



**BTH 110 (course #): Introduction to the End Times**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Bryan Neisteter, M. Div.**  
**Online, Fall Semester, 2020**

## **I. Course Description**

We live in a time when eschatology (the study of the “last things”) is often relegated to the realm of conspiracy theory, and many are tempted to ignore the whole topic altogether. Yet the Bible has much to tell us about this time period. This class will demystify the end times by giving students a solid biblical framework from which to approach these passages and an overview of the major biblical themes related to Jesus’ return.

Module 1 will offer students an introduction to the major topics related to the end times such as the signs of the times, the role of the Antichrist, the Great Tribulation, the rapture, the role of Israel, and the millennium.

Module 2 will build on this by taking students through the book of Daniel. Daniel is a book filled with powerful prophecies which in many ways serves as a handbook for the end-time church. It is also filled with practical application for believers of any generation.

Module 3 will cover the book of Revelation. Students will learn some of the various approaches to understanding this book but more importantly find a pathway forward to seeing how this book is profoundly encouraging, deeply relevant to their daily lives, and not nearly as confusing as they might have been led to believe.

## **II. Learning Outcomes**

### **A. Primary Student Outcomes (Overall course goal)**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the major biblical themes related to the end of the age.
2. Read through Daniel and Revelation with much greater clarity of the timelines and events of each book.
3. Speak to others with a firm foundation of what the Bible says about the end of the age.

### **B. Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

*Cognitive (Head) – how the course will impact the student’s knowledge and thinking*

1. Articulate the major approaches to the end times and their own opinion of them.
2. Feel comfortable in discussions of the end times with others without being swayed by conspiracy theories or unbiblical ideas.
3. Read Revelation and Daniel with a basic framework for how these books are structured and what is going on in them.

*Affective (Heart) – how the course should change how the student feels about their world*

1. Feel a sense of biblical urgency (as opposed to fear) regarding the day of the Lord.
2. Have an increased desire to share the gospel with others in light of Jesus’ return.
3. Grow deeper in love with Jesus in understanding His role in His return — He is coming for His Bride and will make the wrong things right!

*Conative (Hands) – how the course will impact the way the student lives.*

1. Pursue God with a greater urgency and understanding of who He is.
2. Live their lives with a clear biblical focus, understanding that what they do today has eternal repercussions.
3. Be fuelled for missions — a proper eschatology causes the gospel to go forth with greater clarity and boldness.
4. Be strengthened to face adversity in their own lives, with an understanding of God’s continual moving even in times of difficulty.

### **III. Relationship to Eston College’s Mission Statement, Student Learning Goals, and Program Objectives**

This class will use the Word of God as its primary focus, taking students deeper into the Word, seeking to hear what the Spirit is saying to us regarding the return of Christ. Students will be grounded in wisdom that comes from God as we explore these passages, with a clear focus on walking out a life of intimacy and urgency with God in light of the day of the Lord.

### **IV. Integrative Nature**

Eschatology is only one of many areas of biblical study that are essential to Christian formation. While this class will focus in on this area specifically, it will be made clear that eschatology interacts with the other areas of our belief, specifically in regards to missions and personal spiritual growth. The study of eschatology is not an end in and of itself, as believers are called to walk in obedience to all of the Scriptures, not just the ones that they are most interested in.

### **V. Course Evaluation**

#### **A. Assignments**

1. Why Does Eschatology Matter? 3 page\* persuasive essay due Saturday, **October 3, 2020.** (25%)

In your own words, explain persuasively why it is important to study what the Bible has to say about the end of the age, and why churches should include it as part of their teaching. What is value of it? Use Scripture to back up your argument. (You may refer

to the class notes as well).

2. Daniel Commentary Notes: Due **Saturday, Oct. 24.** (10%)

As you read the class text, write ½ page of bullet-point notes for each of Daniel's 12 chapters. You are encouraged to make notes on things that you might want to use for future Bible studies/teaching.

3. Revelation Study Guide 22 Questions: Due **Thursday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>** before class. (5%)

As you read through the study guide, write down the biggest question you have for each of the 22 chapters in Revelation.

4. The Significance of Daniel. 3 page paper due **Saturday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** (25%)

Using specific examples from the book of Daniel and the course text and notes, explain the importance of Daniel for the church both today and at the end of the age. Make sure to balance your discussion to include reflections that come from both the first and last of Daniel.

5. The Coming Glory and Shaking. 2 page paper due **Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020** (10%)

The Bible talks about both times of shaking and times of Holy Spirit outpouring at the end of the age. In this paper, briefly explain both the coming trouble and outpouring, and explain how this should impact the way that believers live today.

6. Encountering Jesus in Revelation. 3 page paper due **Thursday, Dec. 3 2020.**

Three of the primary revelations of Jesus in the book of Revelation are: Bridegroom, King, and Judge. Using class notes and references to the book of Revelation, describe each of these aspects of His character, and explain their importance both for believers today and for those in the generation in which He returns.

7. In-Class Work: Due 1 week after each class.

This class will include 12 hours of non-live classes spread out over 10 sessions. Some of this will be recorded lectures, some of this will be notes to go over. Each of these classes will come with a minor assignment (e.g. writing 1 page of your own notes based on the teaching.) These assignments will not be a lot of work and can be done in the allotted session time, and are meant to serve as proof of attendance and help you retain what was learned in that time. Failure to complete one of these assignments will constitute a skip (see attendance policy).

\*Note -- All papers should be within ¼ of a page of the required length or marks will be docked. This means a normal 12pt Times New Roman font with 1" margins.

B. Time Investment:

Live Zoom Instruction	24 hours
Recorded Sessions/Notes	12 hours
Text Readings	37 hours
Papers	<u>22 hours</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>95 Hours</b>

**Please build a chart that displays the above information at a glance:**

Assignment Name	Due Date	Hours	Percentage
Why Does Eschatology Matter?	Oct. 3	6	25%
Daniel Commentary Notes	Oct. 22	27	10%
Revelation Study Guide 22 Questions	Nov. 5	10	5%
The Significance of Daniel	Nov. 7	6	25%
The Coming Glory and Shaking	Nov. 21	4	10%
Encountering Jesus in Revelation	Dec. 3rd	6	25%
In-Class Work	—	12	—

## VI. Class Attendance & Participation

Regular and punctual attendance is vital for a quality learning experience, and at Eston College involvement within the classroom is highly valued. Students should make every effort to attend the scheduled Zoom meeting times. If a student cannot attend for any reason, it is possible to make up the class time by watching a recording of the session and submitting a 1.5 page long set of bullet notes proving that the student has gone through the material. This submission must be made within a week of the missed class. Otherwise, if a student misses more than 10 percent of a course without doing the make up work they will lose 10 percent of their final grade. If they miss 20 percent of a course, they will receive a failing grade for the course.

## VII. Special Policies:

- A. **Due Dates:** Assignments may be handed in early, but must be handed in by 5 pm on the date they are due whether or not you are on campus (unless otherwise noted).
- B. **Late Assignments:** Instructors will specify within the syllabus both the date and time when assignments are due. Assignments received prior to 11:59pm on the day following the due date, without an approved extension, will have 10 percentage points deducted from the earned grade (e.g., a student receiving 79% would receive 69% after the deduction). Assignments received by 11:59pm of the second day will have 30 percentage points deducted from the earned grade. Assignments received any time after this third cut off, but no later than the last day to hand in assignments (see school calendar), will have 50 percentage points deducted from the earned grade. Assignments handed in after the last day to hand in assignments (see school calendar) will be graded as 0 percent.
- C. **Academic Integrity:** is expected. Plagiarism and other violations are outlined in the catalogue. It is expected that all work is the original work of the student. When using someone else's words or ideas, be sure those sources are clearly cited. Plagiarism is a serious charge, so if work is determined to be willfully plagiarized, a failing grade for that assignment will be given and the final grade in the course will be jeopardized.
- D. **Special Needs:** If a student has a known learning difficulty, discussion with the instructor is invited to maximize the value of this course. Obviously, this discussion should occur early in the term—an appointment can be made with the instructor.
- E. **Return of Assignments:** The Faculty of Eston College values quality education. To facilitate this, we are committed to make every attempt to return corrected assignments to students within 2 week's time. Please remember this will not always be possible as the nature and size of assignments varies greatly, but whenever possible this will be our goal.

- F. **Recording of Lectures:** The professor must be consulted if the student wishes to record any class content. Keep in mind the professor is already recording the content for the sake of those who may miss the class.
- G. **Extra Audience:** Since this is an online course, students should not invite extra audience members to watch class sections unless they are willing to pay the audit fee.

### VIII. Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic
September 8*	Module 1
September 17	Module 1
September 24	Module 1
October 1	Module 1
October 8	Module 2
October 15	Module 2
October 22	Module 2
October 29	Module 2
November 5	Module 3
November 12	Module 3
November 19	Module 3
November 26	Module 3

Class Times: All classes will start at 6:30pm SK time. Please note that the time change will effect the module 3 start time for those outside of SK.

\*Note: Class 1 will be on a Tuesday due to opening services at the college which will impact some students, all subsequent classes will be on Thursdays.

**IX. Bibliography** (please format according to the Eston College format guide—if you want to automate this, go to Worldcat.org, look up your source, and export in Turabian style, which is close to the Format Guide in most cases).

#### Required Textbooks:

Bickle, Mike. *Book of Revelation Study Guide*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Kansas City: Forerunner Publishing. 2010.

Miller, Stephen R. *Daniel*. The New American Commentary, vol. 18, edited by E. Ray Clendenen. Nashville: B&H. 1994.

#### Recommended Sources:

- Aune, David E. *Revelation 1-5*. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 52A, edited by David A. Hubbard and Glenn W. Barker." Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1997.
- Aune, David E. *Revelation 6-16*. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 52B, edited by David A. Hubbard and Glenn W. Barker." Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1998.
- Aune, David E. *Revelation 17-22*. Word Biblical Commentary, vol. 52C, edited by David A. Hubbard and Glenn W. Barker." Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1998.
- Beale, G.K. *The Book of Revelation*. The New International Greek Testament Commentary, edited by I. Howard Marshall and Donald A. Hagner. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1999.
- Brown, Michael L., and Craig S. Keener. *Not Afraid of the Antichrist: Why we don't believe in a pre-tribulation rapture*. Bloomington: Chosen Books. 2019.
- Goldingay, John. *Daniel*. Word Biblical Commentary, revised ed., vol. 30, edited by Nancy L. deClaissé-Walford. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic. 2019.
- Keener, Craig S. *Revelation*. The NIV Application Commentary Series, edited by Terry Muck. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1999.
- Longman III, Tremper. *Daniel*. The NIV Application Commentary Series, edited by Terry Muck. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1999.
- Mounce, Robert H. *The Book of Revelation*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament, revised ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1997.
- Osborne, Grant R. *Revelation*. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. 2002.
- Pawson, David. *When Jesus Returns*. Travelers Rest: True Potential Publishing. 1995.
- Sliker, David. *End Times Simplified: Preparing your heart for the coming storm*. Revised Ed. Kansas City: Forerunner Publishing. 2013.
- Walvoord, John F. *Daniel: The key to prophetic revelation*. Chicago: Moody. 1996.
- Walvoord, John F. *Revelation*. Edited by Philip E., Rowley and Mark Hitchcock. Chicago: Moody, 2011.
- Whitefield, Samuel. *Son of Man: The apostles' gospel*. Vol. 2. Grandview, OneKing Publishing, 2019.
- Whitefield, Samuel. *Son of Man: The gospel of Daniel 7*. Vol. 1. Grandview, OneKing Publishing. 2019.