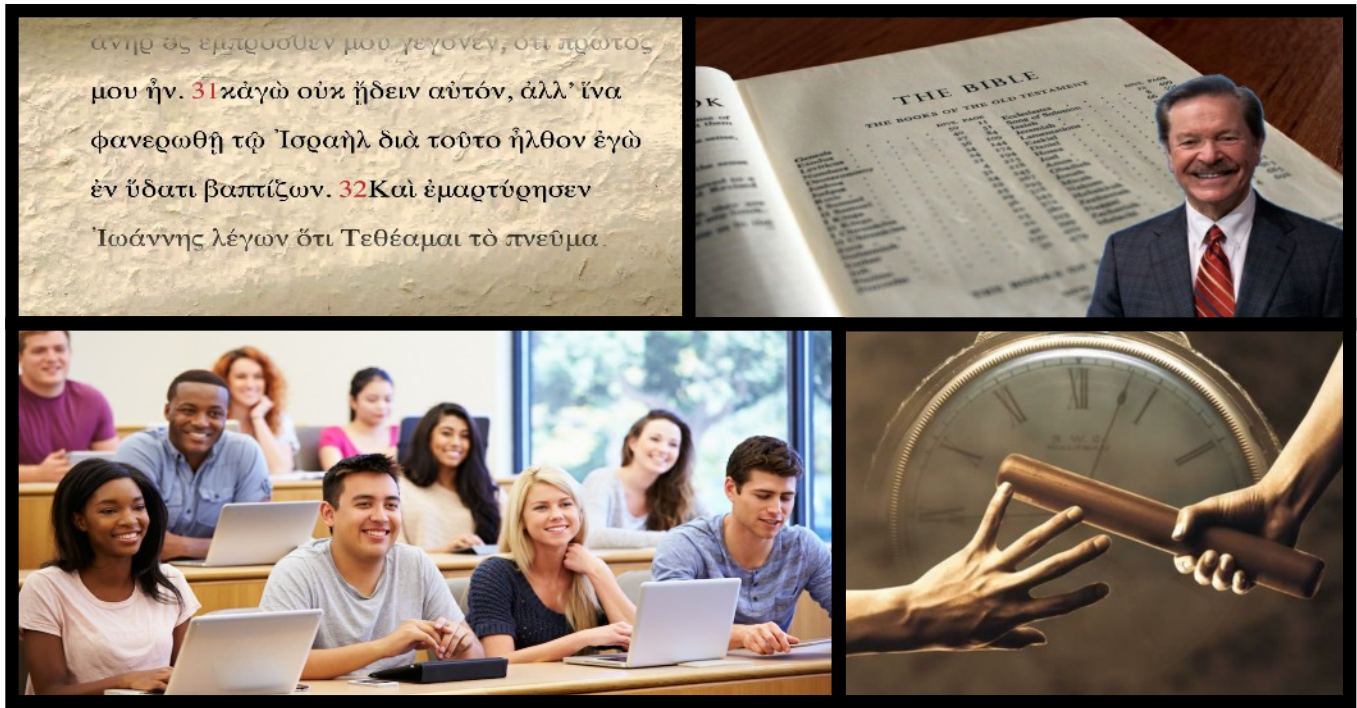


EMBASSY COLLEGE



SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE The Seven Churches of Revelation

NT760

Dr. Ron Cottle

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ORIENTATION AND INTRODUCTION

R. E. Cottle, Instructor

The Letters To The Seven Churches Of Revelation

I. Course Description

This is a verse-by-verse, church-by-church exegetical study of the seven messages of the Risen Christ to the churches of Asia in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3. Emphasis is placed upon the unique message of Christ to each church. Application of the principles for life today is stressed.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- a. Understand and appreciate these letters and their message from Jesus;
- b. Examine the letters in their historical and theological context;
- c. Probe the permanent principles in each of these remarkable letters;
- d. Apply these principles to their lives today and explore ways to use them daily;
- e. Continue higher level studies of the Book of Revelation and the Bible as a whole as God's Word of encouragement, instruction and edification.

III. Suggested Tools of Study

- a. *The Holy Bible—King James Version*
- b. One other version of the student's choosing.
- c. This study guide (required).

- d. The textbook written by R. E. Cottle, *The Risen Lord Speaks to His Church*, CCLM Publications.
- e. Optional: Teaching Tape Series, *The Risen Lord Speaks*, CCLM Publications, available from Instructor.

IV. Suggested Study Habits

- a. Read through Revelation 1-3 prayerfully and repeatedly *before* the course begins. Endeavor to absorb the contents and see the setting and major outline of the study before the first class.
- b. Study the Course Syllabus Workbook as much as possible before the course begins.
- c. *Do Not* miss a single class session unless absolutely necessary.
- d. Take many notes. Note: it will help if you share notes with a study partner at the end of each class session.

V. Classroom Methodology

- a. Lecture followed and accentuated by class discussion.
- b. Time will be provided for questions and answers.

VI. Evaluation Procedures

- a. Course evaluation will be on the following basis:

Attendance of lectures	1 part
Final Exam	3 parts

THE COURSE CALENDAR

Period	Topic	Assignment
One	Course Orientation and Introduction	Revelation 1-3
	Chapters One and Two	Text pp. 3-32

****In some ways this is the single most important meeting of the class. We should all be clear about what our primary tools are, our major objectives and those with whom we will take this new and exciting journey.**

Two	Chapters Three and Four	Revelation 2:12-29 Text pp. 33-40
Three	Chapters Five, Six and Seven	Revelation 3:1-18 Text pp. 41-50

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction

Chapter One	Rev. 2:1-7	Ephesus: Forsaking Your First Love
Chapter Two	Rev. 2:8-11	Smyrna: Faithful Unto Death
Chapter Three	Rev. 2:12-17	Pergamos: Holding Fast My Name
Chapter Four	Rev. 2:18-29	Thyatira: Temptation to Compromise
Chapter Five	Rev. 3:1-6	Sardis: The Peace of Death
Chapter Six	Rev. 3:7-13	Philadelphia: Keeping the Faith
Chapter Seven	Rev. 3:14-18	Laodicea: When There is Nothing Good to Say

LETTERS OF REVELATION—SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Tenney, Merrill C. *Interpreting Revelation*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1957.

Torrance, T. F. *The Apocalypse Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959.

Walvoord, John F. *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. Chicago: Moody, 1966.

Wilcock, Michael. *I Saw Heaven Opened*. Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity, 1975.

STUDY GUIDE: INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

INTRODUCTION

I. THE UNIQUENESS OF REVELATION

A. STATEMENTS FROM VARIOUS AUTHORS

B. TEACHER'S PERSONAL CONCLUSIONS

II. BACKGROUND OF REVELATION

A. APOCALYPTIC WRITING

1. Apocalypses are usually written during times of trouble and distress.

2. Apocalypses convey their message by means of signs, symbols and cryptic language.

B. THE BACKGROUND OF REVELATION ITSELF

1. Setting of the Book

2. Date

3. The central message

III. HOW TO INTERPRET REVELATION

A. THE PRETERIST METHOD

B. THE IDEALIST METHOD

C. THE FUTURIST METHOD

D. THE HISTORICIST METHOD

IV. THE STRUCTURE OF REVELATION

A. “IN THE SPIRIT”

1:10

4:2

17:3

21:10

B. The Visions of John

Reference	Location	Vision/Concept
1:9 – 3:22	Patmos	One like unto a Son of God *Christ is Lord of the Church.
4:1 – 16:21	Heaven	The Throne and the Lamb *Christ is the Lamb— the wrath of God
17:1 – 21:8	Wilderness	The Woman and the Beast *Christ is King—Victor over all enemies.
21:9 – 22:6	Mountain	The New Jerusalem *Christ is Bridegroom— With His Bride in Glory.

V. THE OUTLINE OF REVELATION

A. INTRODUCTION 1:1 – 8

B. FIRST VISION 1:9 – 3:22 “The Risen Christ and the Seven Churches”

1. Ephesus	2:1 – 7
2. Smyrna	2:8 – 11
3. Pergamum	2:12 – 17
4. Thyatira	2:18 – 29
5. Sardis	3:1 – 6
6. Philadelphia	3:7 – 13
7. Laodicea	3:14 – 22

C. SECOND VISION 4:1 – 16:21 “The Risen Christ and Earth Judgments”

1. The Thone in Heaven and the Lamb	4:1 – 5:14
2. The Seven Seals Opened	6:1 – 8: 5
3. The Seven Trumpets Sounded	8:6 – 11: 19
4. The Beasts and Their Warfare	12:1 – 14:20
5. The Seven Bowls Poured Out	15:1 – 16: 21

D. THIRD VISION 17:1 – 21: 8 “The Risen Christ and His Victories”

1. The Fall of Babylon the Great	17:1 – 18:24
2. The Joy in Heaven	19:1 – 10:
3. The Appearance of Christ	19:11 – 16
4. The Defeat of the Beast	19:17 – 21
5. The Binding of Satan	20:1 – 3
6. The Millennium	20:4 – 6
7. The Final Rebellion and Judgment	20:7 – 15
8. The New Heaven and the New Earth	21:1 – 8