

The Unity and Theological Value of Hebrews to Revelation

1. Is it legitimate to examine the last nine books of the New Testament together?
 - a. The homogeneity of the other two parts of the New Testament canon
 - b. The diversity of the books
 - i. Diversity of authors—
 - ii. Diversity of genres—
 - c. Organizational schemes that fail
 - i. A scheme from the early church—
 - ii. "Early Catholicism"
2. Another possibility: the orthodox response to false teaching and persecution
 - a. The church's response to false teaching (James 1,2,3 John, Jude, 2 Peter)
 - i. The Problems
 1. Unhealthy theological developments of the Pauline tradition
 2. Unhealthy theological developments of the Johannine tradition
 3. The common ground between these two types of false teaching: An overemphasis on knowledge and an under emphasis on ethics
 - ii. The Church's Response:
 1. The false teachers have departed from historically reliable Christian tradition:
 2. That tradition stresses the crucial link between Christian confession and ethics.
 3. That tradition stresses the reality of a coming Day of Judgment in which the wicked will be judged.
 - b. The church's response to persecution (1 Peter, Hebrews, Revelation)
 - i. Why were the early Christians persecuted?
 - ii. Alternative answers to five crucial questions.
 1. Who is Jesus?
 2. Who are Christians?
 3. Who are the opponents of God's people?
 4. What is the significance of Christian suffering?
 5. What does the future hold?
3. Summary: an alternate vision of reality in Hebrews-Revelation.

The following resources were especially helpful in the preparation of this lecture:

- Baird, William. *History of New Testament Research*, vol. 1. *From Deism to Tübingen*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress.
- Bauckham, Richard. *The Climax of Prophecy: Studies on the Book of Revelation*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1993.
- _____. *The Theology of the Book of Revelation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- _____. *James: Wisdom of James, Disciple of Jesus the Sage*. London: Routledge, 1999.
- Brown, Raymond E. *The Community of the Beloved Disciple*. New York: Paulist, 1979.
- Harris, Horton. *The Tübingen School: A Historical and Theological Investigation of the School of F. C. Baur*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1990.
- Trobisch, David. *The First Edition of the New Testament*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Wilken, Robert L. *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1983.