

R. ALAN CULPEPPER

Designs for the Church in the Gospel of John

*Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen
zum Neuen Testament*

465

Mohr Siebeck

Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament

Herausgeber/Editor

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465



R. Alan Culpepper

Designs for the Church in the Gospel of John

Collected Essays
1980–2020

Mohr Siebeck

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ISBN 978-3-16-160262-7 / eISBN 978-3-16-160263-4
DOI 10.1628/978-3-16-160263-4

ISSN 0512-1604 / eISSN 2568-7476
(Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament)

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie; detailed bibliographic data are available at <http://dnb.dnb.de>.

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The book was typeset by epline in Böblingen using Minion typeface, printed on non-aging paper by Gulde Druck in Tübingen, and bound by Buchbinderei Spinner in Ottersweier.

Printed in Germany.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	IX
Acknowledgments	XIX
List of First Publications	XXIII

Part I: Introduction

1. Pursuing the Elusive	3
2. John: Life Setting, Narrative Style, and Basic Themes	22
3. Inclusivism and Exclusivism in the Fourth Gospel	62
4. The Gospel of John as a Threat to Jewish-Christian Relations	84
5. Anti-Judaism in the Fourth Gospel as a Problem for Christian Interpreters	102

Part II: Tradition and Context

6. Jesus Sayings in the Johannine Discourses: A Proposal	125
7. Matthew and John: Reflections of Early Christianity in Relation to Judaism	148
8. The Relationship between the Gospel of John and 1 John	177

Part III: Literary Elements: Plot, Character, and Irony

9. The Plot of John's Story of Jesus	201
10. Cognition in John: The Johannine Signs as Recognition Scenes	212
11. The Weave of the Tapestry: Character and Theme in John	223
12. Nicodemus: The Travail of New Birth	242
13. Reading Johannine Irony	252

Part IV: The Prologue, Creation, and Creation Ethics

14. The Pivot of John's Prologue	269
15. The Prologue as Theological Prolegomenon to the Gospel of John . . .	301
16. Creation Ethics of the Gospel of John	323

Part V: John 2–13: Readings of Selected Texts

17. John 2:20, "Forty-Six Years": Revisiting J. A. T. Robinson's Chronology of Jesus' Ministry	345
18. John 4:35–38: Harvest Proverbs in the Context of John's Mission Theology	361
19. John 5:1–18: A Sample of Narrative-Critical Commentary	383
20. John 10:1–18: The Ethics of the Shepherd	396
21. Quotation as Commentary: The Good News of a King on a Donkey (John 12:12–15)	420
22. The Johannine <i>hypodeigma</i> : A Reading of John 13	447

Part VI: John 19–21: Designs for the Church

23. The Quest for the Church in the Gospel of John	456
24. Symbolism and History in John's Account of Jesus' Death	483
25. Designs for the Church in the Johannine Passion Narrative: John 19:16b–30	490
26. Designs for the Church in John 20:19–23	506
27. Designs for the Church in the Imagery of John 21:1–14	523
28. Why the Great Catch of Fish? Ecclesial Imagery in John 21	555
29. Peter as Exemplary Disciple in John 21:15–19	584
30. John 21:24–25: The Johannine <i>Sphragis</i>	599

Part VII: Theological Themes: Evil, Eschatology, and Judgment

31. The Problem of Evil in the Gospel of John	619
32. Realized Eschatology in the Experience of the Johannine Community	633
33. Jesus the Judge (John 5:21–30): The Theme of Judgment in the Gospel of John	656

Part VIII: Reflections

34. Afterword	687
Bibliography	693
Index of Ancient Sources	739
Index of Modern Authors	765

Abbreviations

General

anon.	anonymous
Aufl.	Auflage
Ch(s).	chapter(s)
comp.	compiled
FS	Festschrift
HB	Hebrew Bible
LXX	Septuagint
n.	note
n. F.	neue Folge
rpt.	reprint
s. v.	<i>sub verbo</i> , under the word

Modern Sources

AB	Anchor Bible
ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Edited by David Noel Freedman. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
ABR	<i>Australian Biblical Review</i>
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
AcBib	Academia Biblica
ACCS	Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture
ACNT	Augsburg Commentary on the New Testament
AcT	<i>Acta Theologica</i>
AcTSup	Acta Theologica Supplementum
AGJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
AmJT	<i>American Journal of Theology</i>
AnBib	Analecta Biblica
ANF	<i>Ante-Nicene Fathers</i>
ANTC	Abingdon New Testament Commentaries
AR	<i>Archiv für Religionswissenschaft</i>
ASV	American Standard Version
AThR	<i>Anglican Theological Review</i>
AThRSup	Anglican Theological Review Supplement Series

BBB	Bonner biblische Beiträge
BBR	<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research</i>
BDAG	Danker, Frederick W., Walter Bauer, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich, <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3 rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000 (Danker-Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich)
BECNT	Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
BETL	Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium
BEvT	Beiträge zur evangelischen Theologie
BFCT	Beiträge zur Förderung christlicher Theologie
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BibInt</i>	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
BibInt	Biblical Interpretation Series
<i>BibLeb</i>	<i>Bibel und Leben</i>
Bill.	See Str-B
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library</i>
<i>BK</i>	<i>Bibel und Kirche</i>
<i>BL</i>	<i>Bibel und Liturgie</i>
BMSEC	Baylor-Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity
<i>BN</i>	<i>Biblische Notizen</i>
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
<i>BR</i>	<i>Biblical Research</i>
<i>BRev</i>	<i>Bible Review</i>
<i>BSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i>
<i>BT</i>	<i>The Bible Translator</i>
BTB	Biblical Theology Bulletin
BU	Biblische Untersuchungen
BWANT	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBC	Cambridge Bible Commentary
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CCARJ</i>	<i>Central Conference of American Rabbis Journal</i>
<i>ChrCen</i>	<i>Christian Century</i>
CNT	Commentaire du Nouveau Testament
ConBNT	Coniectanea Neotestamentica or Coniectanea Biblica: New Testament Series
<i>CRBR</i>	<i>Critical Review of Books in Religion</i>
CSCO	Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium. Edited by Jean Baptiste Chabot et al. Paris, 1903.
<i>CurBR</i>	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>
<i>Di</i>	<i>Dialog</i>
<i>DRev</i>	<i>Downside Review</i>
EANEC	Explorations in Ancient Near Eastern Civilizations
ECC	Eerdmans Critical Commentary
ECL	Early Christianity and Its Literature
EJL	Early Judaism and Its Literature

EKKNT	Evangelisch-Katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
ESV	English Standard Version
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses</i>
<i>EvQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
<i>ExpTim</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
FB	Forschung zur Bibel
FC	Fathers of the Church
FCNTECW	Feminist Companion to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings
<i>FilINT</i>	<i>Filologia Neotestamentaria</i>
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten and Neuen Testaments
GBS	Guides to Biblical Scholarship
GNT	Grundrisse zum Neuen Testament
HAT	Handbuch zum Alten Testament
HBS	Herders biblische Studien
<i>HBT</i>	<i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>
<i>HeyJ</i>	<i>Heythrop Journal</i>
<i>HibJ</i>	<i>Hibbert Journal</i>
HNT	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
HNTC	Harper's New Testament Commentaries
HTCNT	Herders Theological Commentary on the New Testament
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HvTSt</i>	<i>HTS Theologese Studies/Theological Studies</i>
<i>IBS</i>	<i>Irish Biblical Studies</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>IDB</i>	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> . Edited by George A. Buttrick. 4 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1962.
<i>IDBSup</i>	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible: Supplementary Volume</i> . Edited by Keith Crim. Nashville: Abingdon, 1976.
<i>IDS</i>	<i>In die Skriflig/In Luce Verbi</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
<i>ISBE</i>	<i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i> . Revised edition. Edited by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979–1988.
<i>JAAR</i>	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JE</i>	<i>The Jewish Encyclopedia</i> . Edited by Isidore Singer. 12 vols. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1901–09.
<i>JES</i>	<i>Journal of Ecumenical Studies</i>
<i>JETS</i>	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JMS	Johannine Monograph Series
<i>JSHJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSNTSup</i>	Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KEK	Kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament (Meyer-Kommentar)

KJV	King James Version
LB	<i>Linguistica Biblica</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LEC	Library of Early Christianity
LTJ	<i>Lutheran Theological Journal</i>
LUT	Luther Bible (1984)
<i>Mnemosyne</i>	<i>Mnemosyne: A Journal of Classical Studies</i>
MNTC	Moffatt New Testament Commentary
<i>MScRel</i>	<i>Mélanges de science religieuse</i>
MTZ	<i>Münchener Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
NA	Nestle-Aland. <i>Novum Testamentum Graece</i> . Edited by Barbara and Kurt Aland and Carlo M. Martini. 27 th ed. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1993; 28 th ed., 2012.
NAB	New American Bible
NAC	New American Commentary
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NCB	New Century Bible
<i>Neot</i>	<i>Neotestamentica</i>
NET	New English Translation
NIBCNT	New International Biblical Commentary on the New Testament
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
<i>NIDB</i>	<i>The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> . Edited by Katharine Doob Sakenfeld. 5 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006–2009.
NIV	New International Version
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible
NLB	Neue Luther Bible
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Supplements to Novum Testamentum
<i>NPNF</i> ¹	<i>Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i> , Series 1
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NTA	<i>New Testament Abstracts</i>
NTAbh	Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen
NTL	The New Testament Library
NTOA	Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
NTTS	New Testament Tools and Studies
OBT	Overtures to Biblical Theology
ÖTK	Ökumenischer Taschenbuch-Kommentar
<i>OTP</i>	<i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> . Edited by James H. Charlesworth. 2 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1983, 1985
PG	Patrologia Graeca [= <i>Patrologiae Cursus Completus</i> : Series Graeca]. Edited by Jacques-Paul Migne. 162 vols. Paris, 1857–1886.
PL	Patrologia Latina [= <i>Patrologiae Cursus Completus</i> : Series Latina]. Edited by Jacques-Paul Migne. 217 vols. Paris, 1844–1864.
<i>PMLAA</i>	<i>Publications of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
PO	Patrologia Orientalis
<i>PRSt</i>	<i>Perspectives in Religious Studies</i>
PTMS	Pittsburgh Theological Monograph Series

RAC	<i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum</i> . Edited by Theodor Klauser et al. Stuttgart: Hiersemann, 1950-
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RBL	<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>
RBS	Resources for Biblical Study
RE	<i>Realencyklopädie für protestantische Theologie und Kirche</i>
RelSRev	<i>Religious Studies Review</i>
ResQ	<i>Restoration Quarterly</i>
RevExp	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
RevistB	<i>Revista bíblica</i>
RevScRel	<i>Revue des sciences religieuses</i>
RHPR	<i>Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses</i>
RivB	<i>Rivista biblica italiana</i>
RNT	Regensburger Neues Testament
RSR	<i>Recherches de science religieuse</i>
RSV	Revised Standard Version
RThom	<i>Revue thomiste</i>
SANT	Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testaments
SBAB	Stuttgarter biblische Aufsatzbände
SBFLA	<i>Studii Biblici Franciscani Liber Annus</i>
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBLStBL	Society of Biblical Literature Studies in Biblical Literature
SBS	Stuttgarter Bibelstudien
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
SC	Sources Chrétiennes
Scr	<i>Scripture</i>
ScrB	<i>Scripture Bulletin</i>
SE I	<i>Studia Evangelica I, II</i> (= TU 73 [1959], 87 [1964])
SHBC	Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary
SJLA	Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity
SJT	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SNTSU	Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt
SNTW	Studies of the New Testament and Its World
SP	Sacra Pagina
SPAW	<i>Sitzungsberichte der preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften</i>
SR	<i>Studies in Religion</i>
ST	<i>Studia Theologica</i>
StBibLit	Studies in Biblical Literature (Lang)
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
Str-B	Strack, Herman L., and Paul Billerbeck. <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Mishnah</i> . 6 vols. Munich: Beck, 1922–1961
SVTQ	<i>St. Vladimir's Theological Quarterly</i>
SymS	Symposium Series
TBei	<i>Theologische Beiträge</i>
TBT	<i>The Bible Today</i>

TDNT	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Edited by Gerhard Kittel and Gerhard Friedrich. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley. 10 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964–76.
TGI	<i>Theologie und Glaube</i>
Them	<i>Themelios</i>
Theo	<i>Theologika</i>
THKNT	Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament
TJ	<i>Trinity Journal</i>
TLZ	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries
TRu	<i>Theologische Rundschau</i>
TS	<i>Theological Studies</i>
TynBul	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
TZ	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
UBSHS	United Bible Societies Handbook Series
VD	<i>Verbum Domini</i>
VerbEcc	<i>Verbum et ecclesia</i>
VetChrist	<i>Vetera Christianorum</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZBK	Zürcher Bibelkommentare
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZRGG	<i>Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte</i>
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>
ZWT	<i>Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Theologie</i>

Ancient Sources

Old Testament Pseudepigrapha

Apoc. Adam	Apocalypse of Adam
2 Bar.	2 Baruch
1 En.	1 Enoch
2 En.	2 Enoch
Jos. Asen.	Joseph and Aseneth
Jub.	Jubilees
Let. Aris.	Letter of Aristeas
Mart. Ascen. Isa.	Martyrdom and Ascension of Isaiah
Pr. Jac.	Prayer of Jacob
Ps. Philo	Pseudo-Philo
Pss. Sol.	Psalms of Solomon
Sib. Or.	Sibylline Oracles
T. 12 Patr.	Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs
T. Asher	Testament of Asher

T. Gad	Testament of Gad
T. Jud.	Testament of Judah
T. Levi	Testament of Levi
T. Naph.	Testament of Naphtali
T. Reu.	Testament of Reuben
T. Ab.	Testament of Abraham
T. Adam	Testament of Adam
T. Job	Testament of Job
T. Sol.	Testament of Solomon

Dead Sea Scrolls

1QH	Hymn Scroll
1QM	War Scroll
1QpHab	Peshier Habakkuk
1QS	Manual of Discipline
1QSb	Manual of Discipline (appendix b)
3Q15	Copper Scroll
4Q252	Commentary on Genesis A
4Q385	Pseudo-Ezekiel
4Q521	On Resurrection
4QpIs ^a	Peshier Isaiah ^a
CD	Damascus Document

Rabbinic Texts

ARN	Avot de R. Nathan
b.	Babylonian Talmud
B. Bat.	Baba Batra
B. K.	See B. Qam.
B. M.	See B. Mes.
B. Mes.	Baba Metzi'a
B. Qam.	Baba Qamma
Ber.	Berakhot
Deut. Rab.	Deuteronomy Rabbah
Exod. R.	See Exod. Rab.
Exod. Rab.	Exodus Rabbah
Gen R.	See Gen. Rab.
Gen. Rab.	Genesis Rabbah
Ket.	See Ketub.
Ketub.	Ketubbot
Kidd.	See Qidd.
m.	Mishnah
Midr.	Midrash
Pes.	Pesahim
Pesiq. Rabb.	Pesiqta Rabbati
Qidd.	Qiddushin
R. Sh.	See Roš Haš.

Roš Haš.	Rosh Hasanah
Ruth R.	Ruth Rabbah
Šabb.	Shabbat
Sanh.	Sanhedrin
T.	Tosefta
Yeb.	See Yebam.
Yebam.	Yebamot

Apostolic Fathers

Did.	Didache
Diogn.	Diognetus
Herm. Vis.	Shepherd of Hermas, Vision(s)
Ign. Eph.	Ignatius, <i>To the Ephesians</i>
Ign. Phld.	Ignatius, <i>To the Philadelphians</i>
Ign. Smyrn.	Ignatius, <i>To the Smyrneans</i>
Mart. Pol.	Martyrdom of Polycarp

Nag Hammadi Codices

Dial. Sav.	Dialogue of the Savior
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New Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Ap. Jas.	Apocryphon of James
Gos. Heb.	Gospel of the Hebrews
Gos. Thom.	Gospel of Thomas

Papyri

POxy1	Oxyrhynchus Papyrus 1
POxy654	Oxyrhynchus Papyrus 654
POxy655	Oxyrhynchus Papyrus 655
P Oxy840	Oxyrhynchus Papyrus 840

Greek and Latin Works

Augustine	
<i>Serm.</i>	<i>Sermons</i>
<i>Tract. Ev. Jo.</i>	<i>Tractates on the Gospel of John</i>
Aulus Gellius	
<i>Noct. Att.</i>	<i>Attic Nights</i>
Chariton	
<i>Chaer.</i>	<i>Chaereas and Callirhoe</i>
Chrysostom	
<i>Hom. Jo.</i>	<i>Homilies in John</i>

Clement of Alexandria

Ecl. *Extracts from the Prophets**Paed.* *Paedagogus*

Cyril of Alexandria

In Jo. lib. *Commentary on the Gospel of St. John*

Dionysius of Halicarnassus

Ant. rom. *Roman Antiquities**Thuc.* *On Thucydides*

Eusebius

Hist. eccl. *Ecclesiastical History*

Homer

Od. *Odyssey*

Irenaeus

Haer. *Against Heresies*

Josephus

Ant. *Antiquities of the Jews*

Justin

Apol. *Apology**Dial.* *Dialogue with Trypho*

Lucian

Ver. hist. *A True Story*

Minucius Felix

Oct. *Octavius*

Origen

Comm. Jo. *Commentary on the Gospel of John**Comm. Matt.* *Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew**Hom. Jer.* *Homilies on Jeremiah**Hom. Lev.* *Homilies on Leviticus*

Philo

Agr. *On Agriculture**Cher.* *On the Cherubim**Confusion* *On the Confusion of Tongues**Leg.* *Allegorical Interpretation**Mos.* *On the Life of Moses**Plant.* *On Planting**QE* *Questions and Answers on Exodus**QG* *Questions and Answers on Genesis**Sobriety* *On Sobriety**Spec. Laws* *On the Special Laws*

Pindar

Ol. *Olympian Odes*

Plato	
<i>Apol.</i>	<i>Apology</i>
<i>Gorg.</i>	<i>Gorgias</i>
Pliny	
<i>Nat.</i>	<i>Natural History</i>
Plutarch	
<i>Ant.</i>	<i>Antonius</i>
<i>Mor.</i>	<i>Moralia</i>
Seneca	
<i>Nat.</i>	<i>Natural Questions</i>
Tertullian	
<i>An.</i>	<i>The Soul</i>
<i>Bapt.</i>	<i>On Baptism</i>
<i>Marc.</i>	<i>Against Marcion</i>
<i>Pud.</i>	<i>Modesty</i>
<i>Res.</i>	<i>The Resurrection of the Flesh</i>
Theodore of Mopsuestia	
<i>Com. Jo.</i>	<i>Commentary on John</i>
Xenophon	
<i>Cyr.</i>	<i>Cyropaedia</i>
<i>Mem.</i>	<i>Memorabilia</i>

Acknowledgments

Gordon Kaufman claims, with good reason, that there are three things whose origin we cannot explain: the universe, life, and ideas.¹ While I have no scientific credentials, I can give first-hand, anecdotal testimony regarding the third of these mysteries. Ideas, our capacity for creativity, I believe, come in large measure from our interaction with others, and in this regard, I have been uncommonly blessed. The ideas I have published over the past forty-five years reflect the teaching, example, collaboration, and give and take of education, teaching, reading, and conversation throughout the course of my life. It would therefore be impossible to trace out every suggestion, encouragement, correction, and intellectual debt that has shaped the pages of this volume.

My parents both had a liberal arts education. My mother took courses in Bible and theology before women could enroll in a theological degree program at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where my father studied Greek with Hershey Davis shortly after A. T. Robertson's death. Later, he read the New Testament in Greek twelve times and worked through Robertson's "Big Grammar" three times, once taking each entry in the scripture index and looking up every reference, from Matthew through Revelation, while they were prisoners of war in the Philippines (1941–1945).² Eventually, he earned a Th.D. in Theology and continued to read his Greek New Testament for a few minutes every day. I have often wished he had been able to pass on his knowledge of Greek genetically!

As an undergraduate at Baylor University, I was introduced to biblical studies by Bob Patterson and Ray Summers. My theological training at Southern allowed me to waive introductory courses and concentrate in New Testament and Greek, including my first courses in the Gospel of John and the writings of Rudolf Bultmann (William E. Hull); Jewish and Hellenistic Backgrounds and Paul (Harold S. Songer); and 1 Corinthians, Revelation, and Textual Criticism (Frank Stagg). At Duke, the riches continued with seminars from Orval Wintermute, Roland Murphy, Eric Meyers, James Charlesworth, James Price, Franklin Young, W. D. Davies, and Moody Smith. Moody later nominated me for membership in SNTS, and remained a mentor and friend until his death. Friendships with

¹ Gordon D. Kaufman, *In the Beginning ... Creativity* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2004), 76, 81.

² See R. Alan Culpepper, "Eternity as a Sunrise": *The Life of Hugo H. Culpepper* (Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2002).

fellow graduate students from that era, especially David Rhoads and Beverly Gaventa, have continued across the years.

For the first seventeen years of my teaching career, I was challenged by my colleagues in the weekly meetings of the New Testament department graduate colloquium. During this period, my colleagues included George Beasley-Murray, James Blevins, David Garland, Bill Hull, Peter Rhea Jones, Roger Omanson, Harold Songer, and Frank Staggs, with extended visits by Eduard Schweizer and endowed lectures by many of the luminaries in New Testament scholarship. I owe my cadre of graduate students during those years and at Baylor a special tribute. At Baylor my work was enriched especially by Mikeal Parsons and Naymond Keathley, and at the McAfee School of Theology by Paul Duke, Peter Rhea Jones, and Tom Slater.

The Society of Biblical Literature and the Society for New Testament Studies broadened my perspectives and introduced me to circles of scholarship that have continued to stimulate new ideas, diverse perspectives, and opportunities for international travel, study, and collaboration. The Literary Aspects of the Gospels and Acts Group, and extended conversations with David Rhoads and Frank Kermode, introduced me to narrative criticism. Friendships formed in the international “Johanneische Schule” enriched both scholarship and life. The Johannine Seminar of the SNTS and the Johannine Literature and the John, Jesus, and History sections of the SBL provided venues for stimulating conversations. My indebtedness to senior colleagues, especially Raymond E. Brown, J. Louis Martyn, and to friends, especially Paul Anderson, Clifton Black, Gene Boring, Bob Kysar, Frank Moloney, Gail O’Day, John Painter, Fernando Segovia, Jan van der Watt, and Urban von Wahlde, is amply documented in the footnotes of these essays, but my gratitude for their friendship defies expression. The invitation to participate in the Christian Leaders Initiative sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the Shalom Hartman Institute opened a range of new perspectives, friendships, and opportunities for collaboration, for which I am especially grateful to Noam Marans, Donniel Hartman, Noam Zion, and Peter Pettit. Since its first biennial meeting in 2013, the Colloquium Ioanneum has provided sustained discussions with leading Johannine scholars from around the world, and the Colloquium was the original the venue for some of the more recent essays in this volume. To each I express my gratitude and appreciation for vigorous discussion, encouragement, and genuine friendship: Jörg Frey, Christos Karakolis, Craig Koester, Bill Loader, George Parsenios, Adele Reinhartz, Udo Schnelle, Michael Theobald, Marianne Thompson, François Tolmie, Jan van der Watt, Catrin Williams, Ruben Zimmermann, and Jean Zumstein.

Special thanks go to Jörg Frey, Elena Müller, and Tobias Stäbler for the invitation to collect and publish these essays in the WUNT series and for their guidance and wise counsel in the process. The libraries at the Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary, Baylor University, Mercer University, and the Pitts Theological Library at Emory University have all provided wonderful assistance, without which I would not have had access to essential research material.

None of this would have been possible, of course, without the love and support of my wife, Jacque, who supported me while I was a student and typed my dissertation and countless other manuscripts, including keying in again some of the essays in this volume that we produced before our first computer. Jacque typed dissertations and checked dissertations for form and style at Southern. She taught at every level from middle school through the graduate school in Education and completed the Ph.D. in Education at the University of Georgia. She cared for our children and later our parents while I worked, endured my travel to conferences, and shared the stresses of my years in academic administration. The list could go on, but in the end words do not suffice, and it is her love, enriched through over a half a century of shared life, that I celebrate most.

R. Alan Culpepper
December 2020

Hartwell, Georgia

List of First Publications

We gratefully acknowledge the permission to reprint previously published material in this volume. The following include the sources of that permission.

1. "Pursuing the Elusive." Pages 109–21 in *What We Have Heard from the Beginning: The Past, Present, and Future of Johannine Studies*. Edited by Tom Thatcher. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2007. Revised from the original publication.
2. "John: Life Setting, Narrative Style, and Basic Themes." Originally published as: "John." Pages 203–28 in *The Books of the Bible, vol. 2: The Apocrypha and the New Testament*. Edited by Bernhard W. Anderson. New York: Scribner's Sons, 1989.
3. "Inclusivism and Exclusivism in the Fourth Gospel." Pages 85–108 in *Word, Theology and Community in John*. Edited by John Painter, R. Alan Culpepper, and Fernando F. Segovia. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2002.
4. "The Gospel of John as a Threat to Jewish-Christian Relations." Pages 21–43 in *Overcoming Fear between Jews and Christians*, ed. James H. Charlesworth. New York: Crossroad, 1993.
5. "Anti-Judaism in the Fourth Gospel as a Problem for Christian Interpreters." Pages 68–91 in *Anti-Judaism and the Fourth Gospel: Papers of the Leuven Colloquium, 2000*. Edited by R. Bieringer, D. Pollefeyt, and F. Vandecasteele-Vanneuville. Assen, The Netherlands: Royal Van Gorcum, 2001.
6. "Jesus Sayings in the Johannine Discourses: A Proposal." Pages 353–82 in *Jesus, John, and History: Aspects of Historicity*, vol. 3. Edited by Paul Anderson. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 2016.
7. "Matthew and John: Reflections of Early Christianity in Relation to Judaism." Pages 189–219 in *John and Judaism: A Contested Relationship in Context*. Edited by R. Alan Culpepper and Paul N. Anderson. RBS 87. Atlanta: SBL Press, 2017.
8. "The Relationship between the Gospel of John and 1 John." Pages 95–119 in *Communities in Dispute: Current Scholarship on the Johannine Epistles*.

- Edited by R. Alan Culpepper and Paul N. Anderson. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 2014.
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 14. "The Pivot of John's Prologue." *New Testament Studies* 27 (1980): 1–31.
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 16. "Creation Ethics of the Gospel of John." Pages 67–90 in *Johannine Ethics: The Moral World of the Gospel and Epistles of John*. Edited by Sherri Brown and Christopher W. Skinner. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2017.
 17. "John 2:20, 'Forty-Six Years': Revisiting J.A. T. Robinson's Chronology of Jesus' Ministry." Pages 142–54 in *Jesus Research: The Gospel of John in Historical Inquiry*. Edited by James H. Charlesworth and Jolyon G. R. Pruzinski. London: T&T Clark, 2019.
 18. "John 4:35–38: Harvest Proverbs in the Context of John's Mission Theology." Pages 199–218 in *Expressions of the Johannine Kerygma in John 2:23–5:18*. Edited by R. Alan Culpepper and Jörg Frey. WUNT 423. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019.
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 27. “Designs for the Church in the Imagery of John 21:1–14.” Pages 369–402 in *Imagery in the Gospel of John: Terms, Forms, Themes and Theology of Figurative Language*. Edited by Jörg Frey, Jan G. van der Watt, and Ruben Zimmermann. WUNT 200. Tübingen: Mohr, 2006.
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 29. “Peter as Exemplary Disciple in John 21:15–19.” *Perspectives in Religious Studies* 37 (2010): 165–78.
 30. “John 21:24–25: The Johannine *Sphragis*.” Pages 349–64 in *John, Jesus, and History: Aspects of Historicity*, vol. 2. Edited by Paul Anderson. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 2009.

31. "The Problem of Evil in the Gospel of John." Pages 59–72 in *Interpretation and the Claims of the Text: Resourcing New Testament Theology*. Edited by Jason A. Whitlark et al. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2014.
32. "Realized Eschatology in the Experience of the Johannine Community." Pages 253–76 in *The Resurrection of Jesus in the Gospel of John*. Edited by Craig R. Koester and Reimund Bieringer. WUNT 222. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008.
33. "Jesus the Judge (John 5:21–30): The Theme of Judgment in the Gospel of John." Pages 59–86 in *Signs and Discourses in John 5 and 6: Historical, Literary, and Theological Readings from the Colloquium Ioanneum 2019 in Eisenach*. Edited by Jörg Frey and Craig R. Koester. WUNT 463 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2021).
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Part I

Introduction

1. Pursuing of the Elusive: Reflections on Five Decades of Interpreting the Gospel of John¹

One morning, while I was writing this essay for its original publication, I ran several miles of the Longleaf Trace outside of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, a beautiful asphalt path through the woods of southern Mississippi. The path is straight and flat, mileage is noted every half a mile, rest stations at regular intervals offer restrooms and water, and various species of trees are labeled along the way. It is a beautiful place for runners, walkers, and cyclists. In contrast, the path of my experience in studying the Gospel of John has been marked by sharp turns, surprising new vistas, and constant uncertainty about what I was seeing. In short, studying John has been an expedition into still uncertain territory rather than a jog over a measured course.

The trek started in my first semester of Master of Divinity studies (1967), when I took an elective on John from William E. Hull and read the first volume of Raymond E. Brown's commentary. The cocktail of an engaging professor delivering beautifully prepared lectures, a masterful commentary surveying Johannine scholarship and astutely engaging John's setting, literary artistry, and theology, and the intriguing challenges of this "spiritual" (Clement of Alexandria), "maverick" (Robert Kysar) gospel proved to be irresistibly seductive. I began a lifelong love affair with the Fourth Gospel, which continued with graduate seminars on John from Hull, James Price, and Moody Smith and a dissertation on John.

1. *The 1970s: Laying a Foundation*

Early on, I decided that I might never write a full-scale commentary on John (after Bultmann, Barrett, Brown, and Schnackenburg, another commentary on John hardly seemed to be needed – though many fine commentaries on John

¹ Parts of this essay were first published as "Pursuing the Elusive," in *What We Have Heard from the Beginning: The Past, Present, and Future of Johannine Studies*, ed. Tom Thatcher (Waco: Baylor University Press, 2007), 109–21. © 2007. Reprinted by permission of the publisher; all rights reserved. The essay has been revised extensively to serve as an introduction for this volume.