



SESSION 10: FAITH AND JUSTICE

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this session is that participants understand the primacy of the relationship with God in all three Abrahamic faiths.

To achieve this goal, the session will focus on the following objectives:

1. Participants learn how much the stories and people of the Old and New Testaments play in the development and narrative of the Qur'an.
2. Participants learn how source criticism sheds light on the message of synoptic gospels and how this approach may shed light on the development of the Qur'an.

ACTIVITIES

Discussion

- ❖ Review and discuss NOS chapter, "The Temple."
 - What does the Muslim version of the story of John the Baptist (Yahya) and his father, Zacharia (Zakariya) teach about the balance between social action and worship?
 - What is Brian Brown's critique of contemporary mainstream Christianity and its churches? What do the Pentecostals have that progressive churches may lack?
 - In your experience, is what he said about worship true? See Q. & A. in New Preface.
- ❖ Review and discuss the story of the birth of John the Baptist.
 - Where did Muhammad learn this story? Where did Luke learn this story?
 - Review the summary of multi-source theory as it applies to the synoptic gospels.
 - Consider how ancient documents were composed and how this differs from modern writing and publishing processes. Note that literary concepts such as fiction and nonfiction were not used by the ancients.
- ❖ Review and discuss the story of the disciples.
 - In Surah 61:14, what happened when Isa (Jesus) called upon believers among the "sons of Israel" to be his helpers?
 - In Surah 57:27-29, what is the criticism of the disciples of Isa?
 - What important figure is missing from Islamic knowledge of Christianity? (St. Paul)
- ❖ Review how each of the Abrahamic faith balances social justice and holiness.
 - Note that the combination of justice and holiness are characteristic of the Abrahamic faiths. (E.g., whereas Hinduism and Buddhism teach their adherents to remove themselves from the world, the Abrahamic faiths require engagement with it.)



Noah's Other Son

Session 10

READINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT SESSION

1. NOS: Ch. 17, "Son of Man, Son of God, Son of Mary," pp.187-106
2. Christian text: Gospel of St. Thomas (handout)