

Contents

Acknowledgments	9
Abbreviations	11
Introduction	13
Notes 23	
1. Who Wrote the Book of Revelation?	25
The Historical Quest 25	
The Social Identity of the Author 34	
Conclusion 49	
Notes 50	
2. When Was Revelation Written?	54
External Evidence for the Date 54	
Internal Evidence for the Date 57	
The Name Babylon 57	
The Seven Kings 58	
The Temple in Jerusalem 64	
Domitian and the Christians 69	
The Seven Messages 73	
Conclusion 76	
Notes 78	
3. The Social Situation—Perceived Crisis	84
Elements of Crisis 84	
Conflict with Jews 85	
Mutual Antipathy Toward Neighboring Gentiles 87	

Conflict Over Wealth 88	
a. Resistance to Rome in the East 89	
b. Jewish Polemic Against Rome 90	
c. Social Unrest in Asia Minor 94	
Precarious Relations with Rome 97	
Experiences of Trauma 99	
Conclusion 104	
Notes 107	
4. Social Radicalism in the Apocalypse	111
The Theme of Persecution 111	
The First Cycle of Visions 112	
The Second Cycle of Visions 114	
Attitude Toward the Persecutors 116	
Literary Forms in Revelation 18 116	
The Portrayal of Rome in Revelation 17–18 121	
Christian Exclusivism 124	
Martyrdom and Virginitv 127	
Wealth 132	
John as Itinerant Prophet 134	
Notes 138	
5. The Power of Apocalyptic Rhetoric—Catharsis	141
What Ought to Be 142	
How the Apocalypse Creates Its Effect 144	
Narrative Techniques and Their Emotional Effect 145	
The Process of Catharsis 152	
Psychological Dynamics 154	
Conclusion 160	
Notes 161	
Conclusion	165
Notes 175	
Index	177