

CONTENTS

PART I

THE BACKGROUND

1 The setting in early Christianity	<i>page 3</i>
2 The higher religion of Hellenism: the Hermetic literature	10
3 Hellenistic Judaism: Philo of Alexandria	54
4 Rabbinic Judaism	74
5 Gnosticism	97
6 Mandaism	115

PART II

LEADING IDEAS

1 Symbolism	133
2 Eternal life	144
3 Knowledge of God	151
4 Truth	170
5 Faith	179
6 Union with God	187
7 Light, Glory, Judgment	201
8 Spirit	213
9 Messiah	228
10 Son of Man	241
11 Son of God	250
12 Logos	263

CONTENTS

PART III

ARGUMENT AND STRUCTURE

Introductory	<i>page</i> 289
A The Proem: Prologue and Testimony	292
B The Book of Signs	297
<i>First Episode.</i> The new beginning	297
<i>Second Episode.</i> The life-giving Word	318
<i>Third Episode.</i> Bread of Life	333
<i>Fourth Episode.</i> Light and life: manifestation and rejection	345
<i>Fifth Episode.</i> Judgment by the light	354
<i>Sixth Episode.</i> The victory of life over death	363
<i>Seventh Episode.</i> Life through death. The meaning of the Cross	368
Epilogue to the Book of Signs	379
Conclusion: character and structure of the Book of Signs	383
C The Book of the Passion	390
I The Farewell Discourses	390
1 Main themes	390
2 Design and argument	399
(a) Opening dramatic scene	401
(b) Dialogue on Christ's departure and return	403
(c) Discourse on Christ and His Church	409
(d) The prayer of Christ	417
II The Passion-narrative	423

CONTENTS

APPENDIX

Some considerations upon the historical aspect of the Fourth Gospel	<i>page</i> 444
<i>Index Locorum</i>	455
<i>Index Nominum</i>	477