HUMA 3457 Gnosticism

**Nov. 6: Gnostic Apocalypses**  
Read for Today: Denzey Lewis ch. 18-19; Letter of Peter to Philip; Apocalypse of Peter; Apocalypse of Adam; Apocalypse of Paul.  
**\*\*Apocalypse of Adam analysis due today, if you chose that text \*\***

**1. Apocalypses**

1. *Semeia* definition: “‘Apocalypse’ is a genre of revelatory literature with a narrative framework, in which a revelation is mediated by an otherworldly being to a human recipient, disclosing a transcendent reality which is both temporal, insofar as it envisages eschatological salvation, and spatial insofar as it involves another, supernatural world.”
2. two types: heavenly journeys and historical sketches
3. grow out of prophetic texts: social critics who speak “in the voice of God”
4. Ezekiel, prophet of the Exile: taken on the chariot of God; conflicts take on cosmic significance
5. Daniel and *1 Enoch* in the second century BCE
6. conventions:

* heavenly journey
* revelations from God
* faithful rewarded, unfaithful punished
* animal imagery: animals used to represent nations, symbols
* historical recitals
* pseudonymity
* ex eventu prophecy

1. samples of apocalyptic literature: Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs, the War of Light and Darkness from the Dead Sea Scrolls, Revelation, the Nag Hammadi apocalypses(?)

2. *Apocalypse of Paul*

* launches off the “small apocalypse” of 2 Cor 12:2-4
* set in Paul’s lifetime; guided by Holy Spirit up to the tenth heaven
* Gnostic ideas: the old man on the throne ruling over the seventh heaven

3. *Apocalypse of Peter*

* one source: Nag Hammadi Codex VII
* the “living Jesus” vs. “the substitute”
* *Second Discourse of the Great Seth*
* Basilides (see Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* 1.24.4; Epiphanius, *Panarion* 24.3)

4. *Letter of Peter to Philip*

* two versions: last few pages of Codex VIII (pp.132–140) with *Zostrianos*, and opening of Codex Tchacos, pp. 1–9
* situated after the crucifixion but before Pentecost in Acts

5. *1* *Apocalypse of James*

* two separate translations from Greek: Nag Hammadi Codex V, pp. 44–63, and Codex Tchachos, pp. 11–30
* Greek fragment: two pages from the Oxyrhynchus Papyri dated ca. 5th/6th cent.); discovered by Brent Landau and Geoffrey Smith in 2017
* video: Brent Landau, University of Texas at Austin

6. *Apocalypse of Adam* (Discussion)