Required Texts


Recommended Text:


Assignments: There are two advance assignments for this summer course: 1st assignment is due on May 21st, 2015 – Posted on Moodle by 1:00PM and the second assignment is due on June 20th posted on Moodle by 1:00PM.

Choose a passage from Chapters 1-5 in the Book of Revelation and following the instructions below have an exegetical notebook and write a brief exegetical paper of 6-8 pages on what you discern to be the central theological and spiritual meaning of the pericope. I expect you to follow the format you learned in HBS 301 and NTS 301. Consult the guidelines for writing exegetical papers that were distributed in NTS 301 or posted on Moodle or in your Syllabus. An excellent paper will have a clearly stated thesis statement that will be supported and developed through a coherent discussion of the historical context, the literary context, and the structure of the passage, as well as through a verse-by-verse thick description of the text. An excellent paper will exemplify good style, organization, grammar and spelling. It will also show a considerable evidence of engagement with other significant interpreters of the passage. I have attached a list of resources that you can work with. You are strongly exhorted to consult with me about your exegetical work while you are in the process of writing the paper. I will happily give you feedback on thesis statement.

The paper could be on one of the following topics or a theme of your choice, related to Revelation 1-5:

- The Christology (teaching about Christ) of Revelation 1-5;
- The Ecclesiology (teaching about the Church) of Revelation 1-5;
The Ethics of Revelation 2-3;
The function of the Visions in Revelation 1-5.

Both your exegetical theological notebook and paper must be posted on Moodle on the due date of May 21st, 2015, by 1:00PM.

In the use of resources, please be careful to acknowledge sources of ideas and quotations. See the section in student Handbook on “Integrity of Work.” This is an important matter for your consideration. Use a style guide such as:


**Guidelines for Your Exegetical/Theological Notebook**

You are to print a version of the text of Revelation to mark up. The translation should be the NRSV, RSV, NAB, NJB, NIV, or TNIV. Format the text with 1.5 or double spacing and 3-inch left and right margins. I would suggest putting the pages in a ½-inch binder. Your task is to begin work on the text before reading commentaries, looking for and noting such things as structure, key words and images, intertextuality (echoes of Scripture, other writings, or other parts of Revelation), significant theological claims, other translations options, problems, questions, brief reflections, etc. Then, after working with the text yourself, read the assigned secondary literature, making any additional notes you care to make. (See sample below.) This exegetical-theological work will become the basis of your textual analysis and crafting a thesis statement. When we meet in summer, exegetical notebooks will also be an important feature of our engagement with the entire book of Revelation.
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN—NRSV

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

1.
2. SECOND ASSIGNMENT (Due on June 20th, 2015): Write a 2-4 page Outline of the Entire book of Revelation, chapters 1-22, and write a one page summary of what you discern to be the theological interpretation of this book for 21st century Christian Church.

A Brief Bibliography on the Apocalypse (for use with your advance Assignments and the entire summer course).


Lindsey, Hal. *There’s a New World Coming*. Harvest House, 1984 (orig. 1973). A popular commentary from the predictive school of interpretation by the author of *The Late Great Planet Earth*.


