

Week Eleven

YEAR ONE

Read

Deuteronomy
Collins, Chapter 8, “Deuteronomy, pages 84-93”

Focus

As you read Deuteronomy, define the Mosaic covenant and notice how the covenant underwent renewal and reinterpretation.

YEAR TWO

Read

The Gospel according to John.

Focus

Make note of anything you had to look up and any surprising ideas or images that you found in reading John’s Gospel. Especially note how John’s Gospel presents the message of Jesus. Compare John’s proclamation (*kerygma*) with the other Gospels’ proclamations.

YEAR THREE

Read

MacCulloch, Chapter 8 “Islam: the Great Realignment,” pages 255–285

Focus

Rise of Islam:

Qur’an; three possible “borrowings” of Islam from Christianity; *al-ilah* (Allah); identify how Christian *divisions* contributed to Muslim conquests; Mosques of Umar (Dome of the Rock)

Islam’s impact on Christians in East:

Pact or Covenant (*dhimma*) of Umar; *hadith* that protected monastery of St. Catherine of Alexandria; John of Damascus; ascendancy of Bagdad under Abbasid caliphs; Hunayn ibn ‘Ishaq; Timothy I

Church in China:

Ta Qin monastery; Bishop Alopen; *Jesus Messiah Sutra*; *Discourse on the oneness of the Ruler of the Universe*; Emperor Wuzong

Christianity among Mongols:

Khan of the Keraitis' vision of St. Sergius; Kerait khan; Temujin (Genghis Khan); Kublai Khan and Dyophysite Christianity; Il-Khan Hulagu and Christians of Bagdad; Rabban Sauma; Timur's destructions

Islam and African Churches:

North African Church; Coptic patriarchs; Ethiopian monasticism; *Qerellos*; Zagwe kings; churches of Lalibela; Takla Haymanot; Zar'a Ya'qob; *The Miracles of Mary*; Prester John myth

YEAR FOUR

Read

Allen, Chapter 8, "Suffering from Nature and Extreme Human Cruelty," pages 74–84

Focus

Key concepts to consider: David Hume's view of natural world in relation to humanity's well-being; the Stoic Epictetus's view of humankind in relation to nature; Iulia de Beausobre and her experience with suffering at the hand of human cruelty; experiencing God's love in the midst of suffering; two possible responses to the Holocaust

**Respond**

"Right" behavior operates within the ordering of values and expectations. Consider how different "laws" have operated in your life, especially over time, in different settings and circumstances.

Reflect on how the "laws" you learned in your first ten years shaped your beliefs about God.

Identify issues raised in your reading that you find present in contemporary society and among the people you encounter in your daily life.

Practice

Use your text reading this week to

Identify the focus of what you read;

Explore by identifying the views of the world, sin, judgment, repentance and/or redemption that may have been presented in your reading;

Connect by

identifying how the author(s) drew on his or her contemporary culture in writing the chapter;

identifying the beliefs that the author seemed to hold and how those interact with your beliefs;

recalling personal experiences related to the chapter's focus;

Apply by making notes of what you want to reflect on with the seminar group.