

Invitation

Welcome everyone. We pray you will be strengthened by your visit with the Brighton Church of Christ. You are not just our guest, but you are welcome and wanted right here. Join our family of imperfect people perfected in by the blood of Jesus. Restrooms are located across the foyer near the front of the auditorium on the upper floor. If you need assistance in any way, ask any member for help.

Mission

The Brighton Church of Christ is a spiritual family with a focus on going to heaven. We are determined to honor God, to strictly follow the teachings of the New Testament, and effectively make that teaching available to the city of Brighton and the surrounding areas.

Leadership

Elders

Ron Jensen	303-655-8498
Ivan Stewart	720-270-1057
Mark Thacker	303-655-1982

Deacons

Kevin Dunham	303-807-5974
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Minister

Sam Dilbeck	903-229-8415
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Contacts

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Sunday Schedule Morning

Welcome	Ron Jensen
Song Leader	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....	Ronn Eudaley
Lord's Supper Leader.....	Marcos Celaya
Assistant.....	Kayden Derbigny
Assistant	Dale Bishop
Assistant.....	Chris Jatko
Assistant.....	Paul Nikolai
Scripture Reading.....	Chris Warner

Luke 20:27:-33

Lesson	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer & Dismissal.....	Coby Mendoza

Sunday Evening

Song Leader.....	Ron Jensen
Opening Prayer.....	Ivan Stewart
Lord's Supper Leader.....	Mark Thacker
Assistant.....	Kayden Derbigny
Lesson.....	Sam Dilbeck
Closing Prayer.....	Ernest Kite

Wednesday Evening Schedule

Class.....	Sam Dilbeck
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Service Times

Sundays:
Morning classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening worship 6:00 pm

Wednesdays: Ladies Class 10:00 am
Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm



October 24, 2021

Studying Apocalyptic Literature

When predictions of the world's demise escalate and thoughts of plagues and conflict rise, many people look to the Bible to decipher the signs of the times. Some read the visions found in the apocalyptic literature of the Bible and offer theories of their meaning. Often their conjecturing is wildly confusing, and clash with the rest of God's word. Much of the misperception comes from an improper reading of apocalyptic and prophetic literature. To properly interpret Scripture, we must consider what genre of literature it is. A history book reads differently than a love letter which reads differently than a sports column. Knowing the genre allows the reader to begin with certain understandings, ideas, and expectations in interpretation. The book of Revelation presents unique challenges since it is composed of multiple genres. Beasley-Murray observed that Revelation identifies itself by three genres in its opening verses: apocalypse (1:1), prophecy (1:3), and epistle (1:4). Generally speaking, it's the apocalyptic portions that cause modern confusion. According to Bruce Waltke, the key features of apocalyptic literature are (1) its focus on the end of the ages; (2) its dynamic method of revelation; (3) its frequent dualisms; (4) its oppressed and persecuted audience; (5) its bizarre images; and (6) its call to repentance.

G.R. Beasley-Murray, *The Book of Revelation*, New Century Bible Commentary, (London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1974), 12.
Bruce Waltke with Charles Yu, *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 550.

1. G.R. Beasley-Murray, *The Book of Revelation*, New Century Bible Commentary, (London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1974), 12.
2. Bruce Waltke with Charles Yu, *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 550.

In Revelation, an angel leads the apostle through a dramatic series of visions intended to provide persecuted saints an insider's view of their ultimate victory. Like other apocalyptic writings, Revelation uses curious imagery to convey its message.

Knowing apocalyptic and prophetic literature are written in decidedly different style compels readers to approach it differently than an epistle or narrative. Here are six things to keep in mind while reading and studying this genre.

1. Begin with an open heart. Confusion comes when people approach the text with a determined point of view. In the book's obscure figures these readers find latitude for false theories. Instead of drawing the meaning out of the text, they read their doctrines into the text. The humble heart may be confident in its understanding, but is willing to consider other ideas.
2. Seek how the original readers understood the message, then make application to modern circumstance. Dispensationalists see "signs" in modern times, then go to Revelation to decipher them. The first century saint would not have understood a 21st century reference. What did John want the seven churches of Asia to know? Answering that question allows readers to identify similarities between the original readers and modern readers, and make contemporary applications without making the book irrelevant to the original readers.
3. Focus on the big picture. Error often comes when readers get lost in the forest of details and lose sight of the main idea. A grasp of the main idea helps give meaning to the details.
4. Read the unknown in light of the known. Because of its fantastic imagery people like to start their New Testament journey in Revelation or some other obscure text. We should allow the truths revealed in the rest of Scripture to inform our interpretation of apocalyptic literature.

Know the Old Testament. Keener says Revelation contains more Old Testament references than any other New Testament book. He estimates roughly 70 percent of the verses in Revelation contain an allusion to the Old Testament. Ignorance of the Old Testament turns Revelation into a thousand piece puzzle with seven hundred pieces missing!

Assume a reference is symbolic unless the context demands it is literal. Usually biblical texts should be taken as literal unless it becomes absurd to do so. When it comes to Revelation, Gregg cautions, "Though this is a good rule when dealing with literature written in a literal genre, it is the exact opposite in the case of apocalyptic literature, where symbolism is the rule, and literalism the exception."

God's word is challenging, not confusing (1 Cor. 14:33). No doubt apocalyptic literature will always present an interpretive challenge. But by beginning with some basic understanding and guidelines readers will be better equipped to receive the message God intended them to have.

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3. Craig S. Keener, Revelation, NIV Application Commentary, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000), 33.
 4. Steven Gregg, Revelation, Four Views: A Parallel Approach, ed. Steven Gregg, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1997), 11.

Announcements

Prayers

Continue to pray for the work in India. It is an ongoing challenge.

Continued Prayers

- Penny Anderson, Tim Parker's daughter- seizures
- Eleanor Jatko- recovery from a stroke
- Bill Woloridge, the Austin's friend-cancer
- Jane Hanavan-heart issues
- Dawn Lell-health problems
- KD's supervisor's wife, LaRae Siefert-chemo nerve damage
- Sam Sims- health problems
- Elmo Wilson- recovery from a stroke
- Becca' Manzanares' niece's husband, Steven Pointer-COVID
- Ruth Wilson's grandson- COVID

News and Notes

Roachelle DeShane

We are sad to announce the passing of our sister Roachelle DeShane. Both she and Frank got COVID, but Rochelle got worse last Sunday and went into the hospital. She passed away Monday morning. Please keep Frank and the rest of the family in your prayers as they grieve her unexpected departure from this life.

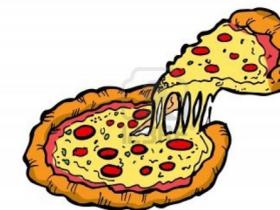


Frank is dealing with a cough and will continue to be in quarantine till Wednesday.

As soon as memorial service information is available, it will be published.

Teen/Young Adult Fall Get Together

Come join us for food, games, prizes and more!
Saturday, October 30th,
6:30-9:00 p.m. at the church building.



Pizza will be provided. Girls bring a side or drink. Boys bring a dessert. **Dress up in a costume to be entered into the costume contest.** Friends are welcome!



Sunday, November 7th



Birthdays and Anniversaries		
Oct. 24	Ann Adams	Birthday
Oct. 29	Bill Adams	Birthday