

OTEO2128 The Spirituality of the Book of Revelation

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General Description

Christians of the first century found themselves in a situation remarkably similar to today, immersed in a culture that was oftentimes incompatible with the Christian faith. Rather than massive persecutions from the Roman Empire, persecutions came principally from below, from friends and family members, business associates, etc. The book of Revelation pretends to transform the imagination of the reader, unveiling the cosmic battle present in history between the forces of good and evil, and the final victory of the Kingdom of Christ. It reveals how Christians participate in this battle through faithful witness to Christ, to the point of giving their life if necessary, and through the liturgy, which at every step carries forward the action of God against the forces of evil. This course will present the spirituality the book of Revelation, a spirituality centered on living faithfully in a non-Christian world. Additionally, we will explore how Revelation has been understood and misunderstood throughout history, and how, when properly understood, its message is profoundly relevant for believers today.

Language

English

Learning Outcomes (LO)

1. Understand the spirituality of the book of Revelation and its relevance to the current situation of the Church.
2. Become familiar with modern scholarly opinions regarding the book of Revelation, and have direct context with some recent exegetical writings on the book, with a particular emphasis on how the book of Revelation reads the Old Testament in light of Jesus Christ.
3. Be able to give a reasoned response to some current popular misunderstandings of the book of Revelation.
4. Understand the relationship between the Church's teachings regarding the end times and the relevant passages in the book of Revelation.
5. Develop the ability to interpret the Scriptures through the redaction of a written work.

Methodology

The content of the class will be given primarily through lectures. There will be time for questions and some group discussions.

Evaluation

1. 65% of the grade will be from the final exam, which will be written. Students will receive a list of topics to prepare for the exam, taken from the topics seen in the lectures.
2. 35% of the grade will be from a written project.
 - a. Students can choose between one of the two following projects:
 - i. Prepare a Bible Study Guide for a small group study and discussion about a chapter or section of Revelation. The guide should include:
 1. For the Group Leader:
 - a. Outline of exegetical meaning of the passage
 - b. Most important Old Testament background explained
 - c. Most important cultural background explained
 - d. Discussion questions and suggested answers
 2. For Group Members:
 - a. Points to aid in reading and preparation
 - b. Discussion questions

- ii. Alternatively, the student may propose to write a research paper about a topic agreed upon by the student and professor. Examples of topics include:
 1. The Old Testament background of a passage from the book of Revelation
 2. The meaning of a particular symbol in Revelation
 3. An aspect of a particular topic seen during the lectures (e.g. the Millennium, the role of the Liturgy, the Kingdom of Christ, etc.)
- b. The length of either project is 2500 words (6-8 pages).
- c. A printed copy should be turned in by May 27th, together with an email to the professor with the file attached in PDF and Word.

Class Schedule

Friday 8:30-10:15

Program / Content

1. Social, Economic, and Political Context; Author and Date
2. Revelation within the Context of Jewish Apocalyptic Literature
3. 4 Ways of Interpreting Revelation (1)
4. The Letters to the 7 Churches (2-3)
5. The Heavenly Liturgy (4-5)
6. The Seven Seals (6-7)
7. The Woman Clothed with the Sun (12)
8. The anti-Trinity: The Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet (13-14)
9. The Seven Bowls (15-16)
10. The Judgment of Babylon, the Beast, and the False Prophet (17-19)
11. The Millennium (20)
12. The New Jerusalem (21-22)

Calendar

<i>N.</i>	<i>Data</i>	<i>Argomento</i>	<i>N.</i>	<i>Data</i>	<i>Argomento</i>
1.	26-feb	Social, Economic, and Political Context; Author and Date	8.	29-apr	The Woman Clothed with the Sun (12)
2.	04-mar	Revelation within the Context of Jewish Apocalyptic Literature	9.	06-mag	The anti-Trinity: The Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet (13-14)
3.	11-mar	4 Ways of Interpreting Revelation (1)	10.	13-mag	The Seven Bowls (15-16)
4.	18-mar	The Letters to the 7 Churches (2-3)	11.	20-mag	The Judgment of Babylon, the Beast, and the False Prophet (17-19)
5.	08-apr	The Heavenly Liturgy (4-5)	12.	27-mag	The Millennium (20)
6.	15-apr	The Seven Seals (6-7)	13.	03-giu	The New Jerusalem (21-22)
7.	22-apr	The Seven Trumpets (8-11)			

Distribution of Time

3ETCS = 75 hours of work

- Class Lectures - 25 hours
- Readings – 15 hours
- Personal Study – 15 hours
- Written work - 20 hours

Reception hours

Friday 10:30-12:15

Obligatory reading

POYTHRESS, V. S., *The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation*, P & R Publishing, Phillipsburg, NJ 2000.

Other Bibliography

AUNE, D. E., *Revelation 1-5*, Word Biblical Commentary 52A, Thomas Nelson, Dallas 1997.

—, *Revelation 6-16*, Word Biblical Commentary 52B, Thomas Nelson, Dallas 1998.

—, *Revelation 17-22*, Word Biblical Commentary 52C, Thomas Nelson, Dallas 1998.

BAUCKHAM, R., *Climax of Prophecy: Studies on the Book of Revelation*, Bloomsbury T&T Clark, Edinburgh; New York 2000.

—, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge; New York 1993.

BEALE, G. K., *The Book of Revelation*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI 2013.

BEALE, G. K. - CAMPBELL, D., *Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI 2015.

BIGUZZI, G., *Apocalisse*, Paoline Editoriale Libri, Milano 2005.

COLLINS, A. Y., *Crisis and Catharsis: The Power of the Apocalypse*, The Westminster Press, Philadelphia 1984.

COLLINS, J. J., *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI 1998².

GORMAN, M. J., *Reading Revelation Responsibly: Uncivil Worship and Witness: Following the Lamb into the New Creation*, Wipf & Stock Pub, Eugene, OR 2010.

HILL, M. C. E., *Regnum Caelorum: Patterns of Millennial Thought in Early Christianity*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI 2001².

KOESTER, C. R., *Revelation: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, Yale University Press, New Haven; London 2014.

KRAYBILL, J. N., *Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics, and Devotion in the Book of Revelation*, Brazos Press, Grand Rapids, MI 2010.

MURPHY, F. J. - REISER, W. - AVERY-PECK, A. - LAFFEY, A., *Apocalypticism in the Bible and Its World: A Comprehensive Introduction*, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI 2012.

PEDROLI, L., *Dal fidanzamento alla nuzialità escatologica. La dimensione antropologica del rapporto tra Cristo e la Chiesa nell'Apocalisse*, Cittadella, Assisi 2007.

PETERSON, E. H., *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination*, HarperOne, San Francisco 1991.

REDDISH, M. G., *Apocalyptic Literature: A Reader*, Hendrickson Publishers 2015.

RIDDLEBARGER, K., *A Case for Amillennialism: Understanding the End Times*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England 2003.

VANNI, U., *Apocalisse, libro della Rivelazione. Egesi biblico-teologica e implicazioni pastorali*, EDB, Bologna 2009.

—, *L'apocalisse. Ermeneutica, esegesi, teologia*, EDB, Bologna 2005⁴.