

NT 4665 APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE – Fall 2009

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Office Hours: 11:00 – 1:00 Tues., Fri. & by appointment

1. The goal of this seminar is to develop an understanding of the sociological, theological, and literary role of “apocalyptic” literature in the religion of Israel of the Second Temple Period and of early Christianity. By a close reading and evaluation of the Jewish apocalyptic experience the student will gain an appreciation of the role of apocalypticism in early Christianity. Consequently it is important that everyone read the works assigned for each session and contribute to the discussion. Reading and discussion of Christian apocalyptic will be enhanced by a good grasp of the Jewish examples.
2. Your presentation is not restricted to the following guidelines, but you should take them into account where relevant. Each student should present the historical background of the particular work, or the problems in determining the historical background. What can be said about the social situation of the people for whom the work is intended? What is the intertextual relationship between the work under discussion and biblical literature? What creation motifs can be identified? How is history presented? What is the eschatological thrust of the work? How is divine retribution represented? What can you discern about the interpretation of the imagery? How is dualism expressed in the work? is it ethical, cosmic or both? What is the role of warfare, both earthly and cosmic? How can the work help in understanding problems in contemporary Jewish or Christian experience?
3. The student will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, oral presentation, and final written work. The student should submit research bibliography for selected topic as soon as possible, and should meet with professor to discuss the presentation.
4. **Resources for bibliographic research not found on line.** We will discuss the feasibility of visiting the GTU library for a hands-on introduction to the standard resources available for biblical research.
5. **Non-biblical primary texts can be found in the following sources.**

Charlesworth, J. H., ed. The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha Vol. 1, Apocalyptic Literature and Testaments; Vol. 2, Expansions of the “Old Testament” and Legends... (Garden City [NY]: Doubleday, 1983, 1985). **Volume 1 contains most of the readings for the first part of the seminar. Volume 2 is not necessary, but is useful to have, if you can afford it.** Although published by Doubleday, these volumes now appear under the imprint of Yale University Press. Vol. 1 ISBN-13: 978-0300140194 retails for \$65.00; vol. 2 ISBN-13: 978-0300140200 retails for \$65.00. Can be ordered through <http://astore.amazon.com/dspt-20> Also on reserve at GTU library.

Sparks, H. F. D., ed. The Apocryphal Old Testament (Oxford: Clarendon, 1984). [**Out of print**]

Older translations of many of the works under discussion can be found at <http://www.pseudepigrapha.com/>

García Martínez, F. The Dead Sea Scrolls Translated. The Qumran Texts in English (transl. W. G. E. Watson; Leiden-New York: Brill, 1994). **Note: this is a translation of a translation; is useful for checking references, because it provides the line numbers as well as the column numbers.**

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Vermes, G. The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls In English (revised ed.; Allen Lane: Penguin, 2004). ISBN-13: 978-0140449525; retails for \$20.00. Can be ordered through <http://astore.amazon.com/dspt-20> Also on reserve at GTU library. **Note: translated directly from the Hebrew. Harder to locate citations because Vermes numbers only every fifth line.** A copy of the War Scroll (1QM) is posted on MOODLE.

6. Recommended secondary literature.

Collins, J. J. The Apocalyptic Imagination. An Introduction to Jewish Apocalyptic Literature (2nd rev. ed.; Biblical Resource; Grand Rapids–Cambridge [UK]: Eerdmans, 1998). ISBN-13: 978-0802843715; retails for \$32.00. Can be ordered through <http://astore.amazon.com/dspt-20> Also on reserve at GTU library.

Wilson, R. R. “From Prophecy to Apocalyptic: Reflections on the Shape of Israelite Religion,” Semeia 21 (1981), 79-95.

Yarbro Collins, A. Cosmology and Eschatology in Jewish and Christian Apocalypticism (JSJSup 50; Leiden: Brill, 1996). On reserve at GTU library.

Yarbro Collins, A. “The Early Christian Apocalypses,” Semeia 14 (1979) 61-121. **Posted on MOODLE.**

Yarbro Collins, A. “Apocalypses and Apocalypticism. Early Christian,” ABD I:288-292.

Complete bibliography will be distributed at the beginning of the semester.

You are not required to purchase any of these books. ☞ Charlesworth, J. J. Collins, and Vermes are available through <http://astore.amazon.com/dspt-20> Yarbro Collins, Cosmology... is too expensive to ask anyone to buy; it will be placed on reserve at the GTU library.

7. Outline of discussion topics.

(Note: depending on size of final enrollment the topic for 3 November may be divided. The official last day of class is 15 December.)

08 Sep Introduction. **Myth and history become myth and eschatology:** Ezekiel 1; 38-39; 40-48; Isaiah 24-27; 56-66; Zechariah. **The Drama on Earth: Court tales of the Diaspora:** Esther, 3 Maccabees.

15 Sep Introduction. **Works with Apocalyptic elements:** Jubilees, Psalms of Solomon, Life of Adam and Eve. **Christian Apocalyptic:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, 2 Thessalonians 2, and Pauline apocalyptic motifs; Jude and the influence of 1 Enoch and the Assumption of Moses.

22 Sep **Daniel 1-6:** Earthly drama with divine intervention.

29 Sep **Daniel 7-12:** Heavenly drama with human participation.

06 Oct **1 Enoch** (Ethiopic Enoch)

13 Oct **2 Enoch** (Slavonic Enoch)

20 Oct “**War Manual**” of the Essenes (1Q33 [1QM] + 4Q491-496 [4QM]). Text posted on MOODLE.

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03 Nov **Sibylline Oracles**, Books 3 and 5

10 Nov **2 Baruch** (*or* Apocalypse of Baruch)

17 Nov **Mark 13; Matthew 24-25**

24 Nov **Revelation (Apocalypse) 1-12**

01 Dec **Revelation (Apocalypse) 13-22**

08 Dec **The Shepherd of Hermas** [*This work is a hybrid of apocalyptic and moral-didactic.*] Text posted on MOODLE.

15 Dec *The course in retrospect. Final paper due.*