

Resources for Revelation & Eschatology

While there are many resources available on the book of Revelation and on the topic of eschatology in general (the study of last things), these are the resources I recommend. Being listed here should not be taken as an endorsement of all the author's views on Revelation, eschatology, or other important matters of theology.

~James Brummett

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Books on Eschatology:

Before diving into the book of Revelation, please consider getting a handle on the broader topic of eschatology (the study of last things). The book of Revelation is only one part of eschatology. Starting with Revelation before getting a good grasp of eschatology would be like walking into the middle of a two and a half hour movie and then leaving early with 20 minutes left. The following are some of the best resources to aid you in this broader subject.

[*The End: The Return of King Jesus and the Renewal of All Things*](#), by Gary L. Johnson, 87 pages.

This is Book 11 from the popular [Real Life Theology](#) series from [Renew.org](#). Each book in the series is designed to be a brief, helpful, and practical treatment of a specific key doctrine. Written to be read and discussed in the context of disciple making relationships, this volume offers a wonderful introduction to the main themes of eschatology. Each chapter concludes with six questions for discussion.

[*The End Times Made Simple*](#) and [*More of the End Times Made Simple*](#), by Samuel E. Waldron, 240 pages & 225 pages.

Written as an introduction to eschatology for the average person, these two helpful volumes contain a combined 51 chapters and 465 pages which cover a wide range of topics. Each chapter is concise and clear in its development of the topic under consideration. Dr. Waldron evaluates various popular eschatological views and provides a concise explanation for which view he believes is best supported Biblically. Dr. Waldron is a pastor who has also been a professor of theology for decades. The descriptions contained on the back cover of each book are helpful descriptions of what the reader can expect.

[*The Promise of the Future*](#), by Cornelis P. Venema, 488 pages.

Written for theological students and informed non-specialists, Venema provides an examination of biblical teaching on the future of the individual, of the church and of the universe as a whole. Ranging over the whole field, it interacts extensively with literature

on disputed issues, such as the nature of the intermediate state, the millennium of Revelation 20 and the doctrine of eternal punishment, always seeking to answer the fundamental question: 'What do the Scriptures clearly teach?' The Christ-centered nature of biblical teaching on the future is emphasized, as is the importance of the church's historic confessions for an understanding of eschatology. The chief note sounded is one of hope: God's people eagerly await Christ's return because it promises the completion of God's work of redemption... The future is bright because it is full of promise, the promise of God's Word.

[*The Bible and the Future*](#), by Anthony A. Hoekema, 316 pages.

Used in beginning academic settings as an introduction to eschatology, this volume approaches the total range of eschatological topics in a comprehensive biblical survey. The book is divided into two sections. The first deals with inaugurated eschatology, the present enjoyment of eschatological blessings by the redeemed community. It considers such topics as the meaning of history, the kingdom of God, the Holy Spirit and eschatology, and the tension between the "already" and the "not yet" nature of the Kingdom of God. The second part of the book deals with future eschatology, specific details concerning the last things. Matters of significance to individuals (physical death, immortality and the intermediate state) are discussed, as well as aspects of cosmic eschatology (the signs of the times, the Second Coming, the millennium, the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, and the new earth). Hoekema analyzes all four major views: postmillennial, historic premillennial, dispensational premillennial, and amillennial. Relevant Scripture passages are carefully unpacked. A thorough, comprehensible study of the last things, this book was written to inspire Christian hope. Includes an index of subjects, proper names, and an index of Scriptures.

Commentaries and Resources on Revelation:

[*Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*](#), by G. K. Beale & David H. Campbell, 562 pages.

This 550+ page volume is titled "*A Shorter Commentary*" because its [predecessor](#) was more than 1,300 pages. The original commentary (still available), is widely recognized by scholars as the best commentary on Revelation from any perspective. Fifteen years after its publication, Dr. Beale teamed up with pastor David Campbell to condense the original volume and make it more accessible to the average reader. Beale pays close attention to more than 500 allusions from the Old Testament and takes you verse-by-verse through Revelation. At the end of each section, Campbell adds helpful "Suggestions for Reflection" that helps the reader consider how any particular section might apply in daily life. This volume also includes an index of scriptures used throughout the commentary for helpful reference.

[See also Beale's 280 page commentary on [1 & 2 Thessalonians](#), and his groundbreaking 1,152 page [Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament](#) edited with D.A. Carson.]

[More Than Conquerors: An Interpretation of the Book of Revelation](#), by William Hendriksen, 230 pages.

Using sound principles of interpretation, Dr. Hendriksen unfolds the mysteries of Revelation gradually, always with the purpose of showing that “we are more than conquerors through Christ.” This volume’s uninterrupted printing history since it was first published is a testimony to its enduring inspiration to each successive generation.

[The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation](#), by Vern S. Poythress, 224 pages.

This is a commentary with devotional undertones on the final book of the Bible: Revelation. Jesus is coming back and the book of Revelation reminds us of this. But can the book of Revelation be understood with all its cryptic imagery? Yes, it can. Its message can be summarized in one sentence: God rules history and will bring it to its consummation in Christ. If you read it with that main point in mind, you will be able to understand it. You will not necessarily understand every detail but this is not necessary in order to gain spiritual insights.

[Breaking the Code: Understanding the book of Revelation, Revised Edition](#), by Bruce M. Metzger, revised edition edited by David deSilva, 144 pages.

This book takes a look at the rich symbolism in the Book of Revelation, presenting its great beauty and biblical research in a non-academic manner. Breaking the Code has also been turned into a six-week video series for groups and includes a group guide with multiple format options.

[Revelation: Four Views, Revised & Updated](#), by Steve Gregg, 608 pages.

This unique volume is a parallel commentary which features extensive coverage of Revelation throughout church history. Gregg provides his readers with the four major traditional views of Revelation so they can discover the differences of interpretations in four side-by-side columns of commentary.

[Revelation: Standard Bible Studies](#), by Lewis Foster, 350 pages.

Dr. Foster’s style is very easy to follow and to understand and is filled with historical background, real-life illustrations, and sound Biblical exegesis that takes the reader section by section through Revelation in a guided tour. Included in each chapter is a glossary of important terms for the section being considered and commentary notes which explain the Biblical text. Also included are thirteen in-depth studies that cover topics such as the Tribulation, Judgment, Kingdom of God, Antichrist, Armageddon, Millennium, and the Second Coming. This out-of-print volume can still be found and is a real treasure that offers a clear and helpful interpretation of Revelation. [Click here for his introductory chapter](#) where he describes the different interpretive views of Revelation and the different views of the millennium mentioned in Revelation 20.

[Side note - I had the privilege of having Dr. Foster as a professor in my Biblical studies and training. He was on the translating committees for the New King James Version (NKJV) and the New International Version (NIV). He is also the author of the notes to Luke and Acts in the wildly popular NIV Study Bible.]

Other Bible Commentaries on Prophecy:

Below are some commentaries on other books of the Old and New Testament which contain prophetic sections and inform our understanding of eschatology.

[*The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction Commentary*](#), by J. Alec Motyer, 544 pages.

From the book's description: Among Old Testament prophetic books no other equals Isaiah's brilliance of style and metaphor, its arresting vision of the Holy One of Israel and its kaleidoscopic vision of God's future restoration of Israel and the world. Now, after over three decades of studying and teaching Isaiah, Alec Motyer presents a wealth of commentary and perspective on this book. His emphasis is on the grammatical, historical, structural, literary and theological dimensions of the text. Though based on the Hebrew text, his exposition easily accommodates readers without a working knowledge of biblical Hebrew. And he writes with an interest in Isaiah's meaning for Christians today.

[*Ezekiel: NIV Application Commentary*](#), by Iain M. Duguid, 576 pages.

From the book's description: Properly understood, this mysterious book with its obscure images offers profound comfort to us today. Filled with both an indictment of sin and promise for God's people, it can help us to live, like the ancient Israelites during the Babylonian captivity, as exiles in the foreign country of this world, with endurance and hope. Duguid takes the seemingly other worldly message into the lives of Christians today. This world is not our home, but we can learn to live as exiles, with endurance and hope.

[*Daniel: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), by Joyce G. Baldwin, 223 pages.

Daniel is a difficult book. But it is a book about the meaning of history, and people today need its message. The whole church needs reassurance, especially in view of Marxist claims to be able by human effort to introduce a utopian world government. "When the church lets part of its message go by default people look elsewhere for a substitute," writes Joyce Baldwin. "All the more reason, then, why the church needs to be counting on the certainties proclaimed by Daniel, namely that God is constantly overruling and judging in the affairs of men, putting down the mighty from their seats, overthrowing unjust regimes and effectively bringing in His kingdom, which is to embrace all nations."

[*Glory in Our Midst: A Biblical-Theological Reading of Zechariah's Night Visions*](#), by Meredith Klein, 306 pages.

The studies that comprise this book were designed to serve quite directly the purposes of those preaching Zechariah's night visions. What is presented here is to help the reader to grasp the significance of these visions in light of their identity as part of the overall eschatological drama of the kingdom of God from creation to consummation, that eschatological reality on which they, in turn, are themselves a window. Though differing somewhat in form from the usual verse-by-verse commentary, this biblical-theological study is still presented as a work of rigorous exegesis, with fresh solutions suggested for

the interpretation of some of the key exegetical puzzles with which the enigmatic but not unfathomable symbolism of these visions confronts us.

[*The Last Days According to Jesus, Revised and Updated Edition: When Did Jesus Say He Would Return?*](#), by R.C. Sproul, 202 pages.

Speculation and theories concerning what the last days have in store for us abound. In the hype of sensational books and movies, one important question is often obscured: What did Jesus believe and teach about the end times and the timing of his return? As a partial-preterist, Sproul investigates the teachings of Jesus from Matthew 24 and offers a counter interpretation amid ever-shifting opinions about the age to come, the end times, and the timing of Christ's return.

[*Matthew, Revised Ed. \(The Expositor's Bible Commentary\)*](#), by D. A. Carson, 670 pages.

Carson's commentary has been consistently regarded as one of the top commentaries on the Gospel of Matthew. It is offered here for its treatment of Jesus' teachings in Matthew chapters 24-25, known as the Olivet Discourse. The above revised hardback volume includes a commentary on the Gospel of Mark (by Wessel & Strauss). Carson's standalone commentary on [Matthew](#) can also be found on Kindle.

Video & Audio Resources:

[Here is a YouTube playlist](#) that includes series from the following people:

1. **G.K. Beale** is a New Testament scholar who has written two commentaries on Revelation (referenced above). Included in this YouTube playlist, is a series of four lectures he gave on Keys for Interpreting the Book of Revelation. Here is a separate link to Beale's [31 part verse-by-verse message series on Revelation](#) (audio only).
2. **D.A. Carson** is a New Testament scholar who has written several commentaries including what many consider to be one of the top commentaries on Matthew. Included in this playlist are his 26 lectures on the book of Revelation (audio only).
3. **Voddie Baucham** - included here are all 27 of his available expository sermons on the book of Revelation. This series was originally preached at Grace Family Baptist Church many years ago (audio only).
4. A 60-part teaching series from **Bruce Gore**. His first ten lessons trace the history, background, and development of different eschatological views. He holds a partial preterist view of Revelation, which is to say that he views Revelation as being mostly fulfilled prior to A.D. 70, with the last few chapters having their fulfillment at the final return of Jesus at the end of history. Though this view is unfamiliar to many people today, its roots can be traced back to early Christianity.