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# NT 666 The Book of Revelation

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## **NT 666 -- REVELATION**

### **JANUARY TERM 2004 -- DR. MULHOLLAND**

**PERSPECTIVE:** "Who is worthy to open the book . . . or to look into it? . . . Worthy is the Lamb!" (5:2, 3, 12). Revelation is an "jApokavlyi" "jIhsou' Cristou' (1:1), and without the guiding and illuminating presence of His Holy Spirit our minds remain darkened and confused by this book; we tend to read our own meanings into it rather than being impacted by what God is saying to us through it. Nothing requires a deeper level of spiritual maturity than the exegetical study of God's Word. Nothing enhances our spiritual maturity more consistently than the exegetical study of God's Word. This symbiotic reality is the primary dynamic of biblical exegesis. All teaching and learning, in the Christian and biblical perspective, must be directly related to a personal and growing relationship with Jesus as Lord. It is my prayerful intention to be all the Lord purposes for me to be in guiding this class; it is my prayerful expectation that you will allow the Lord so to guide your study and participation that God's full purpose for you might be fulfilled in this course, that together we might "hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

**PURPOSE:** We will seek to actualize God's purposes for us in this course through a critical, exegetical study which will attempt to understand Revelation as God's word to the original readers as well as God's word for our life and ministry today.

**PARTICULARS:** It is anticipated that your faithful stewardship of time and discipline of study in this course will be used by God to enable you to acquire the following knowledge and skills:

- A clear comprehension of the basic perspectives of historical scholarship on Revelation from its writing to the present.
  1. The origins and history of each perspective
  2. The presuppositional base of each perspective
  3. The basic elements of each perspective
  4. The strengths and weaknesses of each perspective
- An understanding of Revelation on the basis of its form and content.
- Evaluate the evidence and history of scholarship on the issues of: authorship, date, audience, historical setting, canonization.
- Overview apocalyptic literature and develop an understanding of the relationship of Revelation to apocalyptic literature.
- Investigate and comprehend the sources used by the author.
- Develop a structural diagram of the book from the Greek text.
- Through sound exegesis, comprehend the perspective and message of Revelation:
  1. In relation to its own time and readers
  2. In relation to the rest of the New Testament
  3. In relation to history, especially our own time
  4. In relation to the realities of Christian life and growth

- Ability to evaluate the diverse and often aberrant interpretations of Revelation by the use of sound exegetical methods in integrity with the biblical perspective, and by understanding the presuppositional bases of variant interpretations.

**PROCEDURES:** The following provide some of the scholarly and spiritual disciplines of loving obedience and stewardship through which I trust the Lord will enable us to actualize His purposes for the course:

1. Text: G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation*
2. Preparation:
  - a. It is hoped that you will enter into a covenant of prayer for the class and the course.
  - b. It is urged that each period of individual study be started with prayer, interlaced with prayer and praise, and dedicated to God in prayer at its close.
  - c. It is expected that you will be a faithful steward of time in two areas:
    - i. Consistent participation in class sessions
    - ii. Commit at least two hours to the Lord for prayer and study in preparation for each class hour.
  - d. It is expected that you will come to class fully prepared through disciplined prayer and study so that you may be all God wants you to be in the class session.
  - e. It is presumed that you will exhibit graduate level competence in comprehension of reading, integration of learning and presentation of understanding.
3. Class sessions: The class will provide an in-depth exegetical study of Revelation. Regular attendance is mandatory for receiving the full benefits of the class.
4. You are free to develop a project of your own choosing with respect to the book of Revelation. You will contract with the professor regarding the nature of the project, the parameters of the project, and the grade you intend to work for in the project. It is expected that your project will be a source of input for the class, either through regular, daily contributions to the discussion, or through a report to the class on some phase of your project. The final form of the project will be due on the last day of the term (Jan 30).
5. The quality of class participation, presentations, and written work should reflect work done "as unto the Lord" -- a good stewardship of your time, talents, and resources.

**PERFORMANCE:** The evaluation of your performance has two sides. On the one side, God is the final evaluator of the measure in which you allowed God's purpose for you to be fulfilled in this course. This evaluation should be your primary concern. For the purposes of grading, you will contract with the professor for the grade you intend to pursue in the seminar. If your work and contribution to the seminar do not meet the level of the contract, you will be notified in order that you may bring the level of your work up to contract. You may also choose to renegotiate your contract. In the case of written work, material below contract level may be reworked and resubmitted.

In order to maintain integrity with those who are faithful to the attendance and contract covenant, the following parameters will be employed as necessary:

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Absences: Up to 10% unexcused | No deduction              |
| 10 to 20% unexcused              | One grade level (A to A-) |
| 20 to 30% unexcused              | Two grade level (A to B+) |
| Etc.                             |                           |

2. Late submission of materials: One grade level (A to A-, etc.) per day.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** The following list is neither exhaustive nor inclusive. It is merely a starting point for research and study.

### **Comprehensive Bibliographies**

Guthrie, D., *New Testament Introduction* (p 1031f.)

Feuillet, A, *L'Apocalypse: 'Etat de la Question* (p 122f)

Lohmeyer, E. "Die Offenbarung des Johannes" *Theologische Rundschau* 6 (1934), 269-314; and 7 (1935), 28-62.

Langevin, P-E, ed. *Biblical Bibliography*, 2 Vols. (Material on Revelation in both volumes).

### **Periodical Indices**

*Elenchus Bibliographicus Biblicus*

*New Testament Abstracts*

### **Dictionaries**

*Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*

*The New Bible Dictionary*

*Dictionary of New Testament Background*

### **Introductions**

Guthrie, D. *New Testament Introduction*

Kümmel, W. G., *Introduction to the New Testament*

### **Commentaries**

Aune, David E. *Revelation* (3 Vols.)

Beckwith, I. T., *The Apocalypse of John: Studies in Introduction, with a Critical and Exegetical Commentary*

Caird, G. B., *A Commentary on the Revelation of St. John the Divine*

Charles, R. H., *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Revelation of St. John*, (ICC--2 Vols.)

Collins, A. Y., *The Apocalypse*

Corsini, E., *The Apocalypse: The Perennial Revelation of Jesus Christ*

Ellul, Jacques, *Apocalypse: The Book of Revelation*

Guthrie, Donald, *The Relevance of John's Apocalypse*

Ladd, G. E., *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*

Metzger, Bruce M. *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*

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Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*

Mulholland, M. Robert, *Revelation: Holy Living in an Unholy World*

Swete, H. B., *The Apocalypse of St. John*

### **Apocrypha**

Charles, R. H., *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*, (2 Vols.)

Hennecke and Schneemelcher, *New Testament Apocrypha*, (2 Vols)

### **Apocalyptic**

Charles, R. H., *Eschatology*

Collins, J. J., ed. "Apocalypse: The Morphology of a Genre," *Semeia* 14 (1979)

*Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*

Hanson, P., *The Dawn of Apocalyptic*

Koch, K., *The Rediscovery of Apocalyptic*

Konig, Andrio, *The Eclipse of Christ in Eschatology*

Miner, P. S., *New Testament Apocalyptic*

Nielsburg, G. W. E., *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah*

Rowley, H. H., *The Relevance of Apocalyptic*

Russell, D. S., *The Method and Message of Jewish Apocalyptic*

### **History**

New Testament:

Bruce, F. F., *New Testament History*

Roman World:

Ferguson, E., *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*

Rostovtzeff, M., *The Social and Economic History of the Roman Empire* (2 Vols.)

*The Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World* (3 Vols.);

Greece;

Rome.

### **Hellenistic Culture**

*The Cambridge Ancient History* (Vols. VII - XII)

Grant, F. C., *Hellenistic Religions: The Age of Syncretism*

Jeffers, James S. *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament Era: Exploring the Background of Early Christianity*

Peters, F. E., *The Harvest of Hellenism*

**General Resources:**

Cohn, R. L. *The Shape of Sacred Space: Four Biblical Studies*

Court, J. *Myth and History in the Book of Revelation*

Ellul, Jacques, *The Meaning of the City*

Williams, Charles, *All Hallows Eve, The Greater Trumps, The Image of the City, War in Heaven*

**Internet Resources:**

The following sites are starting points only. They are neither complete nor exhaustive.

[www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/topsites.htm#Texts](http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/topsites.htm#Texts) (An excellent starting point for all Biblical Study. Provides a wealth of links to a multitude of excellent sites).

[www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu) (A tremendous resource for resources and archaeology of the ancient Greek world).

[www.ntgateway.com/rev.htm](http://www.ntgateway.com/rev.htm) (As excellent starting point for research on Revelation)

[www.peterolsenart.com](http://www.peterolsenart.com) (A great series of 40 modern pictures of scenes in Revelation with musical accompaniment).

[www.julen.net/ancient/](http://www.julen.net/ancient/) (Multiple categories on the ancient world)

[http://clawwww.lmu.edu/faculty/fjust/Apocalyptic\\_Links.htm](http://clawwww.lmu.edu/faculty/fjust/Apocalyptic_Links.htm) (Art, Images, Music and materials related to the book of Revelation)

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

**DATE TOPIC**

**ASSIGNMENTS**

1/12 Organization, introduction, basic approaches to Rev., introductory issues: Author, Place, Date, Canon; Apocalyptic literature, the Jewish expectation.

Read Beale pp. 3-177

1/13 The structure of Rev. Chapter 1

Read Beale pp. 178-222  
Study & be prepared to discuss Ch. 1

1/14 Chapters 2-3

Read Beale pp. 223-310  
Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 2-3

1/15	Chapters 4-5	<u>Read Beale</u> pp. 311-369 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 4-5
1/16	Chapters 6:1-8:5	<u>Read Beale</u> pp. 370-464 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch. 6-8:5
1/19	Chapters 8:6-11:19	<u>Read Beale</u> pp. 465-620 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 8:6-11:19
1/20	Chapters 12-15:5	<u>Read Beale</u> pp. 621-800 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 12-15:5
1/21	Chapters 15:5-16:21	<u>Read Beale</u> pp. 801-846 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 15:5-16:21
1/22	Chapter 17-19:10	<u>Read Beale</u> pp. 847-948 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 17-19:10
1/23	Chapters 19:11-21:8	<u>Read Beale</u> pp. 948-1062 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 19:11-21:8
1/26	Chapters 21:9-22:9	Read Beale pp. 1063-1129 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 21:9-22:9
1/27	Chapter 22:10-21	Read Beale pp. 1129-1157 Study and be prepared to discuss Ch 22:10-21
1/28	Space for expansion	
1/29	and for presentations	
1/30	of projects. Final review	<u>Projects Due</u>

#### POSSIBLE TOPICS OF STUDY IN REVELATION

1. The presence and function of grammatical anomalies.
2. Interrelationships in the structural grid
3. The origins and development of "Rapture Theologies."
4. The role of "wilderness" in OT, Judaism, NT, Rev.
5. The "supper" ( $\delta\epsilon\iota\ \iota\ \rho\lambda\omicron\upsilon\sigma$ ) of God/Lamb.
6. The meaning of "in the Spirit" in NT times.
7. A study of one or more of the 7 churches (Geog. Pol. Soc. Econ. Rel. etc).
8. Correlation between vision (affective, holistic) and literature (cognitive, particular).
9. Angelic messianism.
10. Role of the 7 blessings.

11. Critique of Corsini, *The Apocalypse*.
12. Application of Ellul's *The Meaning of the City* to Rev.
13. Lesson plans for teaching Rev. to adult/Youth Bible Study.
14. Exegetical/research paper on some passage in Rev.
15. The role of "works" (ἔργα) in Revelation.
16. A reflective paper on the correlation between Charles Williams' novels and John's revelation.
17. Exams
18. Present day manifestations of F.B./N.J.
19. The Hermeneutics of Visions and biblical interpretation.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COURSE: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTRACT GRADE \*: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT:

FINAL FORM OF PROJECT:

**\*CONTRACT INCLUDES:** Regular class participation, syllabus assignments, and the project. Contract may be revised at any time during the course. If evaluation of work is above contract grade, the higher grade will be given. If evaluation is below contract grade there are three options:

- 1) Discuss evaluation with professor.
- 2) Accept evaluation as contract grade.
- 3) Rework and resubmit.