

Location / Branch: AGTS West

Semester / Year: Summer 2011

Course Start Date: June 2

Course End Date: June 30

Professor Name: Terance Espinoza

Professor Email: tespinoza@fc.bethany.edu

Course Description:

This course examines key apocalyptic and eschatological Old and New Testament texts, in order to explore how the apocalyptic message of the Bible influences the lives of believers. Biblical texts will be compared and contrasted in order to establish elements of continuity and discontinuity between the testaments. Contemporary apocalyptic perspectives will also be compared and contrasted to the Biblical witness, so that one may discern what is tenable and untenable in contemporary expressions of apocalyptic theory and practice.

Course Objectives:

1. Discuss the characteristics of Apocalyptic Literature in its ancient literary setting, with special reference to Daniel and Revelation.
2. Demonstrate a general knowledge of the content, structure, and theology of Revelation.
3. Evaluate the various interpretive approaches to Revelation.
4. Be able to put Revelation in conversation with other, similarly minded portions of Scripture.
5. Discuss Pentecostal perspectives on apocalyptic literature and eschatology.
6. Form and defend one's personal eschatology based on a hermeneutically responsible reading of scripture, while in conversation with the fuller range of apocalyptic and eschatological perspectives.
7. Write an exegetically sound response to contemporary expressions of apocalyptic and eschatological theory.

Required Textbooks:

Baukham, Richard. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Bell, Rob. *Love Wins: A book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*. New York: HarperOne, 2011.

VanderKam, James C. *An Introduction to Early Judaism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Wright, N.T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. New York: HarperOne, 2008.

Various Articles

Course Outline:

Week 1

Introduction to the Course

Jewish History: From Assyria to Rome

Introduction to Apocalyptic Eschatology

Daniel and OT Prophets

Week 2

Presentations on Jewish History & Apocalypticism

“Little Apocalypses” in Mark, Matthew, & Luke

Eschatology in the NT Epistles

Week 3

Revelation 1-11

Week 4

Revelation 12-22

Week 5

Apocalyptic review of *Love Wins*

Methodology:

This course involves extensive reading and assessment, lecture, reflection, writing, group discussion, and student presentations.

Course Requirements: The class is worth 1000 points in total.

- 1. Jewish History Presentation** [75 points each]: Give a presentation on the major events of Jewish History, from the Assyrian to the Roman intervention. See handout for specific events to include in the presentation. Your research will consist of the assigned readings for weeks 1 and 2. You may write a narrative, create a visual, or compose a poem or song for your presentation. See class handout for specific guidelines on each method of presentation.
- 2. Bible Notes** (x4) [75 points each]: Write 1-2 pages of *content* and *response* notes on each biblical book from the assigned readings. For example, for Week 1 you should have 1-2 pages on Amos, 1-2 pages on Isaiah, 1-2 Pages on Zechariah, and so forth. For the *content* section of your notes, spend just over half of the notes summarizing the events that are described in each portion of scripture. Support your summaries with specific chapter and verse references throughout. For the *response* section of your notes, give a personal response to each portion of scripture. What thoughts or emotions comes up as you read the scripture? How might the scripture affect how you live your life?
- 3. Article Review** (x3) [75 points each]: Write a 2-page review of the assigned articles. See Addendum 1 for the reading and homework schedule. See Addendum 2 for instructions on how to write the review.

4. **Book Review** (x2) [100 points each]: Write a 4-5 page review of the assigned books. See Addendum 1 for the reading and homework schedule. See Addendum 2 for instructions on how to write the review.
5. **Term Paper** [200 points]: Write a four-part, 15-20 page paper that first compares & contrasts the apocalyptic perspective in Rob Bell's *Love Wins* to that of N.T. Wright's *Surprised by Hope*. Then, compare & contrast these two books with the three articles by G.E. Ladd, Robert Guelich, and Richard B. Hays (see handout for details). Thirdly, compare these perspectives with the relevant Assemblies of God Fundamental Truths. Finally, discuss the personal and corporate potential implications of a healthy understanding of New Testament apocalyptic eschatology. See class handout for further instructions.
6. **Attendance**: The homework assignments will serve as the basis for class discussions. Attendance will therefore be weighted as a percentage of the grade for each assignment (except for the Term Paper, which is due after the last class session).

Grading Procedure:

1. The class will be worth 1000 points total. A 75-point assignment is worth 7.5% of your total grade. A 200-point assignment is worth 20% of your total grade.
2. All writing assignments must be typed, double-spaced, original, graduate-level work, and represent a high quality writing style. Excessive errors in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, capitalization, etc., will result in a lower grade.
3. All papers and projects should have the student's name, course number and title, and due dates in the heading on the first page.
4. Late assignments are subject to grade reduction as follows: 1-3 days late = 10% deduction, 4-7 days late = 20% deduction. No late assignments will be accepted after one week without instructor approval.

Selected Bibliography:

Arnold, Bill T., and Bryan E. Beyer. *Encountering the Old Testament: A Christian Survey*. 2nd Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.

Aune, David, T. J. Geddert, and Craig A. Evans. "Apocalypticism." *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Edited by Craig A. Evans and Stanley Porter. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.

----- . *Revelation 1-5*. Word Biblical Commentary 52A. Dallas: Word, 1997; *Revelation 6-16*. Word Biblical Commentary 52B. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998. Word Biblical Commentary 52C. Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1998.

----- . *Prophecy in Early Christianity and the Ancient Mediterranean World*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983.

Barr, David L., ed. *Reading the Book of Revelation: A Resource for Students*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.

Batto, Bernard F. *Slaying the Dragon*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1992.

Beale, G. K. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

- Beasley-Murray, George R. "Revelation, Book of." *Dictionary of the later New Testament and its developments*. Edited by Ralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.
- . *Jesus and the Last Days: The Interpretation of the Olivet Discourse*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1993.
- . *Revelation: Three Viewpoints*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1977.
- . *The Book of Revelation*. Greenwood, SC: Attic Press, 1974.
- Boesak, Allan A. *Comfort and Protest: The Apocalypse from a South African Perspective*. Westminster Press, 1987.
- Bultmann, Rudolf. *The Presence of Eternity: History and Eschatology*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1975.
- Buttrick, G.A., *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. 4 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1962.
- Case, Shirley Jackson. *The Revelation of John: A Historical Interpretation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1919.
- Charlesworth, James H. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*. 2 vols. Garden City: Doubleday, 1985.
- Clouse, Robert G., ed. *The Meaning of the Millennium: Four Views*. With contributions by George E. Ladd, et al. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1977.
- Collins, Adela Yarbro. "Revelation, Book of." Pages 694-708 in Volume 5 of *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- . "The Apocalypse (Revelation)." Pages 996-1016 in R.E. Brown, et al., eds., *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. 2nd ed. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1990.
- . *Crisis and Catharsis: The Power of the Apocalypse*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1984.
- Collins, John J. *The Encyclopedia of Apocalypticism, Vol 1: The Origins of Apocalypticism in Judaism and Christianity*. New York: Continuum, 2002.
- . *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*. 2nd ed. The Biblical Resource Series. Grand rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- . *The Apocalyptic Vision of the Book of Daniel*. Missoula, MT: Scholars Press, 1977.
- Evans, C. A. and S. W. Porter. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.
- Fiorenza, Elizabeth Schussler. *The Book of Revelation: Justice and Judgment*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.
- Freedman, David Noel, ed. *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 2002
- Gloer, W. Hulitt. *Eschatology and the New Testament: Essays in Honor of George Raymond Beasley-Murray*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1988.

- Goldingay, John E., *Daniel*. Word Biblical Commentary 30. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1989.
- Green, Joel B.; Scot McKnight, and I. Howard Marshall, eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity 1992.
- Hanson, Paul D, Kirg Grayson, John J. Collins, Adela Yarbro Collins. "Apocalypses & Apocalypticism." Pages 279-292 in Volume 1 of *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- . *The Dawn of Apocalyptic: The Historical and Sociological Roots of Jewish Apocalyptic Eschatology*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.
- Hawthorne, G. F., Ralph P. Martin, and D. G. Reid. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1993.
- Heirs, Richard H. "Day of Christ," "Day of Judgement," "Day of the Lord," & "Day of Yahweh." Pages 76-85 in Volume 2 of *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
- Kreitzer, L. J. "Apocalyptic, Apocalypticism." *Dictionary of the later New Testament and its developments*. Edited by Ralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.
- Krodel, G. A. *Revelation*. ACNT. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1989.
- Kümmel, Werner Georg. *Promise and Fulfillment: The Eschatological Message of Jesus*. Translated from the German by Dorothea M. Barton. 2nd English Ed. London: SCM Press, 1961.
- Lasor, William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard, & Frederic William Bush. *Old Testament Survey: the message, form, and background of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Ladd, George Eldon. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.
- Martin, Ralph P. and P.H. Davids. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Developments*. Edited by Ralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1997.
- McComiskey, Thomas E. "The seventy 'weeks' of Daniel against the background of ancient Near Eastern literature." *Westminster Theological Journal* 47 (1985): 18-45.
- Metzger, Bruce M. *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1993.
- Morris, Leon. *The Revelation of St. John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969.
- Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.
- Murphy, F.J. *Fallen is Babylon: The Revelation of John*. The New Testament in Context. Harrisburg: Trinity Press Internatinoal, 1998.
- Osborne, Grant R. *Revelation*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

----- . "Recent Trends in the Study of the Apocalypse." Pages 473-504 in *The Face of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Edited by Scot McKnight & Grant R. Osborne. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.

Pate, C. Marvin, ed. *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Peterson, David L. "Eschatology." Pages 2575-2607 in Volume 5 of *Anchor Bible Dictionary*. New York: Doubleday, 1992.

Prigent, P. *Commentary on the Apocalypse of St. John*. Translated by W. Pradels. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2001.

Reddish, Mitchell G., ed. *Apocalyptic Literature: A Reader*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1990

Rowland, C. *The Open Heaven: A Study of Apocalyptic in Judaism and early Christianity*. New York: Crossroad, 1982.

Roloff, J. *The Revelation of John*. CC. Translated by J.E. Alsup. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.

Russell, D. S. *Divine Disclosure: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.

----- . *The Method and Message of Jewish Apocalyptic: 200 BC-AD 100*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1964.

Schürer, E. *A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus Christ (175 B.C.-A.D. 135)*. Revised and edited by G. Vermes and F. Millar. Volume 1. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1973; Volume II. Ed. G. Vermes, F. Millar and M. Black, 1979; Volume III, Part I. ed. G. Vermes, F. Millar and M. Goodman, 1986; Volume III, Part 2. ed. G. Vermes, F. Millar and M. Goodman, 1987.

Webb, R. L. "Day of the Lord." *Dictionary of the later New Testament and its developments*. Edited by Ralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000.

Additional Material / Addendums

1. Reading & Homework Schedule

| | Read before class today | Due in class today |
|---------------|---|---|
| Week 1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spiro, Ken, "History Crash Course #21-36" Online: http://www.aish.com/il/h/cc/ 2. Block, Daniel I. "Preaching Old Testament apocalyptic to a New Testament church." <i>Calvin Theological Journal</i> 41 (2006): 17-52. 3. Biblical Texts: Amos 5, 7, 8; Isaiah 24-27, 61; Zechariah; Joel; Daniel 7-12. <p style="text-align: center;">Recommended</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bible Notes: Amos, Isaiah, Zechariah, Joel, & Daniel. 2. Article Review: Daniel Block |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “the Political History of the Jewish People.” <i>Frontline: apocalypse!</i>. PBS. Online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/explanation/jews.html 2. “Apocalypticism” <i>Frontline: apocalypse!</i>. PBS. Online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/portrait/apocalypticism.html 3. “Judaism’s First Century Diversity.” <i>Frontline: apocalypse!</i>. PBS. Online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/portrait/judaism.html | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Week 2</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VanderKam, James C. <i>An Introduction to Early Judaism</i>. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001. (Pages 1-58, 102-114, 138-146, 192-212) 2. Ladd, George Eldon, “Apocalyptic and New Testament Theology,” Pages 285-296 in <i>Reconciliation and Hope: New Testament Essays on Atonement and Eschatology Presented to L.L. Morris on the 60th Birthday</i>. Carlisle: The Paternoster Press, 1974. Online: http://www.biblicalstudies.org.uk/pdf/rh/apocalyptic_ladd.pdf 3. Aune, David, T. J. Geddert, and Craig A. Evans. “Apocalypticism.” <i>Dictionary of New Testament Background</i>. Edited by Craig A. Evans and Stanley Porter. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000. 4. Kreitzer, L. J. “Apocalyptic, Apocalypticism.” <i>Dictionary of the later New Testament and its developments</i>. Edited by Ralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000. 5. Webb, R. L. “Day of the Lord.” <i>Dictionary of the later New Testament and its developments</i>. Edited by Ralph P. Martin & Peter H. Davids. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2000. 6. Biblical Texts: Mark 13; Matthew 24-25; Luke 21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Corinthians 15:20-58; 2 Peter 3:1-13; 1 John 2:15-29; 2 John; Titus 2:13. Recommended 7. Watch the following two episodes from the History Channel show <i>Lost Worlds</i>: “Herod the Great,” and “Jesus’ Jerusalem.” Both episodes are available individually at iTunes. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bible Notes: Matthew, Mark, Luke, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Peter, 1 & 2 John, Titus. 2. Article Review: Apocalyptic articles. 3. Presentation: Jewish History |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Week 3</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Osborne, Grant R. “Recent Trends in the Study of the Apocalypse.” Pages 473-504 in <i>The Face of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research</i>. Edited by Scot McKnight & Grant R. Osborne. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bible Notes: Revelation 1-11 2. Article Review: Grant Osborne |

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| | <p>2. “The Views of Historians and Biblical Scholars.” <i>Frontline: apocalypse!</i>. PBS. Online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/explanation/brevelation.html</p> <p>3. White, L. Michael. “Understanding the Book of Revelation.” <i>Frontline: apocalypse!</i>. PBS. Online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/revelation/white.html</p> <p>4. Bauckham, Richard. <i>The Theology of the Book of Revelation</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993. (Chapter 1)</p> <p>5. Biblical Texts: Revelation 1-11.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recommended</p> <p>1. “Jesus & John the Baptist.” <i>Frontline: apocalypse!</i>. PBS. Online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/explanation/jesusjohnbaptist.html</p> <p>2. “Jerusalem.” <i>Frontline: apocalypse!</i>. PBS. Online: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/explanation/jerusalem.html</p> | |
| Week 4 | <p>1. Bauckham, Richard. <i>The Theology of the Book of Revelation</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993. (Chapter 2-end)</p> <p>2. Biblical Texts: Revelation 12-22.</p> | <p>1. Bible Notes: Revelation 12-22.</p> <p>2. Book Review: Richard Bauckham</p> |
| Week 5 | <p>1. Guelich, Robert A. “Spiritual Warfare: Jesus, Paul and Peretti.” <i>Pneuma</i> 13 (1991): 33-64.</p> <p>2. Bell, Rob. <i>Love Wins. : A book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived</i>. New York: HarperOne, 2011.</p> | <p>1. Book Review: Rob Bell</p> |

2. Instructions for Article/Book Review

Generally speaking, the first half of a critical review should summarize the article or book, and the second half should interact with the article or book. As a point of reference, the Society of Biblical Literature guidelines for reviews can be found at <http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/ReviewerInstructions.pdf>.

Part 1: Summary

1. Begin with a proper bibliographical entry of the article or book, according to the standards established in the *SBL Handbook of Style*, available on www.sbl-site.org under “Publications.”¹
2. Research and discuss the author: where the author earned her or his degree, the author’s area of expertise, and other publications by the author. Also mention what impact, if any, the book has made on the author’s career.
3. Summarize the contents of the article or book. Begin with the article or book’s thesis or purpose, and then summarize each section or chapter. Include quotations from the work, or references to page numbers of the work, in order to support your understanding of the article or book’s contents.

Part 2: Interaction

1. Did the author accomplish his or her goals? Based on what the article or book set out to discuss, was it comprehensive and effective in its discussion? Make sure you have read the “Introduction,” so that you know the types of limitations that were placed on the book.
2. Did you agree or disagree with the work? Why or why not? Make sure your discussion is based on evidence, and not emotion or ad-hominem attacks.
3. Where do you hope the discussion would go next? If you could speak with the author, what questions would you like her or him to pursue?

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

Office of Continuing Education
1435 North Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802

p: 417.268.1044

f: 417.268.1009

e: ceoffice@agts.edu

www.agts.edu/ce

¹ The syllabus for this class uses the SBL standards. You can also consult <http://www.goshen.edu/library/sblstyle.php> for examples of the most common examples of bibliographic entries.