

Hebrews to Revelation, NT 250

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Course Information

I. Course Description

This course is a study of the general letters and Revelation with an emphasis on application to modern life. The lectures were recorded in Summer 1999.

II. Objectives

- To master the occasion, background, concerns, and themes of the books we study.
- To grasp the unique contribution each book makes to our understanding of the faith.
- To recognize that each book has its own testimony to Christ and the concept of discipleship.

III. Texts

These books can be purchased from most Christian booksellers, or you can order them online from the Covenant Seminary bookstore by visiting www.covenantseminary.edu or by calling the bookstore at 314-434-0110 (toll-free 877-213-3353).

- Lane, W., *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment*. Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 1985 (This book is out of print; copies may be ordered from Covenant's Bookstore).
- Motyer, J.A., *The Message of James*. Downers Grove: IVP, 1975.
- Wilcock, M., *The Message of Revelation*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Selected readings: Barker, Glenn, et. al. *The New Testament Speaks*, pp 235-257, 336-345, 413-425; Fee, Gordon. *New International Biblical Commentary, I and II Timothy, Titus*, pp 1-29.

IV. Class Calendar

Topics for a one-page reflection paper are listed throughout the class calendar. The topics are designed to enhance the lecture, and should be completed before listening to that lecture.

Lecture 1—Introduction

Lecture 2—Cultural Settings of Early Christianity

Reflection #1 (for lecture 2): Despite the problem the Hebrews faced, the book opens with Christology. Why might this be? Summarize what Hebrews 1-2 says about Jesus.

Lecture 3—Introduction to Hebrews & Hebrews 1-2 (*Reading: Hebrews 1-3; Lane, pp. 15-54*)

Lecture 4—Hebrews 1:1-24: Jesus, Prophets, and Angels

Lecture 5—Hebrews 2:5-18: Jesus our Empathetic Hero

Reflection #2 (for lecture 5): Contrary to what most of you believe, Hebrews 6:1-12 appears to teach that believers can be saved and lost. What do you believe about it? How do you understand Hebrews 6?

Lecture 6—Hebrews 3-4: Jesus our Faithful High Priest (*Hebrews 3-7; Lane, pp. 55-113*)

Lecture 7—Hebrews 5-6: Apostasy and Perseverance

Reflection #3 (for lecture 7): Read Hebrews 12:1-4. Explain how this passage brings theological themes from several earlier chapters to their conclusion and application.

Lecture 8—Hebrews 7-10: The Priesthood of Christ (*Hebrews 7-12; Lane, pp. 114-179*)

Lecture 9—Hebrews 10:19 – 13:25: The Life of Faith

Reflection #4 (for lecture 9): Read James 1:1-5. "Rejoice in trials" is an odd way to start a book. What does this mean? Explore the presence of the trial theme through James

OR Read James 2:14-24. What is the relationship between faith, justification, and works according to James? Compare James to Paul.

Lecture 10—Hebrews Conclusion & Introduction to James (*James 1-2; Motyer, pp. 11-78*)

Lecture 11—James 1: The Trials of Life

Lecture 12—James 2: Good Works Demonstrate True Religion

Reflection #5 (for lecture 12): Read James 5:13-20. Do you believe healings occur today? Do miracles occur? If so, are they the same as the miracles of Jesus and the apostles?

Lecture 13—James 2-5: Justification in James (*James 2-5; Motyer, pp. 105-53; 186-214*)

Lecture 14—James 3-5: Conventions of Rhetorical Analysis & Structure

Lecture 15—Review and Overview of Course

Reflection #6 (for lecture 15): Read all of I Peter. Summarize Peter's counsel as if writing to one of the Christians living under the threat of persecution today.

Lecture 16—I Peter: Introduction & Holiness (*1-2 Peter*)

Lecture 17—I Peter: Corporate Holiness & Persecution

Lecture 18—Jude

Reflection #7 (for lecture 18): What does Revelation 1:12-20 say about Jesus? How does the vision show that Jesus meets the needs of the seven churches in chapters 2-3?

Lecture 19—I Peter: Spiritual Gifts (*1-3 John; Revelation 1-3; Wilcock, pp. 15-58*)

Lecture 20—Introduction to I, II, III John

Lecture 21—Introduction to Revelation

Reflection #8 (for lecture 21): Read Revelation 12-14. Making use of Wilcock's approach, summarize what these passages say about Satan and the way he and his allies oppose believers.

Lecture 22—Revelation: Introduction & 1-3, continued (*Revelation 4-14; Wilcock, pp. 60-84; 110-138*)

Lecture 23—Speaking with Mormons & Jehovah's Witnesses

Lecture 24—Revelation 1-3: Prologue, Letters to the Seven Churches

Reflection #9 (for lecture 24): What does Revelation 17-22 tell us about the character of eternity? The joy over the downfall of Satan and evil in Revelation 18-19 offends some people. Why is it necessary and how is it connected to our eternal victory?

Lecture 25—Revelation 4-7: Worship, Scrolls & Seals (*Revelation 13-22; Wilcock pp. 151-223*)

Lecture 26—Revelation 8-11: Two Witnesses & Trumpet Warnings

Lecture 27—Revelation 12: Vision of Woman, Child & Dragon

Reflection #10 (for lecture 27): Read I Timothy 2:10-15. Analyze Paul's argument for male leadership. Do you think this reasoning still applies today? Why or why not?

Lecture 28—Revelation 12-16: The Unholy Trinity (*I Timothy 1-2; Fee 1-26 (See Appendix C.); I & II Timothy; Titus*)

Lecture 29—Revelation 15:1 – 19:15: Bowls of Wrath and a Fallen Harlot

Lecture 30—Revelation 19-22: The Millennium & New Jerusalem

Lecture 31—Introduction to Pastoral Epistles: I Timothy

Reflection #11 (for lecture 31): Read I Timothy 3:1-13, then describe the traits of an ideal Christian leader OR Read I Timothy 4 and 6. Summarize Paul's view of wealth and the proper way to use material things.

Lecture 32—The Pastoral Epistles (*I Timothy 3-6; Barker, 235-47 (See Appendix D.)*)

Lecture 33—I Timothy 2: Proper Role Relationships within the Church

Lecture 34—I Timothy 3: The Conduct of a Pastor/Elder (*II Timothy; Titus*)

Lecture 35—I Timothy 4 & 6: The Use of Material Things

Lecture 36—II Timothy 1-2: A Quick Survey

V. About the Professor

Daniel M. Doriani, Adjunct Professor of New Testament. B.A., Geneva College; M.Div. and Ph.D., Westminster Theological Seminary; S.T.M., Yale Divinity School.

Professor Doriani is Senior Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in St. Louis. Prior to his return to the pastorate, Dr. Doriani served as Dean of the Faculty, Vice President of Academics, and Professor of New Testament at Covenant Seminary from 1991 to 2003. Before coming to St. Louis, Dr. Doriani was Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Geneva College (1986-1991) and pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church of Cumberland, MD (1981-1986). He also served as Theologian-in-Residence at Kirk of the Hills in St. Louis from 1996-2003.

Dr. Doriani has written six books: *Women and Ministry*; *The Life of A God-Made Man*; *Putting the Truth to Work: The Theory and Practice of Biblical Interpretation*; *Getting the Message: A Plan for Interpreting and Applying the Bible*; *David the Anointed*, and *Teach the Nations*. He is New Testament editor for Reformed Expository Commentary series, contributing volumes on Matthew and James. He has also contributed chapters to several books on family issues, and written a number of other articles.

Dr. Doriani speaks frequently at Christian conferences on topics such as discipleship, Bible interpretation, family and gender issues, godly manhood, and work. He enjoys music and sports and coached college tennis for two years. He and his wife Deborah, a musician, have three daughters, Abigail, Sarah and Beth.