

CONTENTS

<i>General Editors' Preface</i>	11
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	13
<i>Abbreviations</i>	15
<i>Bibliography</i>	19
<i>Introduction</i>	29
A. The Importance of Revelation	29
B. Authorship	30
C. Place and Date of Writing	31
D. Occasion and Purpose	33
E. Literary Features and Structure	33
F. Interpretive Perspectives	36
G. Theological Themes	38
H. The Text of Revelation	41
I. Prologue (1:1-20)	43
A. Title (1:1-2)	44
B. Beatitude (1:3)	46
C. Letter Opening (1:4a)	47
D. Benediction (1:4b-5a)	47
E. Doxology (1:5b-6)	48
F. Christ's Return and God's Words (1:7-8)	49
G. Inaugural Vision (1:9-20)	51
1. Setting (1:9-11)	51
2. Vision of Christ (1:12-20)	53
II. The Letters to the Seven Churches (2:1—3:22)	61
A. To the Church in Ephesus (2:1-7)	63
B. To the Church in Smyrna (2:8-11)	66
C. To the Church in Pergamum (2:12-17)	70
D. To the Church in Thyatira (2:18-29)	74
E. To the Church in Sardis (3:1-6)	79
F. To the Church in Philadelphia (3:7-13)	82
G. To the Church in Laodicea (3:14-22)	86
III. Worship in the Court of Heaven (4:1—5:14)	91
A. John's Heavenly Ascent (4:1-2a)	92
B. The Heavenly Throne Room (4:2b-8a)	93

C. Worship of God (4:8b-11)	97
1. Hymn of the Four Creatures (4:8b)	97
2. Response of the Twenty-Four Elders (4:9-11)	97
D. Worship of the Lamb and God (5:1-14)	99
1. Who Is Worthy? (5:1-4)	100
2. The Lamb Is Worthy (5:5-14)	101
a. Description and Action of the Lamb (5:5-7)	101
b. Praise from the Creatures and Elders (5:8-10)	103
c. Praise from the Angels (5:11-12)	104
d. Universal Doxology (5:13-14)	105
IV. Breaking Six Seals (6:1-17)	109
A. The First Four Seals: The Four Horsemen (6:1-8)	109
1. The White Horse (6:1-2)	110
2. The Red Horse (6:3-4)	112
3. The Black Horse (6:5-6)	112
4. The Pale Horse (6:7-8)	113
B. The Fifth Seal: The Martyrs' Cry for Vengeance (6:9-11)	114
1. The Setting (6:9)	115
2. The Prayer (6:10)	115
3. God's Response (6:11)	116
C. The Sixth Seal: The Day of Wrath (6:12-17)	117
1. Cosmic Upheavals (6:12-14)	117
2. Human Reactions (6:15-17)	118
V. First Interlude: Visions of Earth and Heaven (7:1-17)	121
A. Vision of Earth (7:1-8)	122
1. The Four Angels (7:1)	122
2. Angelic Speech (7:2-3)	123
3. Sealing of the 144,000 (7:4-8)	124
B. Vision of Heaven (7:9-17)	125
1. Heavenly Multitude (7:9-12)	125
2. Explanation (7:13-17)	127
VI. The Seventh Seal and Six Trumpets (8:1—9:21)	131
A. The Seventh Seal (8:1)	132
B. The Seven Trumpet Angels and Another Angel (8:2-5)	133
C. The First Four Trumpets (8:6-12)	135
1. Preparation (8:6)	135
2. The First Trumpet (8:7)	135
3. The Second Trumpet (8:8-9)	136
4. The Third Trumpet (8:10-11)	136
5. The Fourth Trumpet (8:12)	137
D. The Last Three Trumpets and Two Woes (8:13—9:21)	137
1. Preparation (8:13)	137
2. The Fifth Trumpet or First Woe (9:1-11)	138
a. The Abyss (9:1-2)	138

b. The Locusts' Power (9:3-5)	139
c. Human Suffering (9:6)	140
d. Description of the Locusts (9:7-10)	140
e. The King of the Locusts (9:11)	141
3. Transition (9:12)	142
4. The Sixth Trumpet or Second Woe (9:13-21)	143
a. Four Angels (9:13-15)	143
b. The Demonic Cavalry (9:16-21)	144
(I) Description and Activity (9:16-19)	144
(2) Human Response (9:20-21)	145
VII. Second Interlude (10:1—11:14)	149
A. The Mighty Angel and the Little Scroll (10:1-11)	150
1. The Descent of the Mighty Angel (10:1-3a)	150
2. The Seven Thunders (10:3b-4)	152
3. The Angel's Pronouncement (10:5-7)	153
4. John's Commission to Prophecy (10:8-11)	155
B. The Temple, Two Witnesses, and Two Woes (11:1-14)	159
1. Measuring the Temple (11:1-2)	159
2. The Two Witnesses (11:3-13)	164
a. Their Ministry (11:3-6)	164
b. Their Death (11:7-10)	166
c. Their Resurrection and Ascension (11:11-13)	170
3. Transition: The Third Woe (11:14)	172
VIII. The Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)	177
A. The Song of Victory (11:15)	178
B. The Response (11:16-18)	179
C. Transition: From Praise to Conflict (11:19)	181
IX. Conflict and Victory (12:1—14:20)	183
A. The Woman, the Dragon, and the Child (12:1-17)	184
1. Introduction of Two Great Signs (12:1-4a)	185
a. The First Sign: A Woman (12:1-2)	185
b. The Second Sign: A Dragon (12:3-4a)	186
2. The Child and the Woman's Flight (12:4b-6)	188
3. The Dragon's Defeat (12:7-9)	189
4. A Song of Victory (12:10-12)	191
5. The Dragon Pursues the Woman and Her Offspring (12:13-17)	194
B. Vision of Two Beasts (13:1-18)	199
1. Interlocking Transition (13:1a)	199
2. The Beast from the Sea (13:1b-10)	200
3. The Beast from the Earth (13:11-18)	205
X. Triumph and Judgment (14:1-20)	213
A. The Lamb and the 144,000 (14:1-5)	214
B. Three Angels (14:6-12)	217

C. Second Beatitude (14:13)	221
D. The Harvest of the Earth (14:14-20)	222
XI. The Seven Last Plagues (15:1—16:21)	229
A. Introduction to the Seven Angels Vision (15:1)	230
B. The Hymn of the Victorious Martyrs (15:2-4)	230
C. The Commission of the Seven Angels (15:5-8)	233
D. The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath (16:1-21)	235
1. The Commission (16:1)	235
2. The First Three Bowls (16:2-4)	236
3. Antiphonal Doxologies (16:5-7)	237
4. Fourth Bowl (16:8-9)	238
5. Fifth Bowl (16:10-11)	239
6. Sixth Bowl and Assembled Armies (16:12-16)	240
7. Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)	243
XII. Judgment (17:1—20:15)	247
A. The Judgment of Babylon (17:1—18:24)	247
1. Introduction to the Visions of Judgment (17:1-2)	248
2. Babylon the Great Prostitute (17:3-18)	250
a. Description of the Prostitute (17:3-6a)	250
b. Interpretation of the Vision (17:6b-18)	252
(1) The Interpretation of the Beast's Heads (17:6b-11)	252
(2) The Interpretation of the Beast's Horns (17:12-14)	255
(3) Interpretation of the Prostitute (17:15-18)	256
3. Babylon's Fall (18:1-24)	258
a. The Angel's Lament (18:1-3)	258
b. Call to Escape (18:4-8)	260
c. Earthly Laments (18:9-19)	262
(1) The Kings' Lament (18:9-10)	263
(2) The Merchants' Lament (18:11-17a)	263
(3) The Seamen's Lament (18:17b-19)	265
d. Call to Rejoice (18:20)	266
e. Babylon's Destruction (18:21-24)	266
B. Hallelujah Chorus (19:1-8)	270
1. Praise and Response (19:1-4)	271
2. Call to Praise and Response (19:5-8)	272
C. Interlocking Transition (19:9-10)	275
D. The Defeat of the Rest of God's Enemies (19:11—20:15)	277
1. Christ Defeats the Beast and His Armies (19:11-21)	277
a. The Victorious Christ Appears (19:11-16)	278
b. The Beast and His Armies Destroyed (19:17-21)	280
2. The Defeat of Satan (20:1-10)	282
a. Satan Is Bound (20:1-3)	283
b. A Millennial Reign (20:4-6)	284
c. Satan Is Destroyed (20:7-10)	286
3. Final Judgment (20:11-15)	287

XIII. The New Heaven and Earth (21:1—22:5)	291
A. The New Creation (21:1-8)	292
1. Two Visions (21:1-2)	292
2. The Voice from the Throne (21:3-4)	293
3. God's Voice (21:5-8)	294
B. The New Jerusalem (21:9—22:5)	297
1. Introduction (21:9-10)	297
2. General Description (21:11-21a)	298
a. External Description (21:11-14)	298
b. Measurements (21:15-17)	300
c. Materials (21:18-21a)	301
3. Internal Description (21:21b—22:5)	302
a. Gold and Light (21:21b-23)	302
b. The Nations and Open Gates (21:24-27)	303
c. The River of Life (22:1-5)	304
XIV. Epilogue (22:6-21)	309
A. Interlocking Transition (22:6-9)	310
B. Concluding Oracles (22:10-17)	311
1. Do Not Seal (22:10-11)	312
2. Christ Is Coming (22:12-13)	313
3. Beatitude (22:14-15)	313
4. Jesus' Verification (22:16)	314
5. Call to Come (22:17)	315
C. Final Warning and Affirmations (22:18-21)	316