CONTENTS

	Preface	ix
	Principal Abbreviations	xxiii
	INTRODUCTION	
I.	Information from Tradition	3-13
	A. Designation as Catholic Epistles and Epistles of John B. Attitudes toward These Epistles in the First Five	3
	Centuries	5
	1. Possible Echoes before A.D. 175	6
	2. From the Late Second Century to the Fifth Century	9
Π.	Problems of Johannine Authorship	14-35
	A. Did the Same Author Write All Three Epistles?	14
	1. Common Authorship for II John and III John?	15
	2. Common Authorship for II John and I John?	16
	B. Did the Same Author Write the Fourth Gospel and	
	the Epistles?	19
	1. The Argument for Common Authorship Based on	
	Similarities in Style	20
	2. The Argument against Common Authorship Based on	
	Differences in Style	21
	3. The Argument against Common Authorship Based on	
	Differences in Thought	25
	4. The Argument against Common Authorship Based on	
	Differences in Life Situation	28
	C. In What Sequence Were the Gospel and the Epistles	
	Written?	30
	1. Sequence among the Epistles	30
	(a) Was II John or III John Composed First?	
	(b) Was I John or II John Composed First?	

CONTENTS

	2. Sequence of GJohn and I John	32
	(a) Arguments for the Priority of I John	
	(b) Arguments for the Priority of GJohn	
Ш.	Source Theories for the Origin of I John	36-46
	A. The German Theory of an Antithetical-Statement Source	36
	1. E. von Dobschütz	36
	2. R. Bultmann	38
	3. After Bultmann	41
	B. Other Source Theories	43
	1. W. Nauck	43
	2. J. C. O'Neill	45
IV.	Origin of I and II John in a Struggle with Adversaries	47-68
	A. Which Views in I and II John Belong to the	
	Adversaries?	47
	B. Reconstructed Portrait of the Adversaries	49
	1. One Well-defined Group?	49
	2. The Theological Positions of the Adversaries	50
	(a) Christology	
	(b) Ethical Behavior and Attitudes	
	3. Comparison to Known Heresies	55
	(a) Groups Condemned Elsewhere in the NT	
	(b) Docetic Opponents of Ignatius of Antioch	
	(c) Second-century Gnostics	
	(d) Cerinthians	
V.	The Theory Adopted in this Commentary	69-115
	A. Brief Statement of the Theory	69
	B. The Secessionists' Relation to the Fourth Gospel	71
	1. Methodological Cautions	72
	2. Christology—Secessionist and Fourth Gospel	73
	(a) Negating the Importance of Jesus	
	(b) Not Acknowledging Christ Come in the Flesh	
	and in Blood	
	Ethics—Secessionist and Fourth Gospel	79
	(a) Lack of Emphasis on Moral Behavior	
	(b) Perfectionist Freedom from Sin	
	(c) Love of the Brethren	

		CONTENTS	xix
	-	The Epistolary Author's Relation to the Fourth Gospel	86
	C.	1. Literary Genre of I John	86
		(a) Universal Religious Tractate	
		(b) Circular Epistle	
		(c) Homily; Diatribe; Informal Tractate; Pastoral	
		Encyclical	
		(d) Comment Patterned on GJohn	
		2. Polemic and Argumentation Employed in I John	92
		(a) Reuse of GJohn Polemic	
		(b) Style of Correcting	
		(c) The "We" of the Johannine School	
		(d) "From the Beginning"—Older Johannine	
		Theology	
		3. Date and Locale of the Epistles	100
	D.	The Aftermath	103
		1. The Secessionist Path toward Gnosticism	104
		2. The Path from the Epistles to the Great Church	106
		(a) III John and Church Order	
		(b) The Epistles and the Redaction of GJohn	
		(c) Evidence from the Church Writers	
Л.	Str	ucture and Text	116–130
	A.	The Structure of I John	116
		1. Recognition of Units	118
		2. Organization of Units through Thought Patterns	119
		3. Organization of Units through Analogy with	
		Other Writings	122
		(a) Miscellaneous Suggestions	
	D	(b) GJohn as a Structural Model	
П	B.	The Text of the Epistles	129
ц.	A A	neral Bibliography for the Johannine Epistles	131–146
		Bibliographies; Surveys	131
	В.	Commentaries or General Analyses	131
		1. Earlier Commentaries	131
		2. Recent Works	132
	·.	Epistolary Theology	135
		1. General Works	135

CONTENTS

2. Specific Theological Topics	130
(a) "Abiding, remaining" (menein)	
(b) "Life" (zōē)	
(c) "Love" (agapan, agapē, agapētos)	
(d) "Sin" (hamartia)	
(e) "Truth" (alētheia)	
D. Authorship Issues	138
E. Source Theories	139
F. Life and Setting of the Community	140
1. History	140
2. House-Churches	143
3. Adversaries (in General)	143
4. Specific Adversaries	143
G. Structure of I John	144
H. Text	145
I. Miscellaneous Works Cited in this Commentary	145
THE FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN	
THE PROLOGUE	149-188
1. The Prologue (1:1-4)	151
PART ONE	189-436
2. The Gospel of God as Light; Three Boasts and Three	
Opposite Hypotheses (1:5–2:2)	191
3. Three Claims of Intimate Knowledge of God to be Tested	
by Behavior (2:3-11)	247
4. Admonitions to Believers: Having Conquered the Evil One,	
They Must Resist the World (2:12-17)	293
5. Warning against the Secessionists as Antichrists who Deny	
the Son and the Father (2:18-27)	329
6. God's Children versus the Devil's Children (2:28-3:10)	378
PART TWO	437-604
7. The Gospel of Loving One Another (3:11-24)	439
8. The Spirits of Truth and of Deceit, and Their Respective	
Adherents (4:1-6)	485

	CONTENTS	xxi
-	Loving One Another as a Way of Abiding in and Loving	
	11 5 5.40)	512
10.	Faith as Conqueror of the World and the Role of Testimony	569
	(5:4b-12)	605-642
THE	CONCLUSION (5:13-21)	607
11.	The Conclusion (5:13-21)	
	THE SECOND EPISTLE OF JOHN	
12.	The Second Epistle	645-698
12.		
	THE THIRD EPISTLE OF JOHN	
12	The Third Epistle	699-752
15.	The Time Passe	
	APPENDIXES	
AD	pendix I: Charts	755
	Chart One: Similarities between II-III John and the	
	Other Johannine Writings	755
	Chart Two: Similarities between I John and GJohn	757
	Chart Three: Bultmann's Reconstructed Source for I John	760
	Chart Four: Epistolary Statements Pertinent to the	
	Adversaries' Views	762
	Chart Five: Sample Proposed Divisions of I John	764
	Chart Six: Outline of I John	765
Ap	pendix II: Cerinthus	766
Ap	pendix III: The Epistle(s) to the Parthians	772
Ap	pendix IV: The Johannine Comma	775
Ap	pendix V: General Observations on Epistolary Format	788
	INDEXES	
	Bibliographic Index of Authors	797
	Subject Index	804
	Index of Greek Words	011