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Consultations: MWF 4–4:50 p.m.

GREEK 411R: JOHANNINE WRITINGS

Winter 2003

MWF 9–9:50 a.m.

(v. 3.2)

Course Description: This semester Greek 411R will study the New Testament books of the Johannine corpus. This body of writings—consisting of the Fourth Gospel, three letters or “epistles,” and the Apocalypse—derives its authority from its ascription to the Beloved Disciple, a figure which latter-day revelation confirms was the apostle John. Modern biblical scholarship suggests that the original ideas, and perhaps texts or *Grundschriften*, were then transmitted through disciples and later followers of the Beloved Disciple, the so-called Johannine Community, and that the experiences of this early group of Christians affected the redaction and final form of the texts.

The position taken in this class is that all of the canonical Johannine writings, regardless of issues of redaction and development, are scriptural and contain the word of God. Our goal, in addition to becoming proficient in translating the texts, is to understand and become conversant with scholarly arguments while balancing them with the writings and contributions of LDS authorities and authors. References from the Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants will be cited when applicable.

We shall begin our study by first exploring the nature of the received texts—including their language, transmission, and generic forms—and shall then proceed to examine the figure of the Beloved Disciple and then scholarly reconstructions of the theoretical Johannine Community. The bulk of the semester will be engaged in translating and *studying* the major writings of the corpus, following the presumed order of composition (or at least their time of completion). Unless otherwise noted, all primary readings will be done in Greek.

This Course at BYU: According to the university document “The Aims of a BYU Education,” your experience on campus and in this classroom should be spiritually strengthening, intellectually enlarging, character building, and lead to lifelong learning and service. Additionally, your instructor is committed to creating and maintaining a class room environment that will foster respect and excitement about learning while being conducive to the expression of gospel principles.

Students, too, have a responsibility in maintaining a positive class room experience. Since so much of our time this semester will be involved in oral translation and class discussion, it is imperative that students be courteous and helpful to each other.

This course will provide us with a particular opportunity to study not only the Greek in which the Johannine Writings were composed, but the theology that they contain. Although secondary readings will acquaint students with secular biblical scholarship—and hopefully they will learn something beneficial thereby—they are not intended or viewed as necessarily definitive. The teachings of latter-day prophets and apostles will be admitted as authoritative and decisive. More importantly, the individual student will hopefully have the text and its meaning unfolded by the Spirit as he or she carefully—and prayerfully—studies the Johannine corpus.

Texts: The following texts are available in the B.Y.U. Bookstore and will be used regularly throughout the class:

Brown, Raymond E. *The Community of the Beloved Disciple*. New York: Paulist Press, 1979. ISBN 0809121743 [Brown CBD]

The Greek New Testament. Edited by Aland *et al.* Fourth edition, revised. United Bible Societies, 1993. ISBN 3438051109 [UBS⁴]

Jesus in the Johannine Tradition. Edited by Robert T. Fortna and Tom Thatcher. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1989. ISBN 0-664-22219-6. [JJT]

The Testimony of John the Beloved. The 27th Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium. American Fork, Utah: Deseret Book, 1998. ISBN 1-57345-448-6 [TJB Sperry]

Wallace, Daniel B. *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1997. ISBN 0310218950 [Wallace GGBB]

The next five, although not required, are highly recommended, and Draper and Hall are being held in the reserve library:

Draper, Richard D. *Opening the Seven Seals: The Visions of John the Revelator*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book Co., 1991. ISBN 0875795471 [Draper OSS]

Duckwitz, Norbert H.O. *Reading the Gospel of St. John in Greek: A Beginning*. Caratzas, 2002. ISBN: 0-89241-591-6

Gingrich, F. Wilbur. *Shorter Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. 2nd Edition, revised by Wilbur Danker. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983. ISBN: 0226136132.

Hall, John F. *New Testament Witnesses of Christ: Peter, John, James, and Paul*. Salt Lake City: Covenant Communications, 2002. ISBN 1591561183 [Hall NTWC]

Mounce, William D. *The Analytical Lexicon to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993. ISBN: 0310542103

Additionally, the following are important references and commentaries, some of which are being held on reserve or can be found in the Ancient Studies Room:

Acts to Revelation. Edited by Robert L. Millett. Studies in Scripture vol. 6. Salt Lake City: Utah: Deseret Book, 1987. [SS 6]

The Anchor Bible Dictionary. Edited by D.N. Freedman *et al.* 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992. [ABD, cited by author and article title; Ancient Studies Room]

Bauer, W., F.W. Danker, W.F. Arndt, and F.W. Gingrich, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Third Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. [BDAG; Ancient Studies Room]

Beale, G.K. *The Book of Revelation*. The New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1999. ISBN 0-8028-2174-X

Blass, Debrunner, and R.W. Funk. *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Translated and edited by Robert W. Funk. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961. [BDF; on reserve]

Brown, Raymond E. *The Epistles of John*. The Anchor Bible 30. New York: Doubleday, 1982. ISBN 0-385-05686-9 [Brown *EJ*; on reserve, Ancient Studies Room]

———. *The Gospel According to John*. 2 vols. The Anchor Bible 29–29A. New York: Doubleday, 1966. ISBN 0-385-01517-8, 0-385-03761-9 [Brown *GJ*; on reserve, Ancient Studies Room]

———. *Gospel and Epistles of John: A Concise Commentary*. Collegeville, Minn.: The Liturgical Press, 1988. ISBN 0-8146-1283-0

———. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Anchor Bible Reference Library. New York: Doubleday, 1997. ISBN 0385247672. [Brown *INT*; on reserve]

Bruce, F.F. *The Epistles of John: Introduction, Exposition, and Notes*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1979. ISBN 0802817831 [Bruce *EJ*]

———. *The Gospel of John: Introduction, Exposition, and Notes*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1983. ISBN 0-8028-0883-2 [Bruce, *GJ*]

Culpepper, R. Alan. *John, the son of Zebedee: The Life of a Legend*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000. ISBN 0-8006-3167-6

Ford, J. Massyngberde. *Revelation*. The Anchor Bible 38. New York: Doubleday, 1975. ISBN 0-385-00895-3 [Ford *Rev*; on reserve, Ancient Studies Room]

The Gospels. Edited by Kent. P. Jackson and Robert L. Millet. Studies in Scriptures vol. 5. Salt Lake City, Utah, 1986. [SS 5]

The Harper Collins Study Bible, NRSV. Wayne A. Meeks, general editor. Harper Collins Publisher, 1993.

Lindars, Barnabas; Ruth B. Edwards, and John M. Court. *The Johannine Literature*. Sheffield, England : Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.

Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to John*. Revised Edition. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1995. ISBN 0-8028-2504-4

Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*. Revised Edition. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1997. ISBN 0802825370

Osborne, Grant R. *Revelation*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2002. ISBN 0-8010-2299-1

Painter, John. *The Quest for the Messiah: the History, Literature, and Theology of the Johannine Community*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993. ISBN 0687351537

Revelation: Four Views: A Parallel Commentary. Edited by Steven Gregg. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1997. ISBN 0840721285.

The SBL Handbook of Style, for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies. Edited by Patrick H. Alexander, *et al.* Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2002. [SBL HS]

Note that several of the commentaries are from important series, i.e. The Anchor Bible, The New International Greek Testament Commentary, and the New International Commentary on the New Testament, series with which you should become familiar.

For their own study, Latter-day Saints will find an English edition of the epistles that includes the JST useful—e.g., Steven and Julie Hite’s, *The New Testament with the Joseph Smith Translation*.

On-line Resources: Students are also encouraged to access the course Blackboard module, where announcements, class presentations, handouts, and other materials will be available. To use Blackboard, one should log onto Route Y and then click the Blackboard Courses link listed under “School.” If a student is enrolled in the course, then “Greek 411R Johannine Writings” should then appear as a subsequent link. Grades on assignments will be entered in the Blackboard spreadsheet within one week of their return to students; they should check each assignment after that time to confirm that scores have been recorded accurately.

Pertinent websites include <http://clawww.lmu.edu/faculty/fjust/John.htm>, <http://www.fourthgospel.com/>, <http://bellarmine.lmu.edu/~fjust/John/SBL.html>, <http://150.208.102.2/rfoster/john.htm>.

Requirements: The student should come prepared each day having already translated the assigned Greek passages and having completed any secondary readings. Exams, reports, and the paper are due when scheduled, and late work will not be accepted. Only in cases of extreme duress (in medical cases with a physician’s note) will the instructor make exceptions. B.Y.U. dress, grooming, and behavior standards will be enforced. Grades will be calculated by the following formula:

Class translation, discussion, and participation	10%
Book Report	5%
Research Paper	20%
Midterm Examination	25%
Final Examination	40%

The book report is something less than a seminar report and is intended to familiarize the class with works that we cannot all read this semester. Each presenter will provide the class with a printed précis that will give the background of the author, identify his or her target audience, outline the work (taken largely from the table of contents), and summarize the thesis of the book and its major arguments. The verbal presentation should take no more than 7–10 minutes. The paper will be a

detailed study of a passage or issue, the topic of which must be cleared with the teacher. Examinations will consist of passages that students will translate and for which they will provide grammatical and theological commentary. They will also include an essay or essays that will address, briefly, important topics discussed in class.

B.Y.U. dress, grooming, and behavior standards will be enforced.

The standard scale will be 93-100% A, 90-92% A-, 88-89% B+, 83-87% B, 80-82% B-, *u.s.w.* ***Students are responsible for the grades that they earn; if one needs a certain grade for academic reasons, then he or she should plan accordingly.*** There will be no extra credit.

Readings Key

ABD	Anchor Bible Dictionary	Draper OSS	<i>Opening the Seven Seals: The Visions of John the Revelator</i>
BDAG	Bauer, W., F.W. Danker, W.F. Arndt, and F.W. Gingrich, <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i>	Ford Rev	<i>Revelation</i> (The Anchor Bible 38)
		Gregg	<i>Revelation: Four Views: A Parallel Commentary</i>
BDF	Blass, Debrunner, and R.W. Funk. <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i>	Hall NTWC	<i>New Testament Witnesses of Christ: Peter, John, James, and Paul</i>
Beale	<i>The Book of Revelation</i>	JJT	<i>Jesus in the Johannine Tradition</i>
Brown CBD	<i>The Community of the Beloved Disciple</i>	JL	Lindars, Edwards, and Court. <i>The Johannine Literature</i>
Brown EJ	<i>The Epistles of John</i> (The Anchor Bible 30)	Mounce	<i>The Book of Revelation</i>
Brown GJ	<i>The Gospel According to John</i> (The Anchor Bible 29-29A)	Osborne	<i>Revelation</i>
Brown INT	<i>Introduction to the New Testament</i>	SS 5	<i>The Gospels</i> (Studies in Scriptures vol. 5)
Bruce EJ	<i>The Epistles of John: Introduction, Exposition, and Notes</i>	TJB Sperry	<i>The Testimony of John the Beloved</i> (27 th Annual Sidney B. Sperry Symposium)
Bruce GJ	<i>The Gospel of John: Introduction, Exposition, and Notes</i>	Wallace	<i>Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics</i>
Culpepper	<i>John, the son of Zebedee: the Life of a Legend</i>		

CLASS SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical readings are to be done in Greek.

M06Jan	Introduction.
W08Jan	Origins and Nature of the New Testament: Brown <i>INT</i> , 3-47.
F10Jan	Language and Text: Brown <i>INT</i> , 48-54; USB ⁴ , 1*-52* (skim tables); Wallace <i>GGBB</i> , 14-30, look over 726-64; BDAG, xi-xxviii, review table of contents.; BDF, 1-6.
M13Jan	The Figure of John. Collins, "John (Disciple)," <i>ABD</i> 3.883-886; Brooks, <i>TJB</i> Sperry, 1-15; Claybaugh, <i>TJB</i> Sperry 16-35; Culpepper, 7-55; Hall <i>NTWC</i> , 105-136; Brown <i>CBD</i> , 31-34; Thatcher, <i>JJT</i> , 91-99.
W15Jan	The Johannine Community. Brown <i>CBD</i> , 13-91; Baucham, <i>JJT</i> , 101-111; Burge, <i>JJT</i> , 35-46. Book Report: Bruce. F.F. <i>Peter, Stephen, James & John: Studies in Non-Pauline Christianity.</i>

- F17Jan **Apocalyptic and the Book of Revelation.** Hanson, “Apocalypses and Apocalypticism,” *ABD*, 1.279–280; Isaiah 6; Daniel 7–12, Joel 2–3, Zechariah 8–14 (English); Beale, 34–43; Ford *Rev*, 3–57; Osborne, 1–15 (handout). **Book Report:** Beale, G. K. *John's Use of the Old Testament in Revelation*.
- M20Jan **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: No class.**
- W22Jan **The Johannine Apocalypse and Its Interpretation.** 1 Nephi 14:19–27; Draper *OSS*, 1–24, 249–256; Draper, *TJB Sperry*, 36–57; Court, *JL* 208–19; Culpepper, 95–102; Hall *NTWC*, 137–144; Strathearn, *TJB Sperry*, 281–300; Beale 3–33, 44–69, 100–107 (handout); Osborne, 15–49 (handout). **Book Report:** *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*. Edited by C. Marvin Pate.
- F24Jan **The Opening Vision.** Revelation 1; D&C 110:2–4; Draper *OSS*, 25–36. **Book Report:** Hemmer, Colin J. *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in Their Local Setting*.
- M27Jan **Prophecies to the Seven Churches.** Revelation 2; Draper *OSS*, 36–42; Beale, 28–33.
- W29Jan Revelation 3.
- F31Jan **The Revelator’s “Inaugural” Vision.** Revelation 4–5; D&C 77:1–6, 130:8–9; Draper *OSS*, 43–60; Fowles, *TJB Sperry*, 74–82.
- M03Feb Revelation 6–7; D&C 77:7–11; Draper *OSS*, 61–88.
- W05Feb Revelation 8–9; D&C 12–13; Draper *OSS*, 89–111.
- F07Feb Revelation 10–11; D&C 77:14–15; Draper *OSS*, 112–127.
- M10Feb **Revelation Concerning Jerusalem and the Punishment of the World.** Revelation 12–13; Draper *OSS*, 128–153.
- W12Feb Revelation 14–15; Draper *OSS*, 154–171.
- F14Feb Revelation 16–17; Draper *OSS*, 172–197; Beale, 171–177 (handout)
- M17Feb **PRESIDENTS’ DAY: No Class.**
- Tu18Feb **Tuesday is Monday!** Revelation 18–19; Draper *OSS*, 198–214.
- W19Feb **Millennial Visions.** Revelation 20–21; Draper *OSS*, 215–239; Wright, *TJB Sperry*, 327–340.
- F21Feb **Epilogue.** Revelation 22; Draper *OSS*, 240–248. **Book Report:** Barker, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*.
- M24Feb *No class.*

MIDTERM EXAMINATION
M24-Tu25 Feb; late W26 Feb

- W26Feb **The Fourth Gospel—issues of genre, authorship, and purpose.** Brown *GJ*, xxii–lxxxvi, cxxix–cxliv; Bruce *GJ*, 1–17; Culpepper, 56–82; Griggs, *SS* 5, 109–125; Hall, 144–150; Lindars, *JL* 32–79; Rensberger, *JJT*, 15–23.
- F28Feb **The Prologue and the Logos Hymn.** John 1:1–34; D&C 93:1–18; O’Day, *JJT*,

25–32; Patterson, *JJT*, 323–332; Schaelling, *SS* 5, 127–139. **Book Report:** *John and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Edited by James H. Charlesworth.

- Sa01Mar שמות Παῦλος Huntsman *natus est!*
- M03Mar **Floater Day.**
- W05Mar **Floater Day.**
- F07Mar **The Prologue and the Logos Hymn** (resumed). **Book Report:** Reinhartz, Adele. *Befriending the Beloved Disciple: A Jewish Reading of the Gospel of John.*
- M10Mar **The Miracle at Cana, Passover and the Cleansing of the Temple.** John 2:13–25; Matson, *JJT*, 145–153.
- W12Mar **The Cleansing of the Temple** (cont.), **Nicodemus.** John 2:13–3:36; Caragounis, *JJT*, 125–134; Matson, *JJT*, 145–153.
- F14Mar **Samaritan Woman at the Well, Healing the Nobleman’s Son.** John 4; Tuckett, *JJT*, 281–290. **Book Report:** Ricci, Carla. *Mary Magdalene and Many Others: Women Who Followed Jesus.*
- M17Mar **The Sabbath, Healing at the Pool of Bethesda, Second Passover, the Bread of Life.** John 5–6; Broer, *JJT*, 83–90; Jackson, *SS* 5, 288–295; Whitchurch, *TJB* Sperry, 301–326.
- W19Mar **Sukkot, the “I Am” Sayings.** John 7–8; Ludlow, *TJB* Sperry, 94–112; Williams, *JJT*, 343–352
- F21Mar **The Man Born Blind, the Good Shepherd, Chanukkah/Dedication.** John 9–10; Satterfield, *TJB* Sperry, 249–165.
- M24Mar **The Resurrection and the Life, Triumphal Entry.** John 11–12; Culpepper, *JJT*, 253–262; Garrard, *SS* 5, 321–344. **Book Report:** Fortna, Robert. *The Fourth Gospel and Its Predecessor: From Narrative Source to Present Gospel*
- W26Mar **THE BOOK OF GLORY. Love One Another, Jesus Is the Vine.** John 13, 15; Miller, *TJB* Sperry, 155–167; Turner, *SS* 5, 405–429. **Book Report:** *John and the Dead Sea Scrolls*. Edited by James H. Charlesworth.
- F28Mar John 14, 16. **The Way and the Life, the Paraclete.** Beutler, 165–173; Millet, *TJB* Sperry, 167–185; Wink, *JJT*, 117–123. **Book Report:** Pagels, Elaine. *The Gnostic Gospels.*
- M31Mar John 17–18. **The Great Intercessory Prayer, Betrayal and Arrest.** Winter, *JJT*, 219–235. **Book Report:** Brown, *An Introduction to New Testament Christology.*
- W02Apr **Crucifixion and Resurrection.** John 19–20; Nyman, *SS* 5, 453–460.
- F04Apr **Epilogue.** John 21; D&C 7; Hall, 153–162; Mackay, *SS* 5, 461–470; Marsh, *TJB* Sperry, 141–154. **Book Report:** Martyn, J. Louis. *The Gospel of John in Christian History: Essays, for Interpreters.*
- M07Apr **The Johannine Epistles—authorship, audience, and intent.** 1 John 1.

- Brown *CBD*, 93–144; Bruce *EJ*, 13–33; Edwards, *JL* 112–121, 144–162.
 W09Apr 1 John 2–5; Richardson, *TJB Sperry*, 236–248.
 F11Apr 2 John, 3 John; Bruce *EJ*, 134, 146. **Book Report:** Lieu, *the Theology of the Johannine Epistles*.
 M14Apr **Johannine Writings---recapitulation.** **Book Report:** Brown, Raymond E. *The Churches the Apostles Left Behind*.
 Th17Apr **Paper due, 5:00 p.m.**
 W23Apr **FINAL EXAMINATION, 7–10:00 a.m.**

Other Readings (Book Reports, one per student):

- Barker, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000. ISBN 0-567-08716-6 [21 Feb, Grey]
 Beale, G. K. *John's Use of the Old Testament in Revelation*. Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series 166. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1998. ISBN 1850758948 [17 Jan]
 Boismard, Marie-Emile. *Moses or Jesus: An Essay in Johannine Christology*. Translated by B.T. Viviano. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press, 1993. ASIN 0800627512
 Brown, Raymond E. *The Churches the Apostles Left Behind*. New York: Paulist Press, 1984. ISBN 0-8091-2611-7. [14 Apr, Staheli]
 ———. *An Introduction to New Testament Christology*. New York : Paulist Press, 1994. ISBN 0809135167 [31 March]
 Bruce, F.F. *Peter, Stephen, James & John: Studies in Non-Pauline Christianity*. 1979 Didsbury Lectures. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1979. ISBN 0-8028-3532-5 [15 Jan, Hunt]
 Bultmann, Rudolf Karl. *Theology of the New Testament*. Translated by Kendrick Grobel. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1951-1955; repr. New York : Macmillan, 198
 Cullmann, Oscar. *The Johannine Circle. Its Place in Judaism, among the Disciples of Jesus and in Early Christianity: a Study in the Origin of the Gospel of John*. Translated by John Bowden. London: S.C.M. Press, 1976. ISBN 0334007976
 Fortna, Robert T. *The Fourth Gospel and Its Predecessor: From Narrative Source to Present Gospel*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press, 1988. ASIN: 0800608607 [24 Mar, Higginson]
Four Views on the Book of Revelation. Edited by C. Marvin Pate. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998. ISBN 0310210801 [22 Jan, Jeffries] (Huntsman copy)
 Hemmer, Colin J. *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in Their Local Setting*. The Biblical Resource Series. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2001. ISBN 0802847145 [24 Jan, N. Frederick]
John and the Dead Sea Scrolls. Edited by James H. Charlesworth. Christian Origins Library. New York: Crossroad, 1990. ISBN 0824510011 [~~28 Feb~~, 26 Mar Hailey]

Lieu, J. *The Theology of the Johannine Epistles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. [11 Apr]

Martyn, J. Louis. *The Gospel of John in Christian History: Essays, for Interpreters*. New York, Paulist, 1979. ASIN 0809121700 [31 Mar]

———. *History & Theology in the Fourth Gospel*. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Nashville: Abingdon, 1979. ISBN 0687171504

Pagels, Elaine. *The Gnostic Gospels*. New York: Vintage Books, 1979. ISBN 0-679-72453-2 [24 Mar]

———. *Johannine Gospel in Gnostic Exegesis: Heracleon's Commentary on John*. Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series 17. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1973. ISBN 0687206324

Parry, Jay A. and Donald W. Parry. *Understanding the Book of Revelation*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book, 1998. ISBN 1573454389

Reinhartz, Adele. *Befriending the Beloved Disciple: A Jewish Reading of the Gospel of John*. Continuum, 2001. ISBN 0826413196 [7 Mar, Robinson]

Ricci, Carla. *Mary Magdalene and Many Others: Women Who Followed Jesus*. Translated by Paul Burns. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press, 1994. ISBN 0-8006-2718-0 [7 Mar, J. Frederick]

The authorship of the Johannine works—the Gospel of John, Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation—has been debated by scholars since at least the 2nd century AD. The main debate centers on who authored the writings, and which of the writings, if any, can be ascribed to a common author. There may have been a single author for the gospel and the three epistles. Tradition attributes all the books to John the Apostle. Most scholars conclude that the apostle John wrote none of these works. Some hold