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# NT 650 Tutorial in the Book of Revelation

Ben Witherington

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# NT 650

## TUTORIAL IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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FALL 2006  
3 semester units  
Enrollment Limit: 60  
Tues./Thurs. 9:30-10:45 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS--- TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 1-2 P.M.

### **Catalog Description**

Tutorials per the catalog are specialized courses for students at the intermediate level of Greek competency. This course is an exegetical survey of the Book of Revelation as a book of apocalyptic prophecy. Detailed attention will be given to the social and rhetorical and historical contexts of the book.

### **Introduction**

The Johannine Literature makes up approximately one third of the New Testament. It includes four different genre of literature-- a Gospel, epistles, a homily, and a book of apocalyptic prophecy. This course explores only the last of these works.

Pre-requisites: NT 500 or 501/502, and IBS—1; NT 520.

### **Course Objectives**

Having successfully completed this course, participants should:

- (1) be able to recognize the importance of a close reading of the text of Revelation
- (2) be able to begin to master the skills necessary to exegete the Greek text of this NT document;
- (3) grasp the importance of the structure of this work and its importance for understanding Johannine Christology;
- (4) understand the role of the this work in the New Testament canon;

(5) be able to propose fruitful ways in which apocalyptic literature may be read within the horizons of the contemporary church and world;

## Course Requirements and Reading

*On questions of style, especially with regard to paper organization and references, see Carol Slade, Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses, 11<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2000).*

*Students should submit written materials on time; late papers will receive no written comments and the grade will be penalized one-third of a grade per day.*

**(1) Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation:** Participants should prepare for each class session by (1) carefully reading the assigned texts (see the reading schedule, below), (2) taking notes on the text, and (3) comparing their observations with those in at least one of the following works. (15%)

Peterson, Eugene, Reversed Thunder, (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988) pb.

Witherington, Ben, The Revelation of John, (Cambridge: CUP, 2003), in proofs.

Witherington, Ben, Jesus the Seer, (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999), hb.

Koester, Craig, Revelation and the End of All Things, (Eerdmans, 2001), pb.

*Attendance at all sessions of the course is expected. In order to complete the course with a passing grade. Excused absences are on the basis of real personal emergencies.*

**(2) A Critical Review:** A review of Jesus the Seer, approximately 1300-1600 words (i.e., 5-6 pages, with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins) in length, typed, double-spaced. Due at the beginning of the first class in October. As a critical review, this essay should summarize the author's central theses; demonstrate the author's approach to the subject matter; and critique the author's analysis (e.g., with regard to the author's method, its faithfulness to the primary materials, its engagement with the wider discussion on the topic, and so on). (35%)

**(3) A Research Assignment:** An exegesis paper of approximately 20 pages (with a standard 12-point font like Times New Roman and one-inch margins), typed, with 1.5 or double spacing, with appropriate notes and bibliography, treating a selected pericope within Revelation. This paper should evidence *both* a close reading of the text *and* critical engagement with the range of secondary resources appropriate to the study. (See the bibliographic resources in the commentaries, as well as *New Testament Abstracts* in the Library.)  
Due by 4:00p.m. Nov. 1. (50%).

## **Reading Schedule**

The student should plan to work through Jesus the seer and Koester first, followed by my commentary, followed by Peterson.

## **Course Schedule**

Approximately one week will be spent on introductory matters, followed by a careful working through Revelation, pericope by pericope.