



**C O V E N A N T**  
T H E O L O G I C A L S E M I N A R Y

**BS 6012 Heaven and Earth**

WITH DISSERTATION THEORY OPTION

**Dr. Will Ryan**

# Covenant Theological Seminary

PO Box 1177 Greenville, NC 27835-1177 USA

[www.gocovenant.com](http://www.gocovenant.com)

## COMPLETED WORK IS TO BE SUBMITTED IN A SINGLE PDF DOCUMENT

1. A cover page which includes:
  - a. Name of course, author and instructor's name with title
  - b. Student's name, degree working toward, and the date completed
  - c. Facilitator's complete title/name the seminary's name and location (Greenville, NC)
2. Separate page & heading for each new section, capitalized at top center of that page SUMMARY, PRECIS, PAPER
3. All papers are to be typed with .5" margins using font & size: Calibri 11 pt. Summaries and book reports are to be double-spaced
4. Grading will be percentage based on questions, outlines, grammar, and theological and philosophical thought and execution of writing forms.

The file must be in Adobe PDF compatible format or it will be rejected. (5 MB is the maximum file size allowable.) A free PDF writer is available at [www.cutepdfwriter.com](http://www.cutepdfwriter.com). Once this file is installed on your PC, you simply Print the file and select CutePDF Writer as the "printer". You will be asked to name the file and select the location for the file. CutePDF Writer often precedes the file name with the name of the source software (i.e. Microsoft Word).

# COURSE ASSIGNMENT: BS 6012 Heaven and Earth

## Textbook

*A New Heaven and A New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology* (J. Richard Middleton)

ISBN: 978-0801048685

## Summary:

In recent years, more and more Christians have come to appreciate the Bible's teaching that the ultimate blessed hope for the believer is not an otherworldly heaven; instead, it is full-bodied participation in a new heaven and a new earth brought into fullness through the coming of God's kingdom. Drawing on the full sweep of the biblical narrative, J. Richard Middleton unpacks key Old Testament and New Testament texts to make a case for the new earth as the appropriate Christian hope. He suggests its ethical and ecclesial implications, exploring the difference a holistic eschatology can make for living in a broken world.

*Four Views on Heaven [Counterpoints: Bible and Theology]* (Wittmer and Gundry)

ISBN: 978-0310093886

Christians from a variety of denominations and traditions are in middle of an important conversation about the final destiny of the saved. Scholars such as N. T. Wright and J. Richard Middleton have pushed back against the traditional view of heaven, and now some Christians are pushing back against them for fear that talk about the earthiness of our final hope distracts our attention from Jesus.

In the familiar *Counterpoints* format, *Four Views on Heaven* brings together a well-rounded discussion and highlights similarities and differences of the current views on heaven. Each author presents their strongest biblical case for their position, followed by responses and a rejoinder that model a respectful tone.

Positions and contributors include:

- Traditional Heaven - our destiny is to leave earth and live forever in heaven where we will rest, worship, and serve God (John S. Feinberg)
- Restored Earth - emphasizes that the saved will live forever with Jesus on this restored planet, enjoying ordinary human activities in our redeemed state. (J. Richard Middleton)
- Heavenly Earth - a balanced view that seeks to highlight both the strengths and weaknesses of the heavenly and earthly views (Michael Allen).
- Roman Catholic Beatific Vision - stresses the intellectual component of salvation, though it encompasses the whole of human experience of joy, happiness coming from seeing God finally face-to-face (Peter Kreeft).

## 1. WATCH

- Heaven and Earth Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p49mDHyQOdw>
- Heaven and Earth Part 2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9pCc54\\_3mM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9pCc54_3mM)
- Heaven and Earth Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwMQMXWCQAk>
- Citizens of the Kingdom: Heaven and Earth  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKWN45QmAp4>

## 2. PRECIS

- Write a 3-page reflection and summary for each lecture (or 12 pages total). Combine into one document.
- Write a book report for the textbook. Pages according to degree work per degree for book report requirement:
  - Master: 5
  - Doctorate: 8

## 3. PAPER

- Write a paper defending your view of Heaven/Earth from the 4 views book.
- Minimum pages and citations according to degree work per degree:
  - Master: 5
  - Doctorate: 8

## DOCTORAL RESEARCH STUDENTS DISSERTATION THEORY ASSIGNMENT:

- [Doctor of Theology](#)—ThD (*Requires a Dissertation*)
- [Doctor of Christian Education](#)—DCE (*Requires a Dissertation*)
- [Doctor of Christian Counseling](#)—DCC (*Requires a Dissertation*)

## ASSIGNMENT DISSERTATION THEORY:

**Create a video presentation (PowerPoint optional) of a Biblical teaching or sermon on Heaven and Earth. This presentation teaching/sermon should be 25-35 mins in length. Submit an outline with your video.**

**Upload to YouTube as an unlisted video and attach the link at the top of your outline/ presentation notes.**

# Covenant Theological Seminary

PO Box 1177 Greenville, NC 27835-1177 USA

[www.gocovenant.com](http://www.gocovenant.com)

## Course Summary

The modern church, in the recent years, has been centered on a disembodied existence in heaven as the pinnacle of our destiny. This course will be about looking at the Biblical data and examine the validity of heaven as the final destination. Other theologians have recently given pushback to this notion of disembodied existence, pointing to Biblical evidence that heaven comes to earth in Revelation and looking at the importance of resurrection, rather than disembodiment, as the final state and salvation of humanity. Which option is true? Which is biblical?

Revivalist and post-enlightenment tradition may have muddied the waters when it comes to this conversation, but as Christians we need to see what the Bible says as our authority, rather than culture and tradition says. Our view on this topic and the theology behind it not only effects our worldview but how we live out the great commission and our calling as humans made in the image of God- to work and keep creation, and rule and reign as God's ambassadors on earth.

This also effects our eschatology. Is our goal to escape earth or renew the earth? Will God destroy and recreate the earth or purge/cleanse it on the last day? Is resurrection spiritual or physical? If God created everything good, would he destroy it? These are all questions we need to consider and that we will consider as we explore heaven and earth in this course.