



SESSION 3: NOAH'S OTHER SON & OTHER PRODIGALS

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this session is to show how the Judeo-Christian and Islamic variations of a shared story shed light upon each other, thus enhancing our understanding of our relationship with God.

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

1. Participants learn how to read the flood story as an allegory in order to glean its insights into the human condition and humanity's relationship with God.
2. Participants learn how the theme of the prodigal child plays an important role in all three Abrahamic faiths
3. Participants learn about Abrahamic faiths' insights into the role free will plays in the relationship between God and humanity.

ACTIVITIES

Discussion

- ❖ Review and discuss the NOS chapter, "Noah's Other Son."
- ❖ Review and discuss the scriptural readings from the Qur'an and the Bible.
- ❖ Introduce the historical-critical method of reading scripture.
- ❖ If time allows, discuss NOS Ch. 4, "Towering Ambition," pp.66-7,

READINGS AND ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT SESSION

For next session, participant should read the following:

1. NOS: Ch. 5, "The Patriarch," pp.68-77
 - a. Optional: NOS Ch. 4, "Towering Ambition," pp.55-67. (Note especially pp.66-67, the discussion of the Jean Astruc's theory of who wrote the Torah.)
2. Qur'an:
 - a. Surah 100-108 - Abraham sacrifices his son
 - b. Surah 21:51-79 - Abraham, Terah and the destruction of the idols



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3. Bible - The Torah:

- a. Genesis 12:1-9, God's Promise to Abraham
- b. Genesis 16:1:15, Hagar and Ishmael
- c. Genesis 17:1-27, God's Covenant with Abraham