

## **BI367 Apocalyptic Imagination: Roots, Texts, and Trajectories**

Final Year Advanced Bible – NT Requirement

Three Credits

Grade or Credit/No Credit

### **FACULTY**

S.D. Giere, PhD, Professor of Biblical Interpretation

### **DESCRIPTION**

“Apocalyptic Imagination,” a title borrowed from John J. Collins’ book of the same name, addresses apocalyptic literature from the basic premise that this literature, varied as it is, is the flowering of the imagination of faith in conversation with Scripture and in response to times of crisis, whether real or perceived.

### **OBJECTIVES**

In addition to the general goal of tending carefully, critically, and faithfully to the biblical text, objectives for this course are: (1) engaging the apocalyptic texts, biblical and extra biblical; (2) exploring apocalyptic from the vantage of the history of ideas; (3) interpreting apocalyptic in and for contemporary contexts; and (4) appreciating the impact of apocalyptic on the contemporary imagination of faith.

### **FORMAT**

The course will be a hybrid of lecture and seminar formats with an emphasis on student engagement and creativity within the bounds of the course’s focus. Students with language facility in Hebrew and/or Greek will be encouraged to employ this in their learning.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Students will be assessed on thorough and informed engagement with the course material culminating in a comprehensive assignment (paper or project) which they will present to the class.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### ***Required***

Bible, NRSV

Gabriele Boccaccini, *Roots of Rabbinic Judaism: An Intellectual History, from Ezekiel to Daniel* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002).

John J. Collins, *The Apocalyptic Imagination: An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016).

George W.E. Nickelsburg & James C. VanderKam, eds., *1 Enoch: The Hermeneia Translation* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2012).

#### ***Recommended***

Gabriele Boccaccini, *Beyond the Essene Hypothesis: The Parting of the Ways between Qumran and Enochic Judaism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998).

- John J. Collins, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Apocalyptic Literature* (Oxford: Oxford, 2014).
- Martha Himmelfarb, *The Apocalypse: A Brief History* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).
- George W.E. Nickelsburg, *Jewish Literature between the Bible and the Mishnah* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition; Minneapolis: Fortress, 2005).
- James C. VanderKam, *Jubilees: The Hermeneia Translation* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2020).

### **Supplementary**

- Richard Bauckham, *The Theology of the Book of Revelation* (New Testament Theology; Cambridge: Cambridge, 1993).
- Tony Burke and Brent Landau, eds., *New Testament Apocrypha: More Noncanonical Scriptures* (2 vols; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016-2020).
- James H. Charlesworth, ed., *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha* (2 vols.; New York: Doubleday, 1983-1985).
- John J. Collins, *Apocalypticism in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (London: Routledge, 1997).
- Paul D. Hanson, *The Dawn of Apocalyptic: The Historical and Sociological Roots of Jewish Apocalyptic Eschatology* (Revised ed.; Philadelphia: Fortress, 1979).
- Micah D. Kiel, *Apocalyptic Ecology: The Book of Revelation, the Earth, and the Future* (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2017).
- Jon D. Levenson, *Creation and the Persistence of Evil: The Jewish Drama of Divine Omnipotence* (Princeton: Princeton, 1988).
- Barbara R. Rossing, *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation* (New York: Basic Books, 2004).
- Paolo Sacchi, *Jewish Apocalyptic and its History* (William J. Short, trans.; Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha Supplement Series 20; Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1990).
- William Schneemelcher, ed., *New Testament Apocrypha* (2 vols.; R.McL. Wilson, trans.; Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1991-1992).