

2NT522

Hebrews-Revelation

June 29-July 3, 2009

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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.

At the end of the week, sufficient time will be set aside to a study of the canon: its history, development, and significance.

Course Objectives

Students learn to articulate a verbal knowledge of the last nine books of the New Testament (Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1-2-3 John, Jude, and Revelation).

They will learn the history, setting, message and theology of these nine books, and they will be able to interpret the major themes of these writings.

Exegesis of selected passages will be stressed and students writing their papers will show an ability to do so.

This seminary stresses Reformed theology, thus also in this course there is an emphasis on presenting it in the lectures and do so in a winsome manner.

In this course there is an emphasis on developing an ability to preach and teach the material the students are studying. Throughout the course students are shown how to apply the biblical text to their life, family, community and the world in which they live and minister.

Textbooks

Carson, D.A. & Douglas J. Moo, *Introduction to the New Testament*, 2nd edition.
ISBN: 97801310519409

Ladd, George Eldon, *A Theology of the New Testament*. ISBN: 9780802806802

Kistemaker, Simon, *Revelation, New Testament Commentary*. ISBN: 9780801022524

Hendrickson, William and Simon J. Kistemaker, "Hebrews", in *Thessalonians, the Pastorals & Hebrews, New Testament Commentary*. ISBN: 978-0801020797

Schedule

- June 29 a.m.** Hebrews: Characteristics, Author, Date, Content
Carson, Moo: pp. 596-618
Hughes, pp.1-32 or
Bruce, 2nd ed. pp. xix-xxii and 3-34
Kistemaker, pp. 3-19
Hebrews: Theology
Vos, *Teaching of the Ep. Heb.* pp. 11-45
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 617-33
Kistemaker, pp. 183-211
- June 29 p.m. Hebrews: Exegesis
Vos, *Teaching*, pp.49-87 and 91-114
Bruce, 2nd ed. pp. 138-50; 261-66
Kistemaker, pp. 153-66
- June 30 a.m.** James: Author, Date, Content, Theology
Carson, Moo, pp. 619-35
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 634-39
Kistemaker, *James*, pp. 3-22
- June 30 p.m. 1 Peter: Content, Theology
Carson, Moo, pp. 636-53
Kistemaker, *First Peter*, pp. 117-50
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 640-48
- July 1 a.m.** 2 Peter-Jude: Content, Theology
Carson, Moo, pp. 654-68; 688-96
Kistemaker, *Second Peter*, pp. 280-317
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 649-56
- July 1 p.m. John's Epistles: Author, Content, Theology
Carson, Moo, pp. 669-87
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 657-65
Kistemaker, *First-Third John*, pp. 195-224
- July 2 a.m.** Revelation: Author, Date, Content
Carson, Moo, pp. 697-725
Kistemaker, *Revelation*, pp.3-70
Ladd, *Theology*, pp. 669-83
- July 2 p.m. Revelation: Exegesis
Kistemaker, *Revelation*, pp. 75-104
- July 3 a.m.** Revelation: Exegesis Chs. 12 and 13
Kistemaker, *Revelation*, pp. 351-96
New Testament Canon
Bruce, *The Canon of Scripture*, pp. 158-208
Metzger, *Canon of the New Testament*, pp. 39-73
- July 3 p.m. New Testament Canon
Carson, Moo, pp. 726-43.
Metzger, *Canon of the New Testament*, pp. 75-112

Reserve Shelf

Brown, R. E. *Epistles of John*
Bruce, F. F. *Hebrews*, 2nd edition
_____, *The Canon of the Scriptures*
Hendriksen, W. *More than Conquerors*
Hoekema, A. A. *The Bible and the Future*
Hughes, P. E. *Hebrews*
Kistemaker, S. J. *Hebrews*
_____. *James, 1-3 John*
_____. *1-2 Peter, Jude*
_____. *Revelation*
Metzger, B. *Canon of the New Testament*
Morris, L. *Revelation*
Vos, G. *Teaching of the Epistle to the Hebrews*

Assignments

You will be held responsible for all the reading assignments listed in the day-by-day schedule.

You are required to write a 20 page paper double-spaced (12 point font, 1.5 inch margin) with bibliography and possible attachments. The paper should focus preferably on an aspect of either Hebrews or Revelation. Papers should be handed in on the due date Friday August 14, 2009. An extension is allowed only in case of illness or death in the family.

Topics

Hebrews

Jesus' divinity and humanity in Hebrews.
Admonitions in the Epistle to the Hebrews.
Jesus' temptations and sinlessness (ch. 2-5)
The Sabbath rest for God's people (ch. 4)
Contrasting priesthoods of Aaron/ Melchizedek (ch. 5-7)
The sin against the Holy Spirit (ch. 6)
Melchizedek, the royal priest (ch. 7)
The high priest and the new covenant (ch. 9-10)
The tabernacle in the desert (ch. 9)
Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (ch. 9-10)
The faith of the patriarch Abraham (ch. 11)
The faith and works of Moses (ch. 3 and 11)
Contrasting Mount Sinai and Mount Zion (ch. 12)
The author and the readers of his epistle
The authenticity of the Epistle to the Hebrews

Revelation

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