

Week Twelve

YEAR ONE

Read

Joshua and Judges

Focus

As you read the Book of Joshua, note what concerns the people in the book had. Especially think about the nature of God that the narrative presented and how that God shaped their understanding of their world and themselves.

YEARTWO

Read

Powell, Chapter 8, “John,” pages 169–189

Focus

Terms, ideas, and images: Book of Signs; Book of Glory; Logos; beloved disciple; abundant life; Paraclete; Sacred Heart piety; Raising of Lazarus; Washing the Feet; *Christ of Saint John of the Cross*

Major themes in John’s Gospel: true revelation of God; Jesus as God; Glorification of Jesus in his death; world and Jews; loving one another

YEAR THREE

Read

MacCulloch, Chapter 9, “The Making of Latin Christianity,” pages 289–318

Focus

The Rome of the Popes:

Papa; catholic; Latin Rite; St. Lawrence; Castel Sant’Angelo; Basilica of St. Peter; Damasus; Jerome; Gerasimos; Vulgate

A Religion Fit for Gentlemen:

Faltonia Betitia Proba; Prudentius; *Peristephanon*; Ambrose

Augustine: Shaper of the Western Church:

Confessions; Monica; Manichaeism; *tolle lege*; Donatists; *City of God*; Pelagius; 410 CE; Augustine’s analogy of Trinity; double processions of Holy Spirit

Early Monasticism in the West:

Martin; Sulpicius Severus; *capellae*; Cassian; Benedict; Rule of St. Benedict

YEAR FOUR

Read

Allen, Chapter 9, “The Sacrifice in Creation,” pages 87–95 and William Porcher Dubose’s essay “The Trinity” provided in Section II, pages [XXX].

By the time that Dubose had written his essay on the Trinity, he was nearing retirement from a long, productive, and challenging career as a professor and dean of the School of Theology of the University of the South. Before he arrived at the university he had served as a soldier and then as a chaplain in the Confederate Army. Wounded several times and confined as a prisoner of war, Dubose knew the dark side of humanity. Upon his release as a POW, he read his own obituary—he had been reported as killed in action.

Apparent throughout DuBose’s writings, his brilliance resulted in an international reputation of being one of, if not the most, original and creative American theologians. Dogma and experience, which he understood as part of what incarnation means, were in constant dialogue in all his writings,.

Focus

Concepts: Power of God; creator’s self-renunciation; connection between God’s creative self-sacrificing and human moral action; *de facto* person and moral person; doctrine of Trinity in relation to doctrine of creation

Identifications to make with reference to the sacrifice in creation: Dorothy Sayers; Iris Murdoch; W. H. Auden; Dante; Bonaventure

Terms and phrase to note in DuBose’s essay: *logos*; *telos*; grace of the Son; *gratia gratiata*; *gratia gratians*; love is grace *potential*; grace is love *actu*; three constituents of the gospel; *ex parte Dei*; *salvation salvans*; *ex parte hominis*



Respond

Compare how God is involved in the variety of worlds present in the readings with how you find God’s involvement in your worlds of work, family, play, mind, and body.

Practice

As you increase your knowledge of the Christian tradition and clarify your beliefs, you will likely find yourself thinking new thoughts such as “I never knew that.” New learning can be insightful and hold implications for your life as a Christian. Putting that learning into practice requires a willingness to do the hard work of honest self-examination.

Select one thing that you have learned from your study and reflection. For example, reading about the theme of justice throughout the Christian tradition can lead to the insight that God cares about those who suffer from injustice. Once you know that about God, ask how that knowledge impacts your different worlds—your relationship with play, family, work, and how you view your body.