

COURSE SYLLABUS
Hebrews through Revelation, 0NT522, 3 Credits
Simon J. Kistemaker, Th. D.
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Professor

Dr. Simon J. Kistemaker is a distinguished Professor of New Testament Emeritus at RTS/ Jackson and RTS/Orlando. He holds a doctorate from the Free University of Amsterdam. His major work, the *New Testament Commentary*, was initiated by Dr. William Hendriksen. Four of the seven volumes, written by Dr. Kistemaker, received the Gold Medallion Evangelical Book of the Year Award. His recently published commentary on Revelation completes the set. Dr. Kistemaker has written several other books including *The Parables of Jesus* and *The Gospels in Current Study*, numerous scholarly articles, and contributions to various reference volumes, including the *New Geneva Study Bible*. A past president of the Evangelical Theological Society, he also served as its secretary for more than ten years. His international travel is extensive, including speaking and teaching in various countries.

Course Description

The two leading books in the last segment of the New Testament canon are the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Book of Revelation. Naturally, more attention will be devoted to these two books than to the general epistles of James, Peter, John and Jude. Yet the epistles, even though some are rather brief, will be given due coverage.

Hebrews is an epistle that stands by itself in the New Testament as an explication of Christ's priesthood. In every chapter the concept "priesthood" appears directly and indirectly, so that we can affirm the unknown author's purpose to contribute a full discussion of one of the three offices of Christ. Matthew stresses Christ's kingship, John the office of prophet, and Hebrews the priesthood.

Revelation is a summary of the entire Old and New Testament canon. It features at least 278 Old Testament quotations and allusions in addition to references to New Testament passages. The author reveals the contrast between God and Satan, Christ and the Antichrist, the Holy Spirit and the false prophet, and the saints in the midst of the world. Guided by the Spirit of God, he portrays his visions picturesquely with many symbols. His purpose is to show the reader that Christ is victorious with the saints sharing this victory.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the priesthood of Christ
2. To be able to explain the message of Revelation
3. To value the contribution each individual book makes to the canon
4. To teach and preach the message of salvation presented in these books

Required Textbooks

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Revised ed. In *New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.
- Carson, D. A. and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.
- Ladd, George Eldon. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Revised ed. Edited by Donald Alfred Hagner. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1993.
- Hendriksen, William. *More than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Baker,
- Kistemaker, Simon. *Exposition of James, Epistles of John, Peter, and Jude*. In *New Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986 and 1987.
- _____. *Exposition of the Book of Revelation*. In *New Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001.
- _____. *Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews*. In *Exposition of Thessalonians, the Pastorals, and Hebrews*, by William Hendriksen and Simon J. Kistemaker. In *New Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984.
- Vos, G. *The Teaching of the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Nutley, NJ: P & R, 1980; Edited and re-written by Johannes G. Vos. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2002.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>.

Suggested Reading

- Brown, Raymond E. *The Epistles of John*. In *Anchor Bible*. Vol. 30. 4. William Foxwell Albright and David Noel Freedman, general editors. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Co., 1982.
- Ellingworth, P. *Hebrews: Commentary on the Greek Text*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1993.
- Hoekema, A. A. *The Bible and the Future*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Hughes, Philip E. *Hebrews*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1977.
- Lane, William L. *Hebrews 1-8 and 9-13*. 2 Vols. Edited by Ralph P. Martin. In *Word Biblical Commentary*, vols. 47a and b. David A. Hubbard and Glenn W. Barker, general editors. Dallas: Word, 1991.
- Metzger, B. M. *Canon of the New Testament*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988
- Moffatt, J. *Hebrews*. ICC. Edinburgh: Clark, 1948.
- Morris, L. *Revelation*. Tyndale. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.
- Stedman, Ray C. *Hebrews*. In *The IVP New Testament Commentary Series*. Grant R. Osborne, series editor. D. Stuart Briscoe and Haddon Robinson, consulting editors. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992

Course Requirements

Online Student Handbook

The Online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located at the RTS/Virtual website at the Classroom link.

Requirements in brief

All work is to be completed within four months from the time that you enroll in this course.

Follow the Study Guide provided.

Listen to all recorded lectures.

Complete all readings.

Submit a research paper.

Mid-term exam

Final Exam

Research Paper (35%)

Each student is required to submit, at the completion of the course, a 12 to 15 page research paper on a topic from the list given. The paper should emphasize primary sources whenever possible in addition to secondary sources. Give fair treatment to opposing viewpoints. The paper must not be over 15 typewritten pages (12-point type font size, New Times Roman font style or equivalent) and must use *The Chicago Manual of Style* or the *MLA Style Manual*, Second Edition for formatting, including Title page; Table of Contents; headings and sub-headings; footnotes or endnotes (footnotes preferred); and a one- to five-page bibliography. Indicate with an (*) those entries which you have employed in the writing of the research paper. One of the criteria for evaluating the paper will be style: Is the paper written in a clear, straightforward style of academic prose? Use the guidelines in Strunk and White, *The elements of Style*.

Examinations (Midterm: 30%, Final: 30%)

There are two examinations for this course. The mid-term examination will cover the lectures and readings from Lesson one through Lesson six. The final examination will cover the lectures and readings from Lesson eight through Lesson eleven.

All exams are to be requested online (www.rtsvirtual.org). All exams are proctored. The exams can be returned in hard copy form to RTS/Virtual, or they can be sent by e-mail to RTS/Virtual (See contact information below for addresses.).

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments . Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: vcstudentservices@rts.edu).

Time Limit

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

Contact Information

Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual
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COURSE OUTLINE
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Lesson 1: Hebrews: Characteristics

Author
Date
Content

Lesson 2: Hebrews: Theology

5:7-10
Melchizedek

Lesson 3: Hebrews: Exegesis 6:4-6

10:26-31

Lesson 4: James: Author

Date
Content
Theology

Lesson 5: 1 Peter: Content

Theology

Lesson 6: 2 Peter-Jude: Content

Theology

Lesson 7: John's Epistles: Author

Content
Theology

Lesson 8: Revelation: Author

Date
Content
Characteristics
Symbolism

Lesson 9: Revelation: Chapters 1-5

Lesson 10: Revelation: Chapters 6-7,12, 13

Lesson 11: New Testament Canon

ABBREVIATIONS

<i>BibSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca sacra</i>
<i>ExpT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
<i>GTJ</i>	<i>Grace Theological Journal</i>
<i>ISBE</i>	<i>International Standard Bible Encyclopedia</i> , rev. ed.
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSNTSup</i>	Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series
<i>KNT</i>	Kommentaar op het Nieuwe Testament
<i>LCL</i>	Loeb Classical Library
<i>NICNT</i>	New International Commentary on the New Testament
<i>NICNTT</i>	<i>New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology</i>
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
<i>ZPED</i>	<i>Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible</i>

PAPER TOPICS
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A. Hebrews

1. Jesus' divinity and humanity in Hebrews
2. The admonitions in the Epistle to the Hebrews
3. Jesus' temptations and sinlessness
4. The Sabbath rest for God's people
5. Contrasting the priesthoods of Aaron and Melchizedek
6. The sin against the Holy Spirit
7. Melchizedek, the royal priest
8. The high priest and the new covenant
9. The tabernacle in the desert
10. Christ's once-for-all sacrifice
11. The faith of the patriarch Abraham
12. Moses' faith and works
13. Contrasting Mount Sinai and Mount Zion
14. The author and the readers of his epistle
15. The authenticity of the Epistle to the Hebrews

B. Revelation

1. The Rider on the White Horse
2. The Beast in the Book of Revelation
3. A Survey of the Lamb in Revelation
4. The Little Scroll
5. The Number 144,000
6. The Thousand Years
7. Babylon the Great
8. The Recapitulation Theory
9. The Linear Theory
10. The Throne of God
11. The Two Witnesses
12. Prophecy in Revelation
13. History in the Apocalypse
14. Dating the Apocalypse

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There has now been published a new edition of one of the textbooks for this course:

From:

Carson, D. A., Douglas J. Moo, and Leon Morris. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

To:

Carson, D. A. and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005.

The reading assignment conversion is as follows:

1992/2005:

Lesson 1, Part 1
pp 391-407/596-615.

Lesson 4
pp 409-419/619-33

Lesson 5
pp 421-430/636-51

Lesson 6
pp 433-43, 459-63/654-666, 688-695

Lesson 7
pp 445-58/669-86

Lesson 8, Part 1
pp 465-84/697-722

Lesson 11
pp 487-99/726-42