Iona, First Year, OT

December 3, 2022

Discussion questions

Session 1

What do you think the New Testament writers mean when they say that particular events in the life of Jesus “fulfilled” various prophecies?

Take account of the following examples:

* Matthew 2:15 / Hosea 11:1
* Mark 1:2-4 / Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3
* John 19:37 / Zechariah 12:10

Session 2

An insight shared by several prophetic books is that religion often provides an ideological rationalization for the systematic economic oppression of the poor, and that although this is particularly the case with the idolatrous worship of foreign gods, it can also be the case with Israel’s worship of their own god Yahweh.

For example, see Amos 5:21-24; 8:4-6.

How can the covenant community discern whether this critique applies to them, and how can it reform itself when it does?

Session 3

The great Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel, who wrote a classic study of biblical prophecy, was once accosted by a group of students who complained about the prophets’ concept of “collective guilt.” They said that the prophets’ proclamation, that God would destroy a whole nation because some of its people had sinned, was fundamentally unjust. Heschel made this clarifying response: “Some are guilty, all are responsible.” What do you think?