

REGENT COLLEGE
Distance Education

BIBL 679: BOOK STUDY: THE REVELATION

Professor Emeritus Gordon D. Fee
Grader: Dr. Ronald Herms
Course Tutor: Peter Coelho, de-bibl679@regent-college.edu
3 Graduate Credit Hours

Your due date: _____

(See the Student Contract copy in your Student Handbook for setting your due date)

Strongly Recommended: BIBL 501 Old Testament Foundations; BIBL 503 Biblical Exegesis and Interpretation; and LANG 500 Perspectives on Biblical Languages or equivalent.

600-level courses are usually more advanced and focused than 500 level courses and generally assume the completion of some theological studies.

A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.

Course Description

This course presents a careful study of John's *Revelation* with a three-fold aim:

- (1) master the content of this document through sound exegetical methodology
- (2) place the Revelation within the historical and theological contexts of John and the early church, and
- (3) to wrestle with some of the hermeneutical issues raised by this 'word of prophecy'

Course Outline

A complete outline of course lectures, accompanying CD / iTunes U tracks, and related assignments is appended to this syllabus.

Academic Requirements

Time Commitment:

Audio Lectures	36 hours
Class Preparation & Readings	38 hours
Book Reviews	16 hours
Short Papers (4)	<u>45 hours</u>
TOTAL	135 hours

Course Materials

Beyond this syllabus, the student will be provided the following resources for this course:

- (1) Complete set of class lectures: a CD set will be included in the course packet or iTunes U access to lectures will be emailed to student.
- (2) Course notes: a set of notes (outline) of Dr Fee's lectures which may serve as a guide to follow. The student is strongly urged to take their own notes in conjunction with listening to the lectures. (iTunes U students have soft copy on iTunes U.)
- (3) Reading resource: While the expectation will be that the student has access to a well-resourced theological library, the following reading resource will be made available in an online pdf file: Wright, N.T. *The New Testament and the People of God*, chapter 10 (280-338).

Assignments:

- (1) Class reading and preparation:
Prior to Lecture 'C', the student will read material from Collins and Wright on the nature of 'apocalyptic' (see appended outline). Beginning with Lecture 'C' (Rev 1.1-8), spend one hour reading, reflecting on the text for that lecture *prior* to listening to the lecture, then record your reflections on ½ a page and submit all reflections together with the other completed assignments at the end of the course.
- (2) Book Reviews:
Two critical reviews (1000 words maximum each) of the following books:
 - (a) Richard Bauckham, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*.
 - (b) Eugene Peterson, *Reversed Thunder*.
- (3) Short Essays:
Four written assignments are interspersed throughout the lectures. For maximum benefit, the student should attempt to complete these assignments at the point in the lecture outlines where they are given. These essays should be well researched with appropriate footnotes and bibliography (style format: MLA / Chicago / Turabian / SBL).

Course Evaluation

Class reading & preparation	20%
Book Reviews	30% (15% each)
Four Essays	50%

NB: The Course Evaluation Form is to be returned by your due date

Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable and unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>). Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator *first* for an extension. Contact information is provided in your **Student Handbook**. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of “Academic Integrity” in the College Catalogue.

Course Bibliography:

(1) Texts for Purchase

Bauckham, Richard. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993. (169 pages)

Collins, John J. *The Apocalyptic Imagination: an Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature*. 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. (283 pages)

Peterson, Eugene. *Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988. (206 pages)

(2) Other Books (*these need to be consulted*)

Aune, David. *Revelation*. 3 vols. WBC 52a,b,c. Waco: Word Publishers, 1997-1998.

Beale, Gregory K. *Revelation*. NIGNTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Charlesworth, James H. ed. *Old Testament Pseudepigrapha, Vol.1: Apocalyptic Literature and Testaments*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1983.

Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*. NICNT. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

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

Wall, Robert. *Revelation*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

Wright, N.T. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1992.

(3) Further Research

Beasley-Murray, G.R. *The Book of Revelation*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

- Boring, M. Eugene. *Revelation. Interpretation: A Biblical Commentary*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 1989.
- Bredin, Mark. *Jesus, Revolutionary of Peace*. PBTMS. Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 2003.
- Caird, G.B. *A Commentary on the Revelation of St. John the Divine*. Black's New Testament Commentary. (reprint) Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999.
- Collins, John J. *Apocalypticism in the Dead Sea Scrolls*. London: Routledge, 1997.
- Fekkes, Jan. *Isaiah and Prophetic Traditions in the Book of Revelation*. JSNTS 93. Sheffield: Sheffield University Press, 1994.
- Hemer, Colin. *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia in their Local Setting*. JSNTS 11. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1986.
- Johns, Loren. *The Lamb Christology of the Apocalypse of John*. WUNT 2/167. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Siebeck), 2000.
- Ladd, George Eldon. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.
- Moyise, Steve. *The Old Testament in the Book of Revelation*. JSNTS 115. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.
- Michaels, J. Ramsey. *Revelation*. IVP New Testament Commentary Series. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Nickelsburg, George. *Jewish Literature Between the Bible and the Mishnah*. 2nd edition. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2005.
- Prigent, Pierre. *Commentary on the Apocalypse of John*. Translated by Wendy Pradels. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2001.
- Roloff, Jürgen. *Revelation*. Translated by John E. Alsup. Continental Commentaries. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Rowland, Christopher. *The Open Heaven: A Study of Apocalyptic in Judaism and Early Christianity*. London: SPCK, 1982.
- Schüssler Fiorenza, Elizabeth. *The Book of Revelation: Justice and Judgment*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985.
- Stuckenbruck, Loren T. *Angel Veneration and Christology: A Study in Early Judaism and the Christology of the Apocalypse of John*. WUNT 2.70. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Siebeck), 1995.
- Sweet, John M. *Revelation*. SCM Pelican Commentaries. London: SCM Press, 1979.
- Thompson, Leonard L. *The Book of Revelation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.

Appendix 'A'
Outline of Lectures, Readings and Essays

Lecture A: Introduction to The Revelation [CD 1]

Lecture B: The Revelation: What and Why? [CD 2]

Reading #1: Bauckham, *Theology*, 1-22
Collins, *Apocalyptic Imagination*, 1-42

Lecture C: Revelation 1.1-8 [CD 3]

Lecture D: Revelation 1.9-20 [CD 4]

Essay #1: In a paper of not more than 1200 words, reflect on the intertextuality of this passage (frequency; origins; author's modifications etc)

Lecture E: Revelation 2.1-29 [CD 5]

Lecture F: Revelation 3.1-22 [CD 6]

Lecture G: Revelation 4.1-11 [CD 7]

Lecture H: Revelation 5.1-14 [CD 8]

Lecture I: Revelation 6.1-17 [CD 9]

Lecture J: Revelation 7.1-17 [CD 10]

Lecture K: Revelation 8.1-9.21 [CD 11]

Lecture L: Revelation 10.1-11 [CD 12]

Lecture M: Revelation 11.1-19 [CD 13]

Essay #2: Write a comparative paper (1200 words) on Collins' (pp.1-42) and Wright's (pp. 280-338) descriptions of "apocalyptic". (Be sure to maintain a distinction between apocalyptic as a genre and as an eschatological category)

Lecture N: Revelation 12.1-17 [CD 14]

Lecture O: Revelation 13.1-14.5 [CD 15]

Lecture P: Revelation 14.6-20 [CD 16]

Essay #3: In a paper of not more than 1800 words, write a comparative analysis of how five commentaries (Aune, Beale, Mounce, Smalley, Wall) handle

Rev 14.14-20. Describe both how they comment on the text and evaluate their usefulness for someone like yourself.

Lecture Q: Revelation 15.1-16.21 [CD 17]

Lecture R: Revelation 17.1-18 [CD 18]

Note: No 'Lecture S'

Lecture T: Revelation 18.1-24 [CD 19]

Lecture U: Revelation 19.1-10 [CD 20]

Lecture V: Revelation 19.11-21 [CD 21]

Essay # 4: In a paper of not more than 1500 words, and in light of your readings of Collins and Wright (see *Essay #3* above), write a comparative study of 4 Ezra and John's Revelation.

Lecture W: Revelation 20.1-15 [CD 22]

Lecture X: Revelation 21.1-17 [CD 23]

Lecture Y: Revelation 22.1-21 [CD 24]