

Week Nine

YEAR ONE

Read

Exodus 16–40
Collins, Chapter 6, “Revelation at Sinai,” pages 64-73

Focus

Identifications to note: Mosaic / Sinai covenant; Hittite treaties; Assyrian treaties; vassal treaty; theophany; Baal; Asherah; Festival of Unleavened Bread; Sukkoth; Book of the Covenant

Terms related to law: apodictic law; casuistic law; Yahwist Decalogue; ritual Decalogue; unwritten (oral) law

YEARTWO

Read

The Gospel according to Luke

Focus

Define unfamiliar terms or references.

Make notes about what particularly interests you in Luke’s Gospel.

Imagine the writer of Luke making a list of images for Jesus. What would be on that list?

Describe how Luke’s images shade and color the gospel he proclaims.

YEARTHREE

Read

MacCulloch, Chapter 6, “The Imperial Church,” pages 189–228

Focus

Important names, places, terms to note: Constantine; *Chi Rho*, Milvian Bridge; Codex Vaticanus; Codex Sinaiticus; *Hagia Eirene*; *Hagia Sophia*; Helena, Athanasius, Basil, Arius, Miaphysites, Nestorius; *sedes, cathedra, basilica catechesis eremos, monachos, abila, homoousion, homoios, hypostasis, ousia, Theotokos*; ; monasticism; *The Acts of Thomas*; Councils; Chalcedonian Definition; dates: 312, 325, 481

History presents a narrative that the author creates from primary or other secondary sources. What sources can you identify that MacCulloch uses in this chapter?

YEAR FOUR

Read

Allen, Chapter 6, “Nature as Witness and Innocent Suffering,” pages 57–67

Focus

Concepts, terms, and names to note: three elements of witness; nature’s witness; inner witness; Testament: Job; *Vindicator*; William Temple

Allen presents theology, as do all theologians, by using content from other people as well as from his own thinking and experience. Identify sources he used as he presented his position in this chapter.



Respond

As you studied you likely made connections with other things that you have read, thought, or experienced. Identify the thoughts, feelings, memories, and connections to other authors that you have read. These constitute the sources you use as you form your understanding of the chapter. What do you notice about the sources you draw upon?

Defining relationships loom large in the readings of all four years. Year One read about the unfolding of the covenant through the lives of the patriarchs; Year Two confronted Mark’s abrupt proclamation of the news of Jesus Christ and its power over people; Year Three watched the nascent church-state issue unfold; while Year Four read about natural theology and the injustices of innocent suffering.

The issues raised in the reading are real, ongoing, and difficult. What has your experience taught you about one or more of those issues?

What light does learning more about the Christian heritage shed on those issues?

Christians today live within a heritage of people who have placed their lives on the line because of how they experienced God and God’s call on their lives. Having a theology that **under girds** a living faith brings us face to face with serious life issues. A hope is that critical study of the Christian tradition will help men and women face issues such as innocent suffering.

How have your reading, study, and reflection on the Christian tradition this week contributed to deepening your understanding of faith issues, especially those raised by human suffering?

Practice

Use your assigned 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.