

John A. Knight Bible and Theology Conference

Presenters

Keynote Banquet – Thursday Evening

Emcee – Dr. Doug Matthews

Keynote Speaker

Dr. David Busic

- President, Nazarene Theological Seminary
- B.A., Southern Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; D.Min., Fuller Theological Seminary (in process)

Lions, Lambs, and the New Creation: An Exploration of the Eschatological Vision of Isaiah 11 for the Church

An exploration of the literary and prophetic functions of Isaiah 11, particularly as it applies to an eschatological vision for the Church generally and the Wesleyan/Holiness tradition specifically. Particular focus will be given to the practical implications for the local church.

Keynote Response

Dr. Carol Rotz

- Northwest Nazarene University (retired)
- D.Litt et Phil, Rand Afrikaans University; M.A., University of Port Elizabeth; M.A., Olivet Nazarene University; B.Th., Ambrose University College; B.A., Northwest Nazarene University
- Author, New Beacon Bible Commentary on Revelation

Panel 1 – Wednesday Evening

An overview of the Historical, Sociological and Theological journeys of Wesleyan Eschatology

Emcee – Dr. Jeanne Serrao

Panelist

Dr. Clarence “Bud” Bence

- Church Historian in Residence (Current) Wesley Seminary, Professor of Church History (Retired) – Indiana Wesleyan University
- B.A., Houghton College 1966; M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Emory University

Wesley’s Eschatology: Speculations from another Age or Fresh Insights for Today?

Starting with Wesley’s own aversion to apocalyptic interpretations of eschatology, we briefly study how both post- and pre-millennial adherents tried to claim Wesley for their position. Behind the explicit texts, we can discover a two-fold perspective on soteriology in its ultimate goals in Wesley’s work. For the individual Christian perfecting leads one

on the way to heaven. For the church and Christian community there is a parallel “way to the kingdom of God. Both realities can be experienced here and now in anticipation of a full attainment in a reality yet to come.

Dr. Phil LaFountain

- Associate Professor of Theology – Eastern Nazarene College
- B.A., Eastern Nazarene College; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; Th.D., Boston University

Toward An Eschatological Ecclesiology

In this presentation I will lay out a sociological groundwork for an eschatological ecclesiology. I will argue that social groups are oriented teleologically by means of narrative shaped practices. This allows us to say see how Christian social groups can be oriented to a divine future that offers context and content for a present identity.

Dr. John Nielson

- Associate Professor of Religion – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.A., Eastern Nazarene College; M.A., Eastern Nazarene College; B.D., Nazarene Theological Seminary; D.D., Eastern Nazarene College

Why We Are Who We Are Where We Are!

Apparently we are not all on the same page in the academy, in the pulpit, or in the pew when it comes to Eschatology. We will take a brief look at some of the factors that got us here, where we might actually be, what that has to do with our history, our identity, our mission our theology, and how that shapes where we ought to be... and what the Who has to do with the Where... and is that all bad?

Panel 2 – Thursday Morning

Old Testament, New Testament, and Theological Wesleyan Eschatology Perspectives

Emcee – Dr. Rick Williamson

Panelist

Dr. Tim Green

- Dean of the School of Religion, Professor of Old Testament Literature and Theology, Chaplain of the University – Trevecca Nazarene University
- Ph. D. Vanderbilt University; M.A. Vanderbilt University; B.A. Olivet Nazarene

From Hope to Judgment to the Reign of God: Tracing the Seeds Of Eschatology In The Old Testament

Within the core of ancient Israel’s theological confession lies the hope and anticipation of Yahweh’s future activity. This hope engenders the thought of both judgment against the nations and God’s own people as well as the thought of restoration and the establishment of the reign of God. This brief presentation will explore these seeds of early Christian eschatology that we first find in the Old Testament and the manner in which they continue to speak into the life and hope of God’s people today.

Dr. Doug Matthews

- Professor of Theology – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.A. - Spring Arbor University; M.A., Wheaton College; Ph.D. - Baylor University; Additional Graduate Studies: Asbury Theological Seminary, Nazarene Theological Seminary

Relational Holiness or Eschatological Holiness: What Shall We Preach?

How eschatology rules contemporary thought and culture, and how it should frame and contextualize holiness theology, preaching, and practice.

Dr. Sam Powell

- Professor of Philosophy and Religion – Point Loma Nazarene University
- B.A. – Point Loma Nazarene University; M.Div. – Nazarene Theological Seminary; Ph.D. – Claremont Graduate University

A Proposal for Interpreting Eschatological Passages of Scripture

A responsible approach to interpreting eschatological passages requires first reading these passages in their original context and according to their original purpose and second hearing these passages speak to us in our context. We can satisfy both of these requirements by a two-fold process in which we first understand how these passages functioned in their original setting and then discerning how they can function in the same way in different cultural contexts. The authority of these passages thus rests on finding an analogy of function in different contexts.

Panel 3 – Friday Morning

Tough Questions about Eschatology

Emcee – Dr. Bruce Petersen

Panelist*Dr. Carl Leth*

- Dean, School of Theology and Christian Ministry; Professor of Theology – Olivet Nazarene University
- B.A., University of Kansas; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary Th.M. - Duke Divinity School Ph. D. Duke University

Symbolic and Literal Interpretations of Eschatological Passages – A Historical Perspective

Scripture is best understood in context. This includes not only the immediate Scriptural context but also the context of the historical reflection of the Church on these texts. By considering some examples in the history of biblical exegesis we may be better prepared to interpret these problematic and challenging texts in our contemporary context.

Dr. C. Jeanne Serrao

- Dean, School of Theology & Philosophy, Professor of Biblical Literature – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.A., Mid-America Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; M.A., Nazarene Theological Seminary; M.A., The Claremont Graduate University; Ph.D., The Claremont Graduate University

Concepts of “Rapture” And “Millennium” In the New Testament

A brief description and summary of the use of these concepts in the New Testament, where they are found and the historical and cultural contexts in which they are used. The focus of this presentation will be on the meaning of these terms for the 1st century audience and enduring principles that come out of this meaning.

Dr. Alex Varughese

- Professor of Biblical Literature – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.Sc., University of Kerala; M.Sc., University of Kerala; M.A., Olivet Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; M. Phil., Drew University; Ph.D., Drew University

How Do We Make Sense of Apocalyptic Materials in the Old Testament

Guidelines will be offered for interpreting apocalyptic materials in the Old Testament.

Workshop Presenters – Thursday Afternoon

Dr. Joseph L. Augello, Jr.

- Adjunct Professor, Site Chaplain – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.A., Mount Vernon Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; PhD. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Eschatology in the Early Church Theologians (Patristics)

Christian scholars and ministers of the time period from the 2nd through the 5th centuries. What did they believe regarding eschatology in general and specifically, the rapture, the Second Coming, the Millennium, and the final judgment? How did they interpret Scripture to support their beliefs? What can contemporary Christian thinkers learn from these early Christian thinkers?

Dr. Daniel Behr

- Professor, Department of Communication – Mount Vernon Nazarene University; Adjunct Professor of Christian Communication, Fairbanks School of Communication – Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary
- B.A., Olivet Nazarene University; M.A., University of Dayton; Ph.D., Ohio State University

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! Interpreting Words and Images in Revelation

Revelation is a description of a vision. John was looking at images when he wrote down the words in the book. Rather than approach it as words to be translated and then

interpreted, I will suggest that we use the words to reconstruct the images, and then interpret the images.

Mrs. Christina Bohn

- B.A. Biblical Studies – Mount Vernon Nazarene University; Graduate student of Biblical Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary

Revelation: Prophetic Voice in View of Realized Eschatology

The genre of Revelation is a difficult subject that has often been misunderstood, creating devastating interpretive implications and, in many ways, doing violence to its original message. While Revelation certainly has the “end times” in view, this presentation will focus on what God had to say to the early Christian community in their first century context. Revelation continues to speak to Christians today and encourages the Church to invoke a prophetic voice for the present age and an eschatological hope for the age to come.

Dr. David Cubie

- Emeritus Professor of Religion, MVNU
- Served as Chair: Religion and Theology, Professor of Religion – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.A., Eastern Nazarene University; B.D., Nazarene Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Boston University

Wesley and Eschatology

Eschatology and the last days; Eschatology and the church; Eschatology and the believer

Dr. Megan Defranza

- Adjunct Professor – Gordon College
- B.A., Toccoa Falls College; M.A., Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Marquette University

John A. Knight's Theology of imago Dei: Anthropological and Eschatological Considerations

In his 1995 text, *All Loves Excelling: Proclaiming Our Wesleyan Message*, John A. Knight frames the Nazarene holiness doctrinal distinctive within a systematic theological framework. Central to his presentation of holiness is his understanding of the image of God. In what follows, I will outline Knight's formulation of the imago and then bring him into dialogue with current reformulations of the image from other theological traditions in order to show how the Wesleyan perspective on the image as holiness finds its logical conclusion in this wider ecumenical conversation. Drawing on contemporary anthropological and eschatological considerations, I will offer suggestions for the development of a more robust Nazarene formulation of the image of God.

Mrs. Shannon Edwards

- Graduate Assistant and Graduate Student – *John Carroll University*
- B.A., Mount Vernon Nazarene University; M.A., to be conferred in May 2012 - John Carroll University

Practical Advice and The New Creation: How John Wesley's Understanding Of the "Last Things" Affected His Sensibilities in The "Now"

John Wesley was a pragmatist's pragmatist. Even when using his graced imagination to think of what heaven or the Parousia might be like, there was always a practical element to his ponderings. This presentation will show the development of Wesley's eschatological musings. It will also focus on how his ideas of the New Creation influenced his ethics in his own time and will pose the question of whether Wesley's thoughts and advice have any relevance for the modern believer.

Dr. Ted Esselstyn

- Chancellor Emeritus – Africa Nazarene University
- B.A., Eastern Nazarene College; Th.B., Eastern Nazarene College; B.D., Nazarene Theological Seminary; M.A., Yale University

Where There Is No Temple

The Bible begins and ends with settings in which there is no need of a temple. In Eden all is pronounced "very good" and the tree of life grows in the garden. In the New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb, There is no contamination and the tree of life grows by the river of life. The temple, or the portable version of the temple, is introduced when Israel becomes a nation committed to and owned by Yahweh their God. It serves the essential function of providing for the establishment, restoration and maintenance of the relationship that God wants with His people. As such it is an integral and key element of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his descendants. In the course of time several changes take place in the function of the temple. A major change takes place with the arrival of the Baby of Bethlehem and again with the return of the Lion of Judah, the Lamb of God. We will explore those changes which reveal the transformation of the temple from providing a path to salvation to providing the base for the destruction of all that is evil. With evil destroyed mankind and God can once again enjoy the face to face fellowship the Creator intended.

Dr. Dean Flemming

- Professor of New Testament and Missions – Mid America Nazarene University
- B.A., Mid-America Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; Ph.D., University of Aberdeen

Leaving 'Left Behind' Behind: A Contextual Approach to the Book of Revelation

From Hal Lindsay's The Late Great Planet Earth to the best-selling Left Behind series, popular treatments of Revelation have read it largely as a script for end time events. This workshop takes a different approach. To read Revelation responsibly, we must view it as an ancient text, which addresses real churches in first-century Asia Minor. Only when we see how Revelation speaks to its context in a world dominated by the Roman Empire can we begin to discover its powerful and challenging message for the church today.

Dr. Roger Hahn

- Dean of the Faculty, Professor of New Testament, Willard H. Taylor Chair of Biblical Theology – Nazarene Theological Seminary

- A.B., Southern Nazarene University; M.A., Southern Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; Ph.D., Duke University

The “Already” And the “Not Yet” In the Eschatology of the Gospel of Matthew

This workshop will explore ways in which the gospel of Matthew implies a realized eschatology (“already”) in his use of Old Testament fulfillment texts and in his treatment of the kingdom of heaven (God). This will lead to exploration of ways in which Matthew implies a futuristic eschatology (“not yet”) in his treatment of the kingdom of heaven (God). Questions of the interface between Matthew’s eschatology and his christology and his ecclesiology will be discussed. Matthew’s particular way of relating eschatology, Christology, and ecclesiology provides an important resource for the church’s engagement with those subjects today.

Rev. Rich Henry

- Pastor, North Central Ohio District Church of the Nazarene
- B.A., Mount Vernon Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary

A Pastoral Theological Application of the Eschatological Certainty as a Motivating Factor for Mission from 1 John

Wesleyan theology believes with great certainty in the return of Christ. There is, however, uncertainty in regards to exactly when and in what order the eschatological reality will unfold. In light of John Wesley’s belief that there is no holiness that is not social holiness, this workshop will cover the practical application of how the coming of Christ relates to our stated mission within the Church of the Nazarene; “to make Christlike disciples in the nations.” Christ’s return serves as powerful motivating factor in making disciples which only takes place within the context of community or koinonia. Without koinonia, there is no discipleship; and the return of Christ moves us to carry out this mission.

Dr. Ben Lee

- Pastor, East Ohio District Church of the Nazarene
- B.A., Mount Vernon Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; D.Min., Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Preaching the Future Hope

Preaching biblical concepts of eschatology with clarity and integrity, using good communication skills, to make the message understandable to 21st Century listeners.

Dr. Bruce Petersen

- Professor of Pastoral Ministry / Coordinator - Master of Ministry Program – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.A., Olivet Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; D.Min., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Preaching the Future Hope

Preaching biblical concepts of eschatology with clarity and integrity, using good communication skills, to make the message understandable to 21st Century listeners.

Dr. Charles McCall

- Professor Emeritus of Religion – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.A., Southern Nazarene University; B.D., Nazarene Theological Seminary; Th.M. - Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; M.A., Ohio State University; D.Min., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus: Old Testament Themes in a Wesleyan Approach to Eschatology

The promises of God to his people of the Old Testament age are fulfilled in the coming of Jesus. Messages of punishment and restoration center in a return to their land under a Davidic ruler. The church in the New Testament age is heir to the promises of God to Israel in the Old Testament. Jesus inaugurated the kingdom in his ministry, and will return to consummate it in the future. Old Testament eschatology is therefore largely to be equated with Christology.

Rev. Meredith Moser

- Adjunct Instructor, God's Bible School and College; Pastor, Eastern Kentucky District Church of the Nazarene
- A.A., God's Bible College; B.A., God's Bible College; M.A.R., Cincinnati Christian University/Cincinnati Bible Seminary

Helping Teens Sort out The Various Teachings (The Swamp) Of Eschatology

Looking at the various teachings of Eschatology and attempting to create a format/guide to help teens sort through it (develop a foundation for understanding it and equipping them with a platform for intellectual discussion).

Dr. Mark Quanstrom

- Professor, Olivet Nazarene University; Teaching Pastor, College Church of the Nazarene, Bourbonnais, IL
- B.A., Olivet Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; Ph.D., St. Louis University

The Intrinsic Relationship between Eschatology and Holiness Theology: Moving Forward By Reclaiming The Past

An historical overview of the Church of the Nazarene's Eschatological vision(s) and their corresponding impact on the denomination's articulation of holiness.

Dr. Rick Williamson

- Professor of Biblical Literature – Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- B.A., Mid-America Nazarene University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary; M.A., University of Iowa; Ph.D., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Where on Earth is Heaven? God's Redeeming Work in the Apocalypse

While much of Revelation is depicted as from the vantage point of heaven (God's throne especially), the writing has a great deal to say about how God's redeeming work is accomplished in the world. Revelation's themes of redemption look back importantly to origins (creation) as well as the eschaton. This study examines the narrative beginning on Patmos and among churches in Asia Minor in the first century, to the conclusion in

the New Jerusalem. The study especially asks how John uses concepts like “heaven” and “earth” and “under the earth” and “the sea” as these relate to God’s redeeming work. Is the world to be rejected and destroyed, or redeemed? Do persons find their eternal hope on the earth or in deliverance from it?