

Supplemental Handout for Gifts of Finest Wheat Old Testament Class # 4

New Reading Lists

The reading lists for the next two classes have been slightly revised.

The new reading lists are as follows:

Session 5, The Davidic Kingdom

1 Chronicles 10-11:24
13-18
21-23:1
28-29
2 Chronicles 1-9
2 Samuel 11-12
Reardon 53-56, 59-70, 75-80, 89-110

Session 6, The Davidic Successors and the Fall of the Kingdom

1 Kings 5, 11-12, 17, 21
2 Kings 21-23, 35
Ezra 3, 7
Nehemiah 2-3
1 Maccabees 1-4, 2 Maccabees 12:38-:46
Hahn 219-224

Changes have also been made to the last two sessions. First off the order of these two will be flipped. This means the Song of Songs will be covered in our closing session. Session 7 is now Session 8. Our seventh session will cover the Book of Job, but the sections on the prophets is going to be dropped. Those who wish may still do a written assignment on the prophetic books, but we aren't going to have the chance to cover this material in one of our sessions.

Rublev's Trinity

I also wanted to be sure that I got a chance to explain to everyone the image on the front of your binders. It is known as Rublev's Trinity, and it is inspired by Genesis 18:1-:8. Andrei Rublev was a Russian artist who was most likely born in the 1360s and died in 1427 or 1430.

Genesis 18:1-8 is a mysterious story. Three men appear to Abraham (Genesis 18:2). But it also said that the Lord appeared to him. (Genesis 18:1) The passage moves back and forth between references to the multiple visitors and references to the Lord. It is not immediately clear what is going on in this story. This story is one of several stories in the

Old Testament where it is not clear whether the story is telling of the appearance of the Lord himself, or just the appearance of a divine messenger. There are a number of stories where it is unclear if the “angel” referred to is a messenger of God, or God himself.

This story follows this pattern, but it is unique in that there are three messengers whose nature and identity is unclear. As a result this story has been seen as a possible Old Testament revelation of the Trinity. It would almost certainly be going too far to use this text as a proof of Trinitarian doctrine, but it is within the realm of possibility to see a hint of God’s triune nature in this passage.

Rublev’s Trinity is a particularly interesting piece of Christian art because the Eastern half of the Christian Church is extremely reluctant to depict God the Father. The image of the Father as a bearded old man, common in Western Christian art, is not something that is a part of Eastern Christian iconography. So Rublev’s Trinity is very rare, in that it is a piece of Eastern Christian art which is meant to provide a glimpse into the Trinity. Because of the veiled and mysterious nature of Abraham’s encounter with the three messengers the Eastern Church has not had the same reservations about this image as it has had when it comes to other artistic depictions of God the Father.

As we begin our study of God’s revelation in the Old Testament it seemed appropriate to use this artistic glimpse into God’s nature as the image on the front of our binders.