the Day (6:1–11:9)	159
c) The Conflict Vision (12:1–17)	162
d) The Second Announcement of the Day (13:1–16:21)	163
4. Advent of the Day of the Lord	166
a) The Day of Rome (17:1–19:10)	166
b) The Day of all the Earth (19:11–22:5)	167
5. Conclusion (22:6–21)	169
GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY	171
SCRIPTURAL INDEX	175
SUBJECT INDEX	179