

## **Freedom Life School of Ministry Course Syllabus**

### **Eschatology – How to Story of the Bible ends-Genesis fulfilled**

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Course dates:

Weekly Zoom Meetings

### **Course Purpose:**

The story of the bible is a unified theme from beginning to end about the relationship with man and its creator. The story is complicated by the fracture caused by the rebelliousness of man. The trajectory of the story is outline in detail in the bible and evolves to culminate in the complete reconciliation between man and God. The class will examine how the reconciliation of man and God is fully realized at the end of history. The class will move from foundational concepts in understanding eschatology, history of interpretation, interpretative approaches, the biblical narrative from Genesis that culminates in redemption, with emphasis on the prophets and the book of Revelation and will finish with personal implications.

**Required Readings:** See Appendix A.

### **Suggested Texts:**

\*Michael J. Gorman, *Reading Revelation Responsibly*. Eugene Oregon, Cascade Books, 2011

Richard Bauckham. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge UK, Cambridge Press, 1993

\*Third Millennium course in Eschatology <https://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/ESC>

Craig R. Koester. *Revelation and the End of all Things*. Cambridge UK, Eerdmans Pub Co., 2001

Millard J. Erickson. *A basic guide to Eschatology*. Grand Rapids MI, Baker books, 1998

Mitchell G Reddish, Smyth & Helwys Bible Comentary: Revelation, 2001

\*highly suggested

### **Course Objectives (How will we get there?):**

Students will able to:

1. Define eschatology and explain how it applies to the biblical narrative of redemption.
2. Appreciate the historical evolution of eschatological beliefs.
3. Articulate the different eschatological interpretations withing orthodox Christianity.
4. Explain the main eschatological themes from Revelation that reveals to the character of God and the implication/application for our lives today.
5. Outline his/her personal eschatological beliefs as supported by scripture.

## **Course Requirements and Grading:**

1. **Reading Assignments (10%)** – Students are to complete the assigned reading material for the course. The reading is to be done by the module due date in which the material is presented, prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student is prepared for class discussions.
2. **Lectures/Video Clips (20%)** – Students are to view the associated lectures and video clips by the module due date in which the material is presented. This will be prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module. Transcripts of each video lecture are also provided for each module to aid the student's notetaking. Students are welcome to read transcripts in lieu of viewing the lectures if they prefer.
3. **Written Assignments/Quizzes (20%)** – Each module includes questions for the student to answer based on the content presented in the readings, lectures and video clips. Students are to complete the questions prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student is prepared for class discussions.
  - a. Details on the assignments and questions for each module are contained in your online dashboard.
  - b. Students will be able to provide responses to assignments and questions via uploading them through the dashboard within the applicable module.
4. **Zoom Meeting Participation (30%)** – There will be a Zoom class meeting for each of the 8 weeks of the course. Students are to attend, and participate in, each meeting unless previously excused by the course instructor. Students are expected to join each meeting prepared for class discussions by having viewed assigned lectures/video clips and completed readings & written assignments for the applicable module.
  - a. Excused absences from Zoom class meetings are to be limited to emergency situations no more than two per student, if possible.
  - b. To receive an excused absence the student must submit a request to the course instructor via email at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. If an emergency occurs (i.e., illness, family or ministry situation/crisis) less than 72 hours before class an explanatory email or text may be submitted to the course instructor.
5. **Final Paper (20%)** – The final paper will consist of 1-2 pages explanation of the student eschatological beliefs after finishing the class. Students must cite secondary sources such as commentaries, Bible dictionaries, Strong's concordance, or Bible history resources (in print or online) and include these in a reference list at the end of your paper in APA or MLA format.
6. **Weighting of Course Requirements for Grading:** This is a Pass/Fail course. To receive a passing grade the student must accomplish an accumulative total of at least 80% of the course requirements which are weighted as shown below:

- Reading Assignments	10%
- Lectures/Video Clips	20%
- Written Assignments/Quizzes	20%
- Zoom Meeting Participation	30%
- Final Paper	20%

## **Course Modules:**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters Covered</u>	<u>Topics Covered</u>
1	Part I: Introduction	Definition of Eschatology, why and how to study
2	Part 2: History and Interpretation	History and Interpretative options
3	Part 3: The Biblical Story Progresses	Trajectory of God redemptive plan
4	Part 4: Background	Historical, cultural, literary background
5	Part 5: Eschatology in the OT	Abraham, Prophets, Inter testament
6	Part 6: Eschatology NT I	Revelation Ch 1-6
7	Part 7: Revelation in the NT II	Revelation Ch 7-21
8	Part 8: Personal Eschatology	Historical background, Christian beliefs

## **Suggested reading Schedule (Appendix A):**

**\*Please watch class lecture videos then complete reading assignments prior to Zoom**

Week

1 Part I Eschatology: Introduction

### *What is Eschatology*

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/eschatology-general-introduction>

<http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/article/opr/t94/e623-general-definition>

### *Why Study Eschatology*

<https://tsfmemphis.org/why-eschatology-last-things/>

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-eschatology.html>

### *The Hope of Eschatology*

<https://voice.dts.edu/article/reclaiming-the-hope-of-eschatology-kreider-glenn-r/>

### *Glossary of Eschatological terms*

<https://chalcedon.edu/magazine/glossary-of-eschatological-terms>

<https://www.tmin.org/tminpages/eschatgloss.html>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/etc/glossary.html>

<https://olivetdiscoursecommentary.com/book-chapters/glossary-of-eschatological-terms/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_eschatological\\_topics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_eschatological_topics)

## 2 Part II Eschatology: History and Interpretation

### *The History of Interpretation*

Revelation and the End of All things Craig R. Koester pg 1-31 (Amazon look Inside)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/eschatology-theology>

<https://www.scribd.com/document/420127882/HIST5317-the-History-of-Eschatology>

<https://pjcockrell.wordpress.com/2013/07/16/understanding-the-crucial-reality-of-the-already-but-not-yet/>

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/esc>

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/eschatology>

## 3 Part III: The Biblical Story Progresses

### *The evolving story*

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/manuscripts/YourKingdomComeTheDoctrineOfEschatology.Lesson1.Manuscript.English.pdf>

### *Covenant theology, dispensationalism*

<https://www.theopedia.com/covenant-theology>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant\\_theology#:~:text=Covenant%20theology%20\(also%20known%20as,organizing%20principle%20for%20Christian%20theology.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant_theology#:~:text=Covenant%20theology%20(also%20known%20as,organizing%20principle%20for%20Christian%20theology.)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dispensationalism#:~:text=Dispensationalism%20is%20a%20religious%20interpretive,has%20allotted%20distinctive%20administrative%20principles.>

<https://www.monergism.com/comparing-covenant-theology-and-dispensational-theology>

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/covenant-theology-dispensationalism/systematic-theology-i/bruce-ware>

[https://renewingyourmind.org/2021/02/26/the-millennium?mkt\\_tok=MTg5LUhMQS0yMTYAAAF7fPnbyZajfVJzvQj1ou-Wzt8dSs5YC3uWcMmr6jiU42mpzpQIXOaGWYTAavvQfaENscbc7vwKjMmTKyw9MAKiOh\\_Xtp6D6c\\_aN5fTQtemJEGw#play?utm\\_source=feedoatter?utm\\_medium=email?utm\\_campaign=post\\_title](https://renewingyourmind.org/2021/02/26/the-millennium?mkt_tok=MTg5LUhMQS0yMTYAAAF7fPnbyZajfVJzvQj1ou-Wzt8dSs5YC3uWcMmr6jiU42mpzpQIXOaGWYTAavvQfaENscbc7vwKjMmTKyw9MAKiOh_Xtp6D6c_aN5fTQtemJEGw#play?utm_source=feedoatter?utm_medium=email?utm_campaign=post_title)

#### 4 Part IV: Background

##### *Imperial Cult*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-11rLwSUHM>

##### *End of first century.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution\\_of\\_Christians\\_in\\_the\\_Roman\\_Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Christians_in_the_Roman_Empire)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Didache>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_Christian\\_missions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Christian_missions)

##### *Apocalyptic Literature: Interpretative options*

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/apocalyptic-literature/>

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/apocalyptic-literature/>

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/apocalyptic-literature>

<https://www.britannica.com/art/apocalyptic-literature>

#### The theology of the Book of Revelation Chapter 1

## Reading Revelation Responsibly Ch 1-4

### 5 Part V: Eschatology: Old Testament

#### *Jewish Eschatology*

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/eschatology/Judaism>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish\\_eschatology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_eschatology)

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/5849-eschatology>

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/eschatology>

#### Optional

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/amos>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/hosea>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/micah>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/zechariah>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/joel>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/isaiah>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/jeremiah>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/ezekiel>

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/daniel>

### 6 Part VI: Revelation New Testament I

#### Revelation Chapter 1-6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nvVVcYD-0w>

#### Optional

Reading Revelation responsibly Ch 5-6

The Theology of the Book of Revelation Ch 2-3

### 7 Part VII: Revelation New Testament II

#### Revelation Chapter 7-21

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpnIrbq2bKo>

Optional

Reading Revelation responsibly Ch 7-9

The Theology of the Book of Revelation Ch 4-6

The Millennium <https://renewingyourmind.org/2021/02/26/the-millennium>

The Rapture <https://renewingyourmind.org/2021/02/25/the-rapture>

## 8 Part VIII: Personal Eschatology

### *Personal Eschatology*

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/intermediate-state/systematic-theology/louis-berkhof>

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/manuscripts/YourKingdomComeTheDoctrineOfEschatology.Lesson2.Manuscript.English.pdf>

<https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sheol>

### **Course Policies:**

#### **Development and Strengthening of Biblical Interpretation Competency:**

- So that the student is aware of continuing evaluation and assessment, our faculty is using criteria for student competency that we are seeking in the area of Eschatology as reflected in the paragraph below. Toward that end, we have specified competencies that the student will develop and demonstrate as a result of each course in the Theology core.
- **Biblical interpretation:** The student understands the Bible in its historical, literary, and theological contexts in order to apply and communicate the Scriptures.
  - Level 1 – The student is able to carry out inductive Bible study by means of observation, interpretation, application, and correlation.
  - Level 2 – The student is able to practice elements of biblical study that reflect sound hermeneutics.
  - Level 3 – The student is able to interpret the Bible and do biblical theology using a method that engages in the analysis and synthesis of Bible books and that reflects a broad knowledge of the content of the entire Bible, together with historical and theological influences.
  - Level 4 – The student is able to conduct exegetical and biblical theological research in from multiple literary genres and is able to communicate its significance leading to spiritual transformation.

Eschatology – The course contributes to competency in Levels 1 through 3, depending on the baseline background level of biblical literacy each student brings to the course. It introduces the student to the concepts and ideas relevant for understanding of a theological issue inferred from the biblical text. It

prepares the student to progress to independence in reading the text, studying the text and inferring theological concepts from the text.

The Presence of the Instructor:

You can expect your instructor to participate substantially in this course. In addition to producing the videotaped lectures for each module and reviewing all assignments, the instructor will participate in each Zoom class meeting for all eight modules of the course. Should students have questions about the course materials and/or assignments they may address them to the instructor via email.

Late Assignments:

No late assignments will be accepted unless due to an extreme emergency.



## **APPENDIX A: Bibliography**

### **General References**

Dallas Theological Seminary course in eschatology

<https://media.dts.edu/player/default.aspx?course=st106-2017-en&unit=1&video=2&language=en-US>

Third Millennium course in Eschatology

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/ESC>

General textbook; A Basic Guide to Eschatology: Millard Erickson

[https://www.christianbook.com/basic-guide-eschatology-making-sense-millennium/millard-erickson/9780801058363/pd/58368?en=google&event=SHOP&kw=academic-0-20%7C58368&p=1179710&dv=c&gclid=Cj0KCQjwpZT5BRCdARIsAGEX0zmBz2NAomK-IIB0U0boj1qNZG7Ib2oHwflTIWmcs-An5bajk39ue38aAnxtEALw\\_wcB](https://www.christianbook.com/basic-guide-eschatology-making-sense-millennium/millard-erickson/9780801058363/pd/58368?en=google&event=SHOP&kw=academic-0-20%7C58368&p=1179710&dv=c&gclid=Cj0KCQjwpZT5BRCdARIsAGEX0zmBz2NAomK-IIB0U0boj1qNZG7Ib2oHwflTIWmcs-An5bajk39ue38aAnxtEALw_wcB)

Michael J Gorman. *Reading Revelation responsibly*. Eugene, OR, Cascade Books

Richard Bauckham. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*, Cambridge UK, Cambridge books

[http://www.petrik.com/GRC/05%2020081122\\_The\\_Now\\_and\\_the\\_Not\\_Yet\\_Dr.ThomasSchreiner.mp3](http://www.petrik.com/GRC/05%2020081122_The_Now_and_the_Not_Yet_Dr.ThomasSchreiner.mp3)

<https://christianuniversity.org/courses/your-kingdom-come-the-doctrine-of-eschatology/>

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/course.asp/vs/esc>

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/eschatology>

### **What is Eschatology**

[https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/eschatology- general introduction](https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/eschatology-general-introduction)

[http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/article/opr/t94/e623- general definition](http://www.oxfordbiblicalstudies.com/article/opr/t94/e623-general-definition)

[https://www.britannica.com/topic/eschatology/Religions-of-Asia- eschatology of different religions](https://www.britannica.com/topic/eschatology/Religions-of-Asia-eschatology-of-different-religions)

[http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/5849-eschatology- Jewish eschatology](http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/5849-eschatology-Jewish-eschatology)

### **Why study Eschatology**

<https://tsfmemphis.org/why-eschatology-last-things/>

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/christian-terms/what-is-eschatology.html>

### **Glossary of Eschatological terms**

<https://chalcedon.edu/magazine/glossary-of-eschatological-terms>

<https://www.tmin.org/tminpages/eschatgloss.html>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/apocalypse/etc/glossary.html>

<http://www.olivetdiscoursecommentary.com/site/book/glossary-of-eschatological-terms>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_eschatological\\_topics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_eschatological_topics)

## **The Hope of Eschatology**

<https://voice.dts.edu/article/reclaiming-the-hope-of-eschatology-kreider-glenn-r/>

## **The History of Interpretation**

Revelation and the End of All things Craig R. Koester pg 1-31 (Amazon look Inside)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/eschatology-theology>

<https://www.scribd.com/document/420127882/HIST5317-the-History-of-Eschatology>

## **Interpretative options**

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/series/apocalyptic-literature/>

Reading Revelation responsibly Chapters 1-4

## **Apocalyptic Literature:**

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/apocalyptic-literature/>

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/apocalyptic-literature>

<https://www.britannica.com/art/apocalyptic-literature>

## **The evolving story**

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/manuscripts/YourKingdomComeTheDoctrineOfEschatology.Lesson1.Manuscript.English.pdf>

## **The End of the Story: Revelations Background**

Chapter 31, The Essence of the New testament A survey: Towns and Gutierrez editors  
The IVP Bible Background Commentary; Craig Keener ed, pg 757-821

### **End of first century;**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution\\_of\\_Christians\\_in\\_the\\_Roman\\_Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Christians_in_the_Roman_Empire)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Didache>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_Christian\\_missions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Christian_missions)

### **Literary Genre:**

The Theology of the Book of Revelation, Richard Bauckham, Chapter 1

Reading Revelation Responsibly, Michael J Gorman, Chapter 2

### **Perspective and Interpretative approaches:**

Reading Revelation Responsibly, Michael J Gorman, Chapter 3,4

### **Imperial Cult**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-11rLwSUHM>

## **Covenant theology, dispensationalism**

<https://www.theopedia.com/covenant-theology>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant\\_theology#:~:text=Covenant%20theology%20\(also%20known%20as,organizing%20principle%20for%20Christian%20theology.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Covenant_theology#:~:text=Covenant%20theology%20(also%20known%20as,organizing%20principle%20for%20Christian%20theology.)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dispensationalism#:~:text=Dispensationalism%20is%20a%20religious%20interpretive,has%20allotted%20distinctive%20administrative%20principles.>

<https://www.monergism.com/comparing-covenant-theology-and-dispensational-theology>

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/covenant-theology-dispensationalism/systematic-theology-i/bruce-ware>

## **Jewish Eschatology**

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/eschatology/Judaism>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish\\_eschatology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_eschatology)

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/5849-eschatology>

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/eschatology>

## **Personal Eschatology**

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/intermediate-state/systematic-theology/louis-berkhof>

<https://thirdmill.org/seminary/manuscripts/YourKingdomComeTheDoctrineOfEschatology.Lesson2.Manuscript.English.pdf>

<https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sheol>