

EXPOSITORY PREACHING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: REVELATION
BSNT8301 Professional Doctoral Seminar
Spring Trimester, March 23-35, 2015
CIV: New Orleans, Atlanta, Oklahoma City

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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and application of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. The primary focus for the 2014-2015 academic year is the core value of Spiritual Vitality. The course will address this value by reminding the student that proclaiming the Gospel and mission endeavors are central to carrying out the Great Commission of Christ and are vital responsibilities of ministers and their congregations. This course also addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition and Worship Leadership by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Course Description

This seminar centers on preparing expository sermons and deriving homiletical values from selected portions of the New Testament. The work is aimed at providing a model upon which students can establish an effective life-discipline of study and sermon preparation. The exegetical part is normally taught by a New Testament professor and the expository section by a Preaching professor.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will have:

1. Gained a mastery of the historical background of Revelation.
2. Completed an exegesis of a selected passage from the English text of Revelation.
3. Developed a broad understanding of the text through exegetical and homiletical commentaries on Revelations.
4. Learned to appreciate the theological value of Revelation for preaching.
5. Developed sermon briefs from Revelation that will incorporate the results of exegesis as well as application and interpretation in light of the contemporary setting.

Course Teaching Methodology

The seminar will center around the assignments and presentations by the students. The Professors will facilitate discussions and dialogue regarding the texts and topics of Revelation. Assigned topics and scriptural passages will be designed to sharpen the student's knowledge and skills in important areas of study in Revelation. Small group interaction will also be employed.

Required Textbooks

Keener, Craig S. *Revelation*. NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.

Stevens, Gerald L. *Revelation: The Past and Future of John's Apocalypse*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publishers, 2014.

Akin, Daniel L., Bill Curtis, and Stephen Rummage. *Engaging Exposition*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2011.

Additional Resources

Commentaries

Beale, Gregory K. *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*. NIGTC. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.

Beasley-Murray, George R. *Revelation*. New Century Bible Commentary. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981.

Easley, Kendell H. *Holman New Testament Commentary: Revelation*. Nashville: Holman Holman Reference, 1998.

Ladd, George E. *A Commentary on the Revelation of John*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978.

MacArthur, John. *Revelation 1-11*. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series. Chicago: Moody Press, 2000.

_____. *Revelation 12-22*. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series. Chicago: Moody Press, 2000.

Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*. Rev. ed. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

Patterson, Paige. *Revelation: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*. New American Commentary. Nashville: B & H, 2012.

Reddish, Mitchell G. *Revelation*. Smyth and Helwys Bible Commentary. Macon, Ga.: Smyth & Helwys, 2001.

Expositions

Criswell, W.A. *Expository Sermons of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1966.

Hobbs, Herschel H. *The Cosmic Drama: An Exposition of the Book of Revelation*. Dallas: Word Books, 1971.

Lotz, Anne Graham. *The Vision of His Glory: Finding Hope Through the Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1997.

MacArthur, John. *Because the Time Is Near*. Chicago: Moody, 2007.

Rogers, Adrian. *Unveiling the End Time in Our Time*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2004.

Theology

Baukhham, Richard. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Kraybill, J. Nelson. *Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics, and Devotion in the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2010.

Wright, N. T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.

Assignments

Before the Seminar:

1. Background/Introduction Paper

Each student will prepare a 16-20 page, double-spaced **Background/Introduction Paper** on *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. The paper must address all four of the following topics:

History of Interpretation (see Stevens, *Revelation*, Part 1)

- Apocalyptic Traditions
- Pre-Reformation
- Post-Reformation
- Nineteenth-Century America

Historical Setting: (see Stevens, *Revelation*, Part 2)

- Authorship
- Date
- Patmos
- Recipients

Literary Setting (see Stevens, *Revelation*, Part 2)

- Rhetoric (subversive)
- Old Testament (usage)
- Drama (character of literature)
- Structure (major structural elements)

Interpretive Decisions (see Stevens, *Revelation*, Part 2)

- Genre (apocalypse, prophecy, epistle)
- Prophecy (forthtelling vs. foretelling; preterist, historicist, futurist, idealist)
- Judgments (Seals, Trumpets, Bowls)
- Millennium (amillennial, premillennial, postmillennial, passion-millennial)

The Background/Introduction Paper should be written in Turabian form and style, no first person allowed. The paper should involve a synthesis of the positions of the authors of BOTH required commentaries (Stevens & Keener), plus the involvement of two additional commentaries from the list provided, student's choice.

The Background/Introduction is to be submitted to Dropbox no later than 11:00 pm, Sunday, March 22, 2015. See instructions below for enrolling in dropbox.com and submitting papers.

2. Theological Exposition Paper

Each student will prepare a 15-20 page, double-spaced **Exposition Paper**. A list of Exposition topics is provided below. (Students are to email Dr. Ogea (rogea@nobts.edu) with their first, second, and third choices. Dr. Ogea will assign the topics in the order in which he receives the emails.)

Theological Topics

- Sovereignty of God (Rev. 4-5; 6:10; 11:15-17; 19:6)
- Judgment of God (Rev. 14:7; 15:4; 16:7; 17:1; 19:2, 20; 20:10, 14-15)
- Creation and Eschatology (3:14; 4:11; 5:13; 10:6; 14:7; 21:5)
- Problem of Evil (Rev. 2:9; 2:13, 24; 3:9; 12:9; 22:2, 7)
- Cosmic War (1:16; 2:12, 16; 6:4, 8; 11:7; 12:7; 17; 13:7, 10, 14; 17:14; 19:11, 15, 19, 21)
- Christology (Rev. 1:5, 9-20; 5:6, 8, 12, 13; 7:10, 17; 8:1; 12:11; 14:1; 19:7; 21:22)
- Worship (4:8-10; 5:9-13; 7:12; 11:17; 14:3; 15:3; 19:1-6)
- New Jerusalem (Rev. 21-22)
- Testimony: witness, persecution, perseverance (1:5, 9; 2:13; 3:14; 6:9; 11:3, 7; 12:11, 17; 17:6; 19:10; 20:4)

The Theological Exposition must reflect and reference the use of BOTH required commentaries (Keener and Stevens), Sections One and Two of *Engaging Exposition*, the same two additional commentaries selected for Assignment #1, and one Exposition resource selected from the list provided, student's choice. **Each student will make a 12-15 minute verbal presentation of the Exposition during the seminar. (Students may use PowerPoint to supplement their verbal presentation)**

Consult Turabian as format and style guide for the Exposition, especially for footnotes, margins, page numbers, headings, subheadings, etc. No first person allowed.

The Exposition is to be submitted to Dropbox no later than 11:00 pm, Sunday, March 22, 2015. See instructions below for enrolling in dropbox.com and submitting papers.

Note from Dr. Ogea: Exposition is presenting, explaining, or expounding a text of Scripture, involving exegesis (a study of the historical, grammatical, and theological background of the text) and hermeneutics (interpretation that leads to application). The Exposition paper is not to be a sermon. It is material that one could use to develop a sermon. It is where you explain, argue, apply, and illustrate the material at hand. I don't just want to know what the commentaries say. It's like when you "expound" in a sermon, you use commentaries for the foundation, but you also tell the listeners how you interpret the text and how it applies to their lives. Think of it this way -- if I were completely unfamiliar with that passage of Scripture, and I read your Exposition, when I finished, would I be able to understand that text, what it meant in its context, and how it applies to my Christian journey now?

Instructions for DROPBOX:

All assignments for this course will be submitted via a shared folder on dropbox.com. You will receive a separate email from Dr. Ogea requesting that you share the folder **Expository Preaching From Revelation**. If you already have a dropbox account, then simply accept the shared folder. If you do not have a dropbox account, you will need to follow the instructions in the email to create a free dropbox account and then accept the shared folder.

In the folder **Expository Preaching From Revelation** you will find subfolders for each assignment, plus a folder for Course Documents. The Professors will upload additional course documents for use during the seminar. Save your assignment on your computer using your last name last name and the name of the assignment (ogea.background). Upload your document in the appropriate folder. Dropbox will automatically update everyone's folder.

Important: do not alter anyone's file (save comments in the file) or remove anyone's file from the dropbox folder, as that will alter or remove the file for everyone. If you wish to download any document to your computer, open the file and "save as" to your computer.

During the Seminar:

Each student should be prepared to participate in dialogue and discussion regarding the Background/Introduction Papers and be prepared to individually present their Theological Exposition Papers.

Following the Seminar:

Choose **ONE** (1) of the following for a **Final Paper**:

1. Develop a 16-20 page, double-spaced, **Preaching Plan** for a sermonic approach to *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. The Preaching Plan should include the following components:
 - a. a working definition of expository preaching.
 - b. a rationale for preaching through a Bible book.
 - c. a strategy for how to preach from *Revelation* in a local church setting.
 - d. a series of sermons (at least six, but not more than 10), composed around a selected theme, utilizing the diagram on page 128 of *Engaging Exposition* as a one-page template for each sermon. The student will select one of the sermon templates and develop a complete sermon manuscript (no more than five pages, single-spaced), beginning with the Introduction through the sermon Conclusion.

2. Select eight (6) **Theological/Doctrinal Issues** from *Revelation* and develop a 16-20 page, double-spaced **Reflection Paper**, to include the following components:
 - a. a working definition of the issue, with regard to systematic theology and the Baptist Faith and Message.
 - b. cite the references from *Revelation* where the theological/doctrinal issue is located.
 - c. discuss three applications and/or implications of the issue for preaching in the 21st century church.
 - d.

Note: The professors will give further clarification of the Final Paper at the end of the seminar. This assignment is not a formal paper re: Turabian form and style, but the use of footnotes, pagination, and margins should utilize Turabian. First person is allowed for this assignment.

The Final Paper must be uploaded to Dropbox no later than 11:00 pm, Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Seminar Evaluation:

The grade for the seminar will be divided equally as follows:

- 30% Background/Introduction Paper
- 30% Theological Exposition Paper
- 30% Final Paper
- 10% Seminar Participation

Bibliography

Preaching Resources

- Akin, Daniel L., Bill Curtis, and Stephen Rummage. *Engaging Exposition*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2011.
- Akin, Daniel L., David L. Allen, and Ned L. Mathews, eds. *Text-Driven Preaching: God's Word at the Heart of Every Sermon*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010.
- Breidenbaugh, Joel. *Preaching for Bodybuilding: Integrating Doctrine and Expository Preaching in a Postmodern World*. Bloomington, IN: CrossBooks, 2010.
- Bryson, Harold T. *Expository Preaching: The Art of Preaching Through a Book of the Bible*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1995.
- Chappel, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Preaching*. 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.
- Eswine, Zack. *Preaching to a Post-Everything World: Crafting Biblical Sermons that Connect with Our Culture*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- Fabarez, Michael. *Preaching That Changes Lives*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002.
- Heisler, Greg. *Spirit-Led Preaching: The Holy Spirit's Role in Sermon Preparation and Delivery*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2007.
- MacArthur, John. *Preaching: How to Preach Biblically*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005.
- McDill, Wayne V. *The Twelve Essential Skills for Great Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1994.
- Merida, Tony. *Faithful Preaching: Declaring Scripture with Responsibility, Passion, and Authenticity*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2009.
- Miller, Calvin. *Preaching: The Art of the Narrative Exposition*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2006.
- Olford, Stephen F. *Anointed Expository Preaching*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1998.
- Richard, Ramesh. *Preparing Expository Sermons*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
- Robinson, Haddon W., and Craig Brian Larson. *The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2005.
- Robinson, Haddon W. and Torrey W. Robinson. *It's All in How You Tell It: Preaching First-Person Expository Messages*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.
- Rummage, Stephen N. *Planning Your Preaching: A Step-By-Step Guide for Developing a One-Year Preaching Calendar*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2002.
- Shaddix, Jim. *The Passion Driven Sermon*. Nashville: Broadman-Holman, 2003.
- Stott, John R. W. *Between Two Worlds: The Art of Preaching in the Twentieth Century*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Vines, Jerry, and Jim Shaddix. *Power in the Pulpit: How to Prepare and Deliver Expository Sermons*. Chicago: Moody, 1999.

The Book of Revelation

Gerald L. Stevens, PhD

- Abbott, Frank Frost. *The Common People of Ancient Rome: Studies in Roman Life and Literature*. New York: Biblio and Tannen, 1965.
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- Aland, Kurt, ed. *Kurzgefasste Liste der griechischen Handschriften des neuen Testaments*. 2nd ed. Arbeiten zur neutestamentlichen Textforschung 1. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1994.
- Albrecht, Katherine and Liz McIntyre, *The Spychips Threat: Why Christians Should Resist RFID and Electronic Surveillance*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006.
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- Aristeas. *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*. Accordance, Version 10.1.7. 2013. Print ed.: In vol. 1 of *Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*. Edited by R. H. Charles. 1913. 3 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Aristides, Aelius. *The Complete Works: Orations 1–16*. Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 1997.
- Athenagoras. *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* on CD-ROM. Logos Research Systems Version 2.0. 1997. Print ed.: Athenagoras. In vol. 2 of *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*. Edited by Alexander Roberts, James Donaldson, and A. Cleveland Coxe. 1885–1896. 10 vols. New York: Christian Literature Company.
- Augustine. *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church* on CD-ROM. Accordance Bible Software Version 10.1.5, 2013. Print ed.: Augustine. In vol. 1 of *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*. Series 2. 1886–1889. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. 14 vols. New York: Christian Literature Company.
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- _____. *Revelation 6–16*. WBC, Vol. 52b. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.
- _____. *Revelation 17–22*. WBC, Vol. 52c. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.
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- Barr, David L. "The Lamb Who Looks Like a Dragon? Characterizing Jesus in John's Apocalypse." Pages 205–20 in *The Reality of Apocalypse: Rhetoric and Politics in the Book of Revelation*. Edited by David L. Barr. SBLSymS, Num. 39. Edited by Christopher R. Matthews. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006.
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