

Canadian Bible College
THE BOOK OF REVELATION (BST 313)

Fall Semester, 1998
Instructor: Dr P. Spilsbury

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an in-depth study of the book of Revelation. Special attention will be paid to the development of proper procedures for interpreting the book in the light of its literary and historical context. The course will also explore the nature of the book's relevance to the contemporary church. Students should note that this course is **not** interested in formulating a timetable or detailed outline for "the end of the world". Those interested in such matters primarily would be well advised not to take this course. It should also be noted that this is an upper-class course for which New Testament Epistles (BST 200) is a **prerequisite**. The assignments require a high degree of reflective and critical input from students.

OBJECTIVES

The course aims to accomplish the following objectives:

1. To introduce students to the literary and cultural context in which the book of Revelation was written.
2. To help students understand and interpret the symbols and images of the book of Revelation.
3. To outline the major themes and theology of the book of Revelation
4. To give a sense of the importance of the book of Revelation for the Church today.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to complete all of the following assignments. Failure to complete all the assignments will result in a failing grade for the course.

1. To read both books listed under "Required Texts" below.



These texts reflect two quite different approaches to the book of Revelation. Students are encouraged to try to appreciate both approaches. Students will submit a signed statement affirming that they have completed this reading. If the reading has not been completed, the number of pages read should be indicated.

Due Date: 22nd October

2. To compile a one-page **profile** for each of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation 2-3.

These profiles should be researched, and include a description of the city in which the church was located as well as of the Church itself. It should also describe and explain the significance of the divine message that is given to each church. These should be typed and single-spaced. A bibliography of sources used should also be included.

Due Date: 1st October

3. To compose a **visual representation** of the book of Revelation.

This can take any form that the student chooses. It could be a picture representing the different figures and events (in this case some words of explanation should accompany the picture). It could also be a chart or a diagram setting forth the different components of the book. This composition must be original to the student her/himself. It should either attempt to capture the whole book (a kind of survey), or the essence of the book (its core meaning). This assignment will be graded on the evidence it shows of insight into the meaning and message of the book of Revelation.

Due Date: 12th November

4. To write a five-page **reflection paper** on the message of the book of Revelation.

This is not a research assignment as such, but should reflect what has been learnt from the lectures and the other assignments.

Due Date: 3rd December

GRADING

1. Reading	20%
2. Church Profiles	30%
3. Visual Assignment	25%
4. Reflection Paper	25%



REQUIRED TEXTS

E.H. Peterson, *Reversed Thunder*. Harper and Row, 1988.

R.W. Wall, *Revelation*. New International Biblical Commentary; Hendrickson, 1991.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Late work will be penalized by 5% for every day late. Grammar and spelling will be taken into account in the grading of all written assignments. All written work must be proof-read by a second reader. This person's name must be included on the title page. The title page should also include the title of the paper, the course name and the student's name and mail-box number.



