

2NT701
Revelation
Spring 2011, Orlando
Syllabus

Dr. Simon J. Kistemaker

Of all the books in the Bible, Revelation is the most intriguing with its images, figures, and numbers, and symbols. Yet this book is a fitting capstone of Scripture, because it incorporates countless allusions to the Old and New Testaments. In it you hear the voices of God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the apostle John. The author wrote this book for the comfort and encouragement of the church today. And in this last book of the Bible, God permits us to see something of the victorious Christ and the church in heaven and on earth—and what we see is awesome indeed.

Textbooks

Recommended textbooks for the course are:

- Beale, Gregory K. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. ISBN 0-85364-851-4
- Kistemaker, Simon J. *Exposition of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. ISBN 0-8010-2255. Only available in the 12 volume New Testament Commentary set ISBN 0-8010-2606-7
- Morris, Leon. *Revelation*. Revised edition. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries series. Leicester: Inter-Varsity; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987. ISBN 0-8028-0273-7
- Osborne, Grant R. *Revelation*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2002. ISBN 0-8010-2299-1

Assignments

Three tests are scheduled throughout the semester (March 1, April 5 and May 3). In addition you are asked to write a paper of some 15 double-spaced pages (plus bibliography and appendices) on a Revelation-related topic. The due date for the paper is April 26, 2011.

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 below. 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.

I suggest that you do your reading for the course from the recommended books and are guided by the following schedule throughout the thirteen weeks.

Schedule

Feb. 1

Introduction. Pattern. Symbolism. Scripture. Authorship (External and Internal evidence). Johannine characteristics.

Feb. 8

Introduction. Time, place, setting, interpretation, unity, acceptance.
Rev. 1. Introduction, Jesus' glorious appearance

Feb. 15

Rev. 2 & 3. Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.

Feb. 22.

Rev. 4 & 5. God's throne. The sealed scroll. Worship of the Lamb.
Reading Assignment:

March 1

Rev. 6 & 7. TEST The 7 seals. Interlude: the saints. The 7th seal opened.

March 8

Rev. 8 & 9. The seven trumpets. Refusal to repent.

March 15

Rev. 10 and 11. The interlude, little scroll, 2 witnesses, 7th trumpet.

March 29.

Rev. 12 & 13. The woman, dragon, beast from sea, beast from earth.

April 5

Rev. 14. TEST The Lamb of God. 4 Messages. God's wrath.

April 12

Rev. 15 & 16. Out. The setting of God's judgment. 7 plagues poured out.

April 19.

Rev. 17 & 18. The Great Prostitute. Babylon.

April 26.

Rev. 19 & 20. PAPER DUE. Wedding banquet of the Lamb. Final battle of Christ. Defeat of Satan and his demise. The Millennium. Judgment.

May 3

Rev. 21 & 22. TEST New Jerusalem. The Holy City. Conclusion

Topics

1. The Throne of God (ch. 4)
2. A Survey of the Lamb in Revelation (chs. 5, 14)
3. The Rider on the White Horse (ch. 6)
4. The Number 144,000 (chs. 7, 14)
5. The Little Scroll (ch. 10)
6. The Two Witnesses (ch. 11)
7. Signs in Heaven (ch. 12)
8. The Antichrist (ch. 13)
9. The Great Harlot (ch. 17)
10. Babylon the Great (ch. 18)
11. The Thousand Years (ch. 20)
12. The Recapitulation
13. The Linear Theory

Bibliography

Aune, David E. *Revelation 1-5*. Word Biblical Commentary series 52A. Dallas: Word, 1997.

_____, *Revelation 6-16*, Word Biblical Commentary series, 52B. Nashville: Nelson, 1998.

_____, *Revelation 17-22*, Word Biblical Commentary series, 52C. Nashville: Nelson, 1998.

Barclay, William. *The Revelation of John*. 2nd edition. 2 vols. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960.

- Beale, Gregory K. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. The New International Greek Testament Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Beasley-Murray, G. R. *The Book of Revelation*. London:Oliphants, 1974.
- Hendriksen, William. *More than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1982 reprint.
- Kistemaker, Simon J. *Exposition of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- Ladd, George E. *Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.
- Morris, Leon. *Revelation*. Revised edition. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries series. Leicester: Inter-Varsity; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
- Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*. Revised Edition. The New International Commentary on the New Testament series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.
- Osborne, Grant R. *Revelation*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, Baker, 2002
- Sweet, J. P. M. *Revelation*. Westminster Pelican Commentaries series. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1979.
- Swete, Henry Barclay. *Commentary on Revelation: The Greek Text with Introduction, Notes and Indexes*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1977 reprint.
- Thomas, Robert L. *Revelation 1-7: An Exegetical Commentary*. Chicago: Moody, 1992.
- _____. *Revelation 8-22: An Exegetical Commentary*. Chicago: Moody, 1995.

Grading

Three tests 20 % each	60
Paper 40%	<u>40</u>
Total	100

Attendance

Classroom attendance is for the glory of God and preparation for the gospel ministry. Students therefore are expected to attend class sessions. No student should absent himself/herself from classes in order to fulfill requirements or responsibilities of other classes. Those with absences may be penalized at the discretion of the professor.

If students miss class persistently throughout the regular semester, they may be dismissed for academic reasons. In certain exceptional cases, such as extended illness or family crisis, in which it is impossible for students to complete a semester's work, they may present a written request for permission to withdraw from all courses.

Catalog 2009-2011, page 46.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 2NT701

Professor: Simon Kistemaker

Campus: Orlando

Date: February 1, 2011

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student should be able to articulate Revelation orally and in print 2. Show ability to interpret the content of assigned chapters.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Strong	The student must know the content of Revelation.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	Discuss the Reformed tradition in understanding Revelation.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Student must know how to apply the message of Revelation.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Minimal	Apply the text to all facets of life.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	Learn to be positive in one's interpretation with a gentleness of spirit.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Use exegetical skills in preaching and serving the people to understand the text.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	None	
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	None	
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	None	