

Week Thirteen

YEAR ONE

Read

Collins, Chapter 9, “Joshua”; Chapter 10, “Judges” pages 94-115

Focus

Judges in the Hebrew Bible are more aptly described as warlords than magistrates. Collins wrote that the selection criterion for a judge was might. As you step back into the time of Judges, why would these stories be recorded and valued? State how you think the people would have seen God to be present.

YEARTWO

Read

The Acts of the Apostles
Powell, Chapter 9, “Acts,” pages 191-213

Focus

Make note of what surprises you in reading Acts; what you had to look up; and the events, images, or ideas that interest you.

YEAR THREE

Read

MacCulloch, Chapter 10, “Latin Christendom: New Frontiers,” pages 319–362

Focus

MacCulloch organizes five hundred years of Latin Christianity history around several areas:

- Changing Allegiances: Rome, Byzantium, and Others
- Mission in Northern Europe (500–600)
- Obedient Anglo-Saxons and Other Converts (600–800)
- Charlemagne, Carolingians, and a New Roman Empire (800–1000)

Identify the key persons and events related to each section, especially noticing how MacCulloch’s presentation sheds light on the “human capacity for relationship.”

YEAR FOUR

Read

Allen, Chapter 10, “The Incarnation as Sacrifice,” pages 96–106

Focus

Key concepts to identify and define: God’s self-limitation; incarnation as sacrifice; “dwelling place of God”; Kierkegaard’s allegory in *Philosophical Fragments*; concept from geometry to point to Jesus’ divinity and humanity; miracles (“signs of wonder”; “deeds of power”; “mighty works”) and natural science

**Respond**

How people view God impacts how they behave. Furthermore, how they understand human nature influences how they view God.

How did those in your reading this week see God—what images or metaphors did they use for God and for human nature?

List images of God that you have or have had—recognizing that there are people who do not like to think of God that way. Scripture uses a variety of images. Perhaps there is one or more that might work to convey your sense of God at this time.

What do those images suggest about how you understand the meaning of being human?

Practice

Start from a biblical text for reflection such as Romans 13; or any passage that someone in Year One or Two has encountered during the study this week; or a passage that someone particularly wants to engage; or a passage from the recent Sunday scripture reading.

Identify

- a scripture passage to practice the movements of theological reflection;
- Identify a focus in the passage—create an image or metaphor if possible;

Explore the focus with theological questions;

Connect other sources (personal experience, contemporary culture, and personal beliefs) to the focus; and

Apply the reflection by noting insights you have and how those insights might make a difference in ministry in your life.