

Biblical Hermeneutics (BIBL501)

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Session 1:

Introduction

For this class read: Thom Stark, *The Human Faces of God*, pp. 1–69

The Human Faces of God, chapter 1

1. John Collins describes the Bible as argument with what?
2. How is the attitude of Ezra said to be different than that of prophets Amos and Jonah?
3. How does Stark say Ezra's attitude towards intermarriage seem at odds with Deuteronomy?
4. According to Stark, what political agenda was behind Ezra's program?
5. Why does Stark say that it is wrong to use Jesus' words about Jonah as proof of the historicity of the story of Jonah?
6. How does Stark contrast the outlook of Proverbs with that of Job and Ecclesiastes? What does Stark say about views regarding "life after death"?
7. What does Stark claim later redactors did to the text of Scripture?

The Human Faces of God, chapter 2

1. How does Stark say the Bible portrays Yahweh in relation to the mountain God El Elyon?
2. True or false: According to Stark, the belief that Scripture is without error ("inerrant") is recent.
3. True or false: According to Stark, the early Church fathers were not interested in the historical-grammatical meaning of Scripture.
4. What was the function of Daniel's prophecies according to Stark? How is it "prophecy *post eventum*"?
5. True or false: According to Stark, the original Hebrew of Isaiah 7:14 announces that a child will be born of a "virgin".
6. True or false: According to Stark, in 1 Corinthians 9 Paul explains that the historical-grammatical meaning of Deuteronomy 25:4 is of no concern to God or to us.
7. True or false: According to Stark, the Jewish writer Philo allegorized parts of the Old Testament unpalatable to Hellenistic audiences.
8. True or false: Stark explains that the Nephilim were the children born as the result of the union of angels and human women.

The Human Faces of God, chapter 3

1. True or false: Stark argues that if Scripture is inspired it is necessarily inerrant.
2. True or false: Stark argues that the Gospels always faithfully transmit the teachings of Jesus himself.
3. True or false: Stark claims inerrancy denies the authors of Scripture free-will.
4. True or false: Stark claims that God lies in Scripture.
5. True or false: Stark claims that belief in the inerrancy of Scripture "stunts your growth".