

# NT522 Atlanta Hebrews-Revelation

Summer 2006  
Two Semester Hours

Dr. Simon J. Kistemaker

## Syllabus

The two leading books in the last segment of the New Testament canon are the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Book of Revelation. Naturally, more attention will be devoted to these two books than to the seven general epistles of James, Peter, John and Jude. Yet the epistles, even though some are rather brief, will be given due coverage.

Hebrews is an epistle that stands by itself in the New Testament as an explication of the Christ's priesthood. In every chapter the concept *priesthood* appears directly and indirectly, so that we can affirm the unknown author's purpose to contribute a full discussion of one of the three offices of Christ. Matthew stresses Christ's kingship, John his prophethood, and Hebrews the priesthood.

Revelation is a summary of the entire Old and New Testament canon. It features at least 278 Old Testament quotations and allusions in addition to references to New Testament passages. The author reveals the contrast between God and Satan, Christ and the Antichrist, the Holy Spirit and the false prophet, and the saints in the midst of the world. Guided by the Spirit of God, he portrays his visions picturesquely with many symbols. His purpose is to show the reader that Christ is victorious with the saints sharing this victory.

Anyone interested in studying a one hour credit Directed Course on the canon, will be asked to read the books by F. F. Bruce *The Canon of Scripture* and B. M. Metzger, *The Canon of the New Testament*. Please consult me for pertinent details: skistemaker@rts.edu.

## Objectives

1. To understand the priesthood of Christ.
2. To be able to explain the message of Revelation.
3. To value the contribution each individual book makes to the canon.
4. To teach and preach the message of salvation presented in these books.

## Schedule

June 12 p.m.	Hebrews: Characteristics, Author, Date, Content Carson, Moo, Morris, 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. pp. 596-618 Hughes, pp.1-32 or Bruce, 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed. pp. xix-xxii and 3-34
June 13 a.m.	Hebrews: Theology Vos, <i>Teaching of the Ep. Heb.</i> pp. 11-45 Ladd, <i>Theology</i> , pp. 617-33
June 13 p.m.	Hebrews: Exegesis

Vos, *Teaching*, pp.49-87 and 91-114  
Bruce, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. pp. 138-50; 261-66

- June 14 a.m. James: Author, Date, Content, Theology  
Carson, Moo, Morris, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. pp. 619-35  
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 634-39  
Kistemaker, *James*, pp. 3-22
- June 14 p.m. 1 Peter: Content, Theology  
Carson, Moo, Morris, pp. 636-53  
Kistemaker, *First Peter*, pp. 117-50  
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 640-48
- 2 Peter-Jude: Content, Theology  
Carson, Moo, Morris, pp. 433-43 459-63  
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 649-56  
Kistemaker, *Second Peter*, pp. 280-317
- June 15 a.m. John's Epistles: Author, Content, Theology  
Carson, Moo, Morris, pp. 445-58  
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 657-65  
Kistemaker, *First-Third John*, pp. 195-224
- June 15 p.m. Revelation: Author, Date, Content, Characteristics, Symbolism  
Carson, Moo, Morris, pp. 465-84  
Hendriksen, *More than Conquerors*, pp. 51-114  
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 669-83  
Kistemaker, *Revelation*, pp. 3-38
- June 16 a.m. Revelation: Chapters 1-3,  
Hendriksen, *More than Conquerors*, pp. 115-56, 184-210  
Kistemaker, *Revelation*, pp. 75-177
- June 16 p.m. Revelation: Chapters 20-22

In view of the brevity of time in the one week of lectures, I strongly urge you to read the number of pages listed above at a later time.

### **Textbooks**

Carson, Moo, Morris. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. *Introduction to the New Testament*  
Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament*  
Hendriksen, William. *More than Conquerors*  
Kistemaker, Simon. *Revelation*

### **Recommended Books**

Calvin, J. *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews*

Brown, R. E. *Epistles of John*  
 Bruce, F. F. *Hebrews* 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions  
 \_\_\_\_\_. *Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*  
 Ellingworth, P. *Commentary on Hebrews*  
 Hagner, D. *Hebrews*  
 Hendriksen, W. *More than Conquerors*  
 Hoekema, A. A. *The Bible and the Future*  
 Hughes, P. E. *Hebrews*  
 Kent, H. A. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*  
 Kistemaker, S. J. *Hebrews*  
 \_\_\_\_\_. *James, 1-3 John*  
 \_\_\_\_\_. *1-2 Peter, Jude*  
 \_\_\_\_\_. *Revelation*  
 Lane, W. L. *Hebrews 1-8, 9-13*, two volumes  
 Metzger, *Canon of the New Testament*  
 Moffatt, J. *Hebrews* (ICC)  
 Morris, L. *Hebrews*  
 \_\_\_\_\_. *Revelation*  
 Stedman, R. C. *Hebrews*  
 Trotter, A. H. *Interpreting the Epistle to the Hebrews*  
 Vos, G. *Teaching of the Epistle to the Hebrews*

## Assignments

There are no examinations in this course. Instead you are asked to write a paper of some 20 pages (bibliography and appendices) on a Hebrews-related or Revelation-related topic. The due date for the paper is July 28, 2006.

You are advised to consult me on a topic as well as the scope, structure, and progress of your paper. I recommend some books that you find listed above. Consult the library holdings for additional books and articles. Please, keep me informed about your bibliography and the progress you are making in your writing. I advise you to consult Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* on writing an acceptable term paper

## Suggested Topics

### A. *Hebrews*

1. Jesus' divinity and humanity in Hebrews
2. The admonitions in the Epistle to the Hebrews
3. Jesus' temptations and sinlessness
4. The Sabbath rest for God's people
5. Contrasting the priesthoods of Aaron and Melchizedek
6. The sin against the Holy Spirit
7. Melchizedek, the royal priest
8. The high priest and the new covenant
9. The tabernacle in the desert

10. Christ's once-for-all sacrifice
11. The faith of the patriarch Abraham
12. Moses's faith and works
13. Contrasting Mount Sinai and Mount Zion
14. The author and the readers of his epistle
15. The authenticity of the Epistle to the Hebrews

### *B. Revelation*

1. The Rider on the White Horse
2. The Beast in the Book of Revelation
3. A Survey of the Lamb in Revelation
4. The Little Scroll
5. The Number 144,000
6. The Thousand Years
7. Babylon the Great
8. The Recapitulation Theory
9. The Linear Theory
10. The Throne of God
11. The Two Witnesses
12. Prophecy in Revelation
13. History in the Apocalypse
14. Dating the Apocalypse