

## CONTENTS

<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>xv</i>
Chapter 1	
GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
Preliminary Considerations	1
Pauline visions and revelations elsewhere in the New Testament	2
Past Interpreters	8
The Task of this Study	17
PART I: TEXTS OF HEAVENLY ASCENT	
Chapter 2	
INTRODUCTION: HEAVENLY ASCENT TEXTS	23
A History of Scholarship	23
Heavenly Ascent: Methods of Approach	29
The Choice of Texts for Consideration	31
The Treatment of the Texts	35
Chapter 3	
JEWISH APOCALYPTIC TEXTS PRE-70 AD	36
Examples of Heavenly Ascent in Jewish Apocalyptic Texts Pre-70 AD	36
The Book of the Watchers	38
Major Scholarly Trends in the study of 1 Enoch	39
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	45
Conclusions	50
Excursus: The Testament of Levi	50
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	52
Conclusions	54
Excursus: The Dead Sea Scrolls	55
Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice	55

4QBerakhot	57
Major Scholarly Trends in the study of the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice and 4QBerakoth	58
The Major Motifs of the Texts	60
Conclusions	61
 Chapter 4	
JEWISH APOCALYPTIC TEXTS POST-70 AD	63
Examples of Heavenly Ascent in Jewish Apocalyptic Texts Post-70 AD	63
Slavonic Enoch	64
Major Scholarly Trends in the study of Slavonic Enoch	66
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	71
Conclusions	77
Excursus: 3 Baruch	78
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	79
Conclusions	82
 Chapter 5	
THE NEW TESTAMENT	83
Examples of Heavenly Ascent in the New Testament	83
The Revelation to John	84
Major Scholarly Trends in the study of Revelation	85
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	93
Conclusions	103
 Chapter 6	
POST-BIBLICAL EARLY CHRISTIAN APOCALYPSES	104
Examples of Heavenly Ascent in Post-Biblical Early Christian Apocalypses	104
The Ascension of Isaiah	106
Major Scholarly Trends in the study of the Ascension of Isaiah	108
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	113
Conclusions	120
 Chapter 7	
THE NAG HAMMADI CODICES	121
Examples of Heavenly Ascent in the Nag Hammadi Codices	121
The Coptic Apocalypse of Paul from Nag Hammadi	122
Major Scholarly Trends in the study of the Coptic Apocalypse of Paul	123
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	126
Conclusions	129

Chapter 8	
THE HEKHALOT LITERATURE	131
Examples of Heavenly Ascent in the Hekhalot Literature	131
Sepher Hekhalot	133
Major Scholarly Trends in the study of Sepher Hekhalot	134
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	139
Conclusions	144
Excursus: Hekhalot Rabbati	145
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	147
Conclusions	150
Chapter 9	
CONCLUSIONS TO PART ONE	151
A Summary of the Major Characteristics of Heavenly Ascent Texts	151
Overall Conclusions	156
Excursus: The question of the dating of the texts of ascent	158
PART II: 2 CORINTHIANS 12.1–10 AND HEAVENLY ASCENT	
Chapter 10	
2 CORINTHIANS 12.1–10 AS A HEAVENLY ASCENT	165
Major Scholarly Trends in the study of 2 Corinthians 10–13	166
The Major Motifs of the Ascent	175
Conclusions	189
Chapter 11	
2 CORINTHIANS 12.1–10 AS A FAILED ASCENT	190
2 Corinthians 12 as a Heavenly Ascent?	190
A New Proposal for Understanding 2 Corinthians 12.1ff.	190
Excursus: 2 Corinthians 12.1ff. as a Parody of Heavenly Ascent	192
The narrative of ascent in 2 Corinthians 12.2–4 and 7b–10	195
The context for the ascent: 2 Corinthians 10–13	203
Conclusions	210
Chapter 12	
GENERAL CONCLUSIONS	212
<i>Bibliography</i>	216
<i>Index of Ancient Texts</i>	249
<i>Index of Modern Authors</i>	259