# Revelation

## Description

This is a course on Bible Interpretation, demonstrated with the book of Revelation.

## Course Objectives

By completing this course, the student will:

1. Better understand the process of interpreting a book of the Bible and teaching it to their disciples.
2. Understand the contents and context of the book of Revelation.
3. Better understand the apocalyptic genre and how it affects interpretation.
4. Have a greater appreciation for the history of interpretation so that they are better prepared to enter into the ongoing discussion.
5. Have a greater motivation to make disciples.

## Textbooks

1. The Bible
2. Class notes

## Assignments

1. Read Revelation at least once during the course, marking up the book with questions and associations.
2. Keep folders (3-ring binder, or a computer folder) devoted to Revelation with a collection of material relevant to its interpretation.
3. Final exam. Completion of the course is dependent on attendance on the final night and passing an exam on the material covered in the class.

## Schedule

Class times are 7:00–7:55 (15 minute break), 8:10–9:00.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Session | Content |
| 9/9 | 12 | Introduction to Course, and “Why are we Here?”Revelation 1:1-8 (cf., Dan 2:28-29; Isa 11:2; Gen 49:11; Ps 89:27; Exod 19:6; Isa 61:6; Dan 7:13; Zech 12:10-14; Isa 41:4); Authorship, Date, Genre and Structure |
| 9/13 | 34 | The Apocalyptic Genre; Letter Writing and RhetoricRevelation 1:9–3:22 (Num 23–24; 1 Kgs 16–21; 2 Kgs 9; cf., Gen 2:9; 3:22-24; 49:3; Exod 16:33-34; 25:31; 32:32-33; 37:23; Num 25:1-3; Deut 21:17; Jdg 5:31; Job 3:17; Ps 2:7-9; 7:9; 26:2; 28:4; Prov 3:12; 11:30; 13:12; Eccl 9:8; Isa 22:22; 30:14; 41:4, 6; 43:4; 48:12; 49:2, 23; 55:1; 60:14; 62:2; 65:15; Jer 2:2; 11:20; 17:10; 19:11; Ezek 1:7, 24; 31:8 [LXX], 43:2; 48:35; Dan 7:9, 13; 8:17-18; 10:5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19; Hos 13:14) |
| 9/20 | 56 | Dealing with SymbolismRevelation 4:1–5:14 (Isa 6; Ezek 1; cf., Gen 1:1; 49:9-10; Exod 19:6, 16; 25:37; Deut 32:40; Ps 40:3; 98:1; 111:2; 144:9; 149:1; Isa 11:1, 2, 10; 42:10; 61:6; Ezek 2:9-10; 10:1, 12; Dan 4:34; 5:19; 6:26; 7:9, 10; 12:4, 7; Zech 3:8-9; 4:10) |
| 9/27 | 78 | Revelation 6:1–8:5 (Zech 1:7-15; Isa 29:6; Ezek 38:19; Joel 2:30-31; cf., Gen 49:1-28; Exod 19:16; Lev 23:40; 26:11; Ps 3:8; 23:1-2; 48:4-6; 76:7; 121:5-6; 141:2; Isa 2:10-12, 19; 11:2; 34:4; 49:10; 50:3; Jer 15:2-3; 24:20; 29:17; 30:7; 49:36; Ezek 7:2; 9:4-6; 10:2;14:21; 37:9; 34:23; Dan 7:2; Hos 10:8; 13:14; Joel 2:10; Nah 1:5, 6; Zeph 1:14-18; Zech 6:2, 3, 5; Mal 3:2) |
| 10/4 | 910 | Revelation 8:6–11:19 (cf., Gen 1:1; 15:18; 19:28; Exod 7:3, 7, 8, 17-25; 9:23-24; 10:12-15; 15:18; 19:8; Num 16:35; Deut 1:7; 32:40; Josh 1:4; 1 Kgs 17:1; 2 Kgs 1:10-12; Neh 9:6; Job 3:21; 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Ps 2:1-3; 18:13; 46:6; 79:2-3; 88:11; 115:13; Prov 15:11; Isa 1:9-10; 3:9; 13:10; 14:12-14; 28:2; Jer 9:15;15:16; 23:14; Ezek 1:26-28; 2:8-33; 9:4; 16:49; 23:3, 8, 19, 27; 37:4, 9-10; 40:3-4, 17-20; Dan 2:44-45; 7:13-14, 27; 8:26; 12:4-9, 17; Amos 3:7; Joel 1:6; 2:5; Zech 2:1-2; 4:1-3, 11-14) |
| 10/11 | 1112 | Revelation 12:1–14:20 (Dan 7; cf., Gen 3:1, 15; 19:24; 37:9-11; Exod 19:4; 20:11; Deut 32:11; 1 Kgs 1:9-12; Job 1:6, 9-11; 2:4-5; 2:1; Ps 2:6, 8-9; 75:8; 144:9; Isa 21:9; 26:17; 27:1; 34:10; 40:31; 51:17; 63:1-6; 66:7, 24; Jer 15:2; 43:11; 51:7-8; Ezek 1:24; 9:4; 43:2; Dan 8:3, 10, 24; 10:13, 21; 11:36; 12:1, 7; Hos 2:14-15; 15:10; Joel 3:13; Mic 4:9-10; Zech 3:1) |
| 10/18 | 1314 | Revelation 15:1–16:21 (cf., Exod 7:17-25; 8:6; 9:9-11, 18-25; 10:21-23; 15:1-18; 38:21; 40:34-35; Lev 26:21; Deut 28:35; 31:30–32:44; Jdg 5:19; 1 Kgs 8:10-11; 22:21-23; 2 Kgs 23:29-30; 2 Chr 35:22; Ps 19:9; 78:44; 79:6; 86:9; 92:5; 111:2; 139:14; 145:17; Isa 6:1-4; 11:15-16; 41:2, 25; 46:11; 49:26; 66:23; Jer 10:7, 25; 25:15; 51:36; Ezek 22:31; Zech 12:11) |
| 10/25 | 1516 | Revelation 17:1–21:8 (cf., Gen 3:1, 13-14; Exod 19:6; 32:32-33; Lev 21:9; 26:11-12; Deut 10:17; 23:14; 32:43; 2 Kgs 1:9-12; Ps 2:2, 8-9; 18:10; 22:23; 45:3-4; 62:12; 69:28; 93:1; 97:1; 119:137; 134:1; 135:1; 137:8; Isa 11:4-5; 13:1; 21:9; 23:17; 24:8, 21-22; 25:8; 26:14, 19; 30:33; 34:6-7, 9-10; 13-15; 35:10; 47:7-9; 51:11; 52:11; 63:3-6; 65:17, 19; 66:22; Jer 7:34; 16:9; 25:10; 41:9; 43:2; 50:8, 15, 29-32, 46; 51:6-7, 13, 37, 45, 48, 63-64; Ezek 1:1, 24; 26:13, 16-18; 27:12-31; 28:13; 37:27; 38:2, 22; 39:1, 6, 17-20; 43:2; Dan 2:35; 7:7, 9-11, 22, 24-25, 27; 10:6; 12:1-2; Joel 3:9-11; Nah 3:4; Zeph 2:15) |
| 11/1 | 1718 | Revelation 21:9–22:21 (cf., Gen 2:9; 3:17-19, 22-24; Exod 28:17-20; Lev 26:21; Deut 4:2; 12:32; 23:18; 29:19-20; Ps 17:15; 46:4; 62:11-12; Prov 11:30; Isa 40:10; 44:6; 52:1; 54:11-12; 60:1-5, 11, 16, 19-20; Ezek 3:27; 9:4; 40:2-3, 5; 43:2; 44:9; 47:1, 12; 48:31-34; Dan 7:18, 22, 27; 8:26; 12:4, 9-10; Zech 14:7-8, 11, 21) |
| 11/8 | 1920 | Final Questions and DiscussionFinal Exam and Celebration |

## Select Bibliography

Though there are no required textbooks for this course, you may wish to acquire some of the following for your personal study. If you have questions regarding these or other books, please ask.

Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles Van Doren. *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1940.

Aune, David E. *Revelation 1–5*. Word Biblical Commentary, ed. Bruce M. Metzger et al., vol. 52. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1997.

Beale, G. K. *The Book of Revelation*. New International Greek Testament Commentary, ed. I. Howard Marshall and Donald A. Hagner. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.

Beasley-Murray, George R. “Revelation, Book of.” In *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Development*, ed. Ralph P. Martin and Peter H. Davids, 1025-38. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Caird, G. B. *The Revelation of Saint John*. Black's New Testament Commentary, ed. Henry Chadwick. [Peabody, MA]: Hendrickson Publishers, 1966.

Collins, John Joseph. “Introduction: Towards the Morphology of a Genre.” In *Apocalypse: The Morphology of a Genre*, ed. John Joseph Collins. Semeia, vol. 14, 1-19. Missoula, MT: Society of Biblical Literature, 1979.

DeSilva, David A. *Seeing Things John's Way: The Rhetoric of the Book of Revelation*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.

Ladd, George Eldon. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1972.

Michaels, J. Ramsey. *Interpreting the Book of Revelation*. Guides to New Testament Exegesis, ed. Scot McKnight, vol. 7. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1992.

Morris, Leon. *Revelation*. 2d ed. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, ed. Leon Morris, vol. 20. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.

Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*. Rev. ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament, ed. Ned B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, and Gordon D. Fee. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1977.

Osborne, Grant R. *Revelation*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, ed. Moisés Silva. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

Reddish, Mitchell G. *Revelation*. Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary, ed. R. Scott Nash and R. Alan Culpepper. Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys, 2001.

Scheid, John. *An Introduction to Roman Religion*. Translated by Janet Lloyd. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2003.

Smalley, Stephen S. *The Revelation to John: A Commentary on the Greek Text of the Apocalypse*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

Thomas, Robert L. *Revelation 1–7: An Exegetical Commentary*. Edited by Kenneth Barker. Chicago: Moody Press, 1992.

Thomas, Robert L. *Revelation 8–22: An Exegetical Commentary*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1995.

Walvoord, John F. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1966.

Witherington, Ben, III. *Revelation*. New Cambridge Bible Commentary, ed. Ben Witherington III. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.