



## JJM Roberts Endowed Lecture in Old Testament Studies

**Session 3: Thursday, June 6, 9-10:30 a.m.**

**“Hope When Empires Are in Crisis: Reading Daniel 5”**

*Location: Stone Chapel*

**John Walton**, *Wheaton College*

Walton is professor of Old Testament emeritus at Wheaton College and Graduate School. Previously he was professor of Old Testament at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago for 20 years. Walton has authored numerous books including *The Lost World of Adam and Eve*, *The Lost World of Scripture*, *The Lost World of Genesis One*, *Wisdom for Faithful Reading*, *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*, *The Essential Bible Companion*, *The NIV Application Commentary: Genesis* and *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament* (with Victor Matthews and Mark Chavalas). His ministry experience includes church classes for all age groups, high school Bible studies, and adult Sunday school classes, as well as serving as a teacher for “The Bible in 90 Days.”

By any measure, Daniel lived in tumultuous times. As a Judean exile in Babylon, it would have been easy to abandon hope. Nevertheless, he faced his personal crises armed with a stalwart faith. The book of Daniel, however, looks beyond the personal crises of Daniel and his friends to focus on the ebb and flow of empires, a subject introduced with the king’s dream of an image and its interpretation by Daniel in chapter 2. In Daniel 5, the political situation in the Babylonian Empire has reached critical mass and the empire is on the brink of collapse. At Belshazzar’s Feast, important insights are given about the shifting of power and the transition of empires, all under the control of the Most High. We will offer a detailed analysis of the text with fresh insights into some of the controversial and mystifying elements found there, and then draw out the lessons that it has for us today about God’s control of time, history, political power, and empire. Such understanding can give us hope when we face times of political crisis.