

B. Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature

- Understand background
- Understand genre (those present and not present)
- Understand purpose
- Understand structure
- There is some debate

How To Study the Bible Schedule

- I. Section One: First Things
 - a. What is the Bible & is it Reliable?
 - b. The Inductive Study Method
- II. Section Two: Anatomy of the Bible
 - a. Studying the Old and New Testaments
 - b. Genres I: Narratives and Histories
 - c. Genres II: Poetic and Wisdom Writings
 - d. Genre III: Gospels/Epistles & Prophetic/Apocalyptic Literature
- III. Section III: Interpretive Tools
 - a. Purpose and Context
 - b. Structure and Parallels
 - c. Linking Words
 - d. Repetition
 - e. Using Commentaries & Other Resource
 - f. Studying Difficult Passages and Familiar Passages

Core Seminars—How to Study the Bible Class 8: Gospels, Epistles, Prophetic & Apocalyptic Literature



“When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Col. 3.4)

I. The Gospels (and Acts)

- A. Genre
- B. Chronology
- C. Harmony
- D. Distinctives
 1. Matthew
 2. Mark

B. Studying Epistles:

3. Luke

4. John

5. Acts

II. Epistles

A. Structured in three parts:

- Opening
 - Sender
 - Recipients
 - Salutation
 - Prayer
- Body
- Closing

III. Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature:

A. Interpreting the Prophets:

1. Discern the immediate context – the structure and flow of the book.
2. Discern the kind of oracle employed (judgment, salvation, or something else).
3. Study the balance between the historical (forth-telling) and the predictive (foretelling).
4. Determine what kind of language is being used (Poetic? Disputation? Narrative?) Literary forms are often crucial in determining the author's meaning and intent.
5. Place these texts in their overall place in redemptive-history. In doing this, be careful not to make wrong associations between Israel and your nation or church.
6. Try not to impose your theological system on the text (whether dispensational, covenantal, etc.).
7. Be alert for certain reoccurring and sweeping themes, especially those that bear on the relationships between the testaments (e.g. eschatology, temple, marriage and spiritual adultery, new birth).
8. Consider how the New Testament authors employ your passage, or at least your book.