

COURSE SYLLABUS

Reading the Book of Revelation

Course Lecturer: David Mathewson, PhD

Course Description

Common responses to the book of Revelation throughout history have been “It’s too hard for me to understand!” or “It’s just a depressing book about doom and gloom.” In this course, you will explore the depth, beauty, and application of this early first-century book. Discover its literary characteristics, its original audience’s unique circumstances and its author’s purpose in writing to them. You will also explore how we can know that the book was meant to be understood by its readers so you can arrive at the heart of the book’s message and discover its application for your life today.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify Revelation’s literary style, understand its historical context, and use this knowledge to better understand the book.
- Explain John’s original purpose for writing the book of why it is relevant for modern-day readers.
- Explain how we can know the book of Revelation was meant to be understood by its original readers and how we can take steps to better understand it today.
- Describe the heart of Revelation’s message.
- Identify specific applications for the book of Revelation.

Course Lecturer



David Mathewson, PhD

Education:

- University of Aberdeen, PhD
- Denver Seminary, MA
- Colorado Christian University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Associate Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary
- Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Gordon College
- Adjunct Faculty, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Member, Society for Biblical Literature

Publications:

- *Verbal Aspect in the Book of Revelation and A New Heaven and a New Earth: The Meaning and Function of the Old Testament in Revelation 21:1-22:5*
- Numerous articles that have appeared in publications such as *Novum Testamentum*, *Trinity Journal*, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, and the *Journal of Evangelical Theological Society*

Course Methods

Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage you in understanding, processing and applying the information learned in this course to your life. These methods include the following:

- **Video-based teaching**
The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.
- **Additional Resources**
Lessons may be accompanied by additional readings, images, etc. that you can use to supplement your learning.

Course Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:
 - **Lesson Overview:** A brief outline of what the lecturer will cover in the lesson.
 - **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Lectures:** 10-minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
2. Responding to the discussion questions for each lesson.
3. Earning a 70% or higher score on each lesson Quiz and the Final Exam.
Quizzes and the Final Exam will cover the material presented in the lectures.