* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 7:57 PM EST) Hi everyone!
* Leon Foreman  (Mar 7, 2017 7:58 PM EST) hi all
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 7:58 PM EST) Hello All
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 7:58 PM EST) Hey Omar.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 7:58 PM EST) Hello James
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 7:58 PM EST) Hey Leon.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 7:58 PM EST) Hi Michael
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 7:58 PM EST) Hey Jamie
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 7:59 PM EST) How is everyone doing?
* Colin Then  (Mar 7, 2017 7:59 PM EST) Good evening
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 7:59 PM EST) Hey Colin
* Michael O'Leary  (Mar 7, 2017 7:59 PM EST) Hey Patrick
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 7:59 PM EST) It's all good
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 7:59 PM EST) Good Evening All. Balmy damp in New Jersey tonight.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:00 PM EST) Hey Jeanne and Nic.
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:00 PM EST) Forecasted rain did not really happen here
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:00 PM EST) Hello Kristi
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:00 PM EST) Hello Everyone!
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:01 PM EST) Awe, well its snowing here :(
* Kathleen Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 8:01 PM EST) Greetings!
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:01 PM EST) Large group tonight? Equal attendance, Patrick, in the second session:?
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:01 PM EST) Greetings all
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:01 PM EST) Hey Kathleen
* John Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 8:01 PM EST) Hello all
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:02 PM EST) Nic. Looks like about 13 people so far.
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:02 PM EST) Hello everyone
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 8:02 PM EST) Hi Friends
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:02 PM EST) Hey Joseph
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:04 PM EST) hi Patrick, Hi all
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:05 PM EST) Prayer?
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:05 PM EST) I'm gonna go ahead and start us off with a prayer...
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Thank you God for today and thank you for Creation! We pray that as we study this Doctrine of Creation we can grow in more Love and Praise of what you have given us. Bless us and bless our ministries and families. Amen.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Amen!
* Colin Then  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Amen
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Amen
* Michael O'Leary  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Amen
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Amen
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Amen
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Amen.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:06 PM EST) Hello Luther
* Leon Foreman  (Mar 7, 2017 8:07 PM EST) Amen
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:07 PM EST) Amen
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:07 PM EST) Looks like the chat room may be a bit slow today. If you have any problems, just be patient. I will keep my eye on it.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:08 PM EST) Thats because man created it!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:08 PM EST) So when there are this may people in the chat room I usually give a question or a topics for consideration...
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:08 PM EST) James. Nice!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:10 PM EST) So...what do you think about the concept from the lecture that talks about "obstacles" in Scripture. Origin claims that built into Scripture itself are these obstacles or impossibilities. Is this something that you could use in ministry or just talking with someone? When? Where?
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:11 PM EST) Hello Jeffrey
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:11 PM EST) Hey, sorry I'm a bit late!
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:11 PM EST) I was intrigued by this concept -- that sends us back to think about it in a different way
* Leon Foreman  (Mar 7, 2017 8:12 PM EST) Right now I have a hard time seeing how that could be of use, sorry.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:12 PM EST) Origen also asks the questions about which eye is it that offends, so that one may pluck it out since we see with two eyes at the same time.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:12 PM EST) Jeanne. I agree
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:12 PM EST) I think it helps to explain why we can't take the scripture verbally but rather think about what it is trying to tell us.
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 8:12 PM EST) This added a richness to the scripture for me
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:12 PM EST) The obstacles are really mans'. It is all above his human capacity to understand.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:13 PM EST) Leon. I am Hoping someone here can come up with some use.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:13 PM EST) Whereas Augustine talks about the days as the glory of God before the emergence of the sun and the moon as that which constituted the day and night
* Leon Foreman  (Mar 7, 2017 8:13 PM EST) I agree Nic
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:14 PM EST) @ Katie, I agree. I suddenly realized that taking it literally didn't make any sense. That who could know that the light came before the sun
* Leon Foreman  (Mar 7, 2017 8:14 PM EST) Thanks Patrick
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:14 PM EST) Jamie. Origin and Augustine also discuss the same concept and explain how these obstacles reveal something important.
* Michael O'Leary  (Mar 7, 2017 8:14 PM EST) These challenges make scripture richer. They force us to consider the eternal and divine. Nothing is impossible with God.
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:14 PM EST) helps me focus on "the message" more than words to words
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:15 PM EST) Jeanne. I teach studetns that we definitely cannot read Scripture literally all the time...but we also can't think of it as symbolic. That is an even deeper level.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:15 PM EST) Nic. What do you think Origin thinks these obstacles reveal about God...not just man.
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 8:15 PM EST) We have to look at scripture in context. This viewpoint Oregen presents could be an example for students about how Catholics read scripture
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:15 PM EST) The key new lesson for me, as discussed, is the sense of Glory and Praise we should have.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:15 PM EST) Katie. I Love this stuff.
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:16 PM EST) @ Patrick, I agree. I now don't think about creation symbolic but as something "above"
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:16 PM EST) These challenges shows us the importance of faith because otherwise it is not understandable.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:16 PM EST) As the first three days are revealed, I auestion as to what does a day mean to God
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:16 PM EST) Michael. Agreed. There is definite depth...infinite depth...to Scripture when we think about this.
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:16 PM EST) I think that those impossibilities actually help the spiritual character come through.
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:17 PM EST) Awesome question on Origen, Patrick. That was the one topic that I wanted to ask about, because it confused me in the lectures. Funny how you started with that. I understood Origen to mean that certain obstacles are like reminders about what you are reading. This isn't just some normal scroll or text. It isn't meant to present a perfect history, so don't expect that. It's presenting a higher Truth to that.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:17 PM EST) Joseph. Agreed. It helps us to look beyond just the material Truth of Scripture words.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:17 PM EST) Perhaps, God's Omnipotence
* Colin Then  (Mar 7, 2017 8:17 PM EST) It emphasizes again that this is a mystery.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:17 PM EST) Katie. I have said the exact thing to my students.
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:18 PM EST) @Jeffrey, I like the though of a higher truth
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:18 PM EST) Jeanne. Or maybe "within" or "around" or something "other."
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:18 PM EST) James. Totally.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:18 PM EST) I agree Colin! How can human words even divinely inspired explain God!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:19 PM EST) Jamie. Of course, what we call a day requires the sun...the first three days did not have a sun in Scripture.
* Michael O'Leary  (Mar 7, 2017 8:19 PM EST) Like parables the Creation strory communicates an otherwise incomprehensible truth in more familiar context.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:19 PM EST) The reason we believe its God is because no human can explain it in our terms!
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:19 PM EST) I was surprised to not hear that the story of creation is a particular biblical literary form which makes heavy use of myth and allegory.
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 8:19 PM EST) It also underscores the idea that just because the original audience was ancient doesn't mean they couldn't think about things complexly.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:19 PM EST) Jeffrey. That is pretty much how I teach this concept. There is depth to this that causes us to pause and think on levels we are not used to.
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:19 PM EST) I agree, James and Colin. I liked how in the lectures, he talked about how the Psalms don't attempt to explain creation at all. The psalmists are all about just giving praise to where it is due.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:19 PM EST) That, from a previous STEP course.
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:20 PM EST) The Holy Spirit helps us to overcome the obstacles and see beyond the literal narrative.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:20 PM EST) Nic. Of course...or maybe God's transcendence.
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:20 PM EST) Perhaps Scripture should be prayerfully read...opening our hearts and minds for the work of the Spirit
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:20 PM EST) Colin. An impotant concept.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:20 PM EST) Thats why scripture read today is re-interpreted for the times it is read.
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:21 PM EST) I like that Kristi!
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:21 PM EST) @Kristi. I agree. Lectio Divina!
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:21 PM EST) Before these readings, I didn't think about the Scripture writings as being directed by the Holy Spirit. Just my own accepting of the Holy Spirit as part of my life until the last few years. Always thought about Jesus, Mary, and God but didn't "know" the Holy Spirit"
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:21 PM EST) someone once told me that... "always pray before reading the bible:)
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:21 PM EST) And, yes, it will mean different things to us at different times - I think that is part of the mystery
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:21 PM EST) Nic.That is one way of reading Creation. Cavidini uses a particular method to understand some sort of meta-Scriptural Truth.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:21 PM EST) And the "breath of GOd' hovered over the waters.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:22 PM EST) How many times have you read a parable and come away with a different interpretation? The Spirit speaks to you in the present.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:22 PM EST) Omar. This further necessitates some sort of submission to Scripture as opposed to literary understanding.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:23 PM EST) Kristi...totally. It is like submitting to Scripture like one would submit to a relationship...that is to only way Scripture can come close to have meaning to us.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:23 PM EST) I've peeked ahead. The resolution point is you got to have "Faith."
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:23 PM EST) @Patrick. Definitely!
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:23 PM EST) I am so thrilled with the learnings of this course. So much learned already
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:23 PM EST) Since God created the beginning, He was there at the beginning, He created time: therefore He is outside of time. His day is His day
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:23 PM EST) Jeanne! !! Good!!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:24 PM EST) Jamie. Sounds reasonable.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:24 PM EST) Faith is an ultimate act of submission.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:24 PM EST) Everyone....
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:24 PM EST) I have a question regarding creation: When God created man and the world, do you think he anticipated the role for Christ, e.g. to have to die for our sins?
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:24 PM EST) Yes!
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:24 PM EST) Jeanne, most definitely. He knew the fullness of time.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:24 PM EST) Sorry if I don't respond to everyone immediately!
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:24 PM EST) omnipotent!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) Jeanne. Cavidini suggests that Christ is anticipated in Creation...
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) ...and still, I think we can not find a full explanation to each and every word in Genesis. The mystery of creation goes beyond our complete understanding.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) AND, he knew all things were good.
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) good question jeanne
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) there is definite Scriptural evidence to suggest this.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) Salvation was part of creation
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) So you think he knew Adam and Eve would sin?
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) Sort of validates us
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) I think he also knew the limitations of the being (human that is) he created
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:25 PM EST) Maybe He didn't like what He saw but He knew what was going to happen!
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:26 PM EST) It fits in well with a certain "economy" of salvation. Another class.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:26 PM EST) There is a connection between the "goodness" of Creation and the necessity of salvation....Cavidini uses the drowning imagery to explain this.
* Colin Then  (Mar 7, 2017 8:26 PM EST) Creation was an act of love.
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:26 PM EST) I also was interested to learn that angels had free will. Why did I miss this all these years? No wonder, Satan existed.
* John Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 8:26 PM EST) I'm not sure I understand the question about anticipating - since God is outside of time.
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 8:27 PM EST) True freedom comes with a cost - God certainly knew this
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:27 PM EST) Jeanne. Well...it is probably false to think of Adam and Eve in a narrative sense. All of this needs to be considered as a non literal narrative.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:27 PM EST) We use anthropormorphic terms to describe the actions of g
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:27 PM EST) God, but only because we hove no other way to do so
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:28 PM EST) Jeanne. Angels AND man have free will. The problem with angels is they had GOd's vision of Good and Evil. They knew intrinsically what is wrong. Knowing, they stilled rebelled. Man's knowledge of good and evil are experience.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:28 PM EST) James...Scripture calls creation "good." God certainly does like Creation.
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:28 PM EST) @Patrick, will we discuss others scriptural events such as Noah's Ark in this class?
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:28 PM EST) As my pastor always says "choice to to God's will or not to do God's will!"
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:28 PM EST) Jeanne. Certainly.
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:29 PM EST) @Patrick, great. I look forward to learning more about the scriptural writings of Adam and Eve. Always wondered about this.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:29 PM EST) When God was done, He saw that it was very good
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:30 PM EST) Nic. Aquinas argues that angels' will is permanent and mankind's will is transient. We can change what we decide...angels cannot. The fallen ones, according to tradition, made a single and final decision.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:30 PM EST) All that God created was good! understood!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:30 PM EST) Jamie. Yes.
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:30 PM EST) @Patrick, re angels -- really interesting.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:30 PM EST) So it looks like you all have some good thoughts on this stuff! Cool! I have a thought to ponder...
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:31 PM EST) Been pondering these concepts all week.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:32 PM EST) Forgive the terminology, but it seems that Cavidini says Origen (and Augustine) are doing some sort of "meta-reading" of Scripture. What I mean is that it is not the words themselves that have meaning...it is the actual structure of the Scripture that reveals Truth about God. Any thoughts?
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:32 PM EST) Was interesting. The first reading this Sunday was from Genesis and the story of Adam and Eve.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:33 PM EST) Does anyone remember way back before vatican ll about the angels in battle with the angels of satan in heaven and the evil one, satan, being shown the door?
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:33 PM EST) Patrick, agree. As in the concept of "day and night" for a broader representation of time.
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:33 PM EST) Patrick, can you clarify what you mean by the structure of Scripture?
* John Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 8:34 PM EST) Meaning in the structure sounds like gnostic approach - I may be too linear in my thinking
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:34 PM EST) It seems that there are levels of creation: the heavens, the earth, the separation of the waters, the sun and moon, followed by animals, and finallyt man
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:35 PM EST) No, that structure is the Tree of Life (Kaballah)
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:35 PM EST) All in all, very scientific
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 8:35 PM EST) Cavidini's concluding remarks about drowning in peril were fascinating vis a vis structure
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:35 PM EST) Jeffrey. Maybe what Origen and Augustine and Cavidini are saying is that the "problems" or obstacles in Scripture are intended to "frustrate" and confound us....so we stop trying to be in control and we submit to the authority and mystery of God.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:35 PM EST) But, it fails to name the prime cause on the sequence of events
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:35 PM EST) John. I'm not sure I see that. What do you mean?
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:36 PM EST) ...it is the flow of Scripture, it is not entirely logical, but that is ok if you are willing to "go with it"
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:36 PM EST) Nor explain something out of nothing
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:36 PM EST) And yet we are commanded to subdue the earth
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:36 PM EST) In other words we are not capable of understanding a mystery so faith comes into play
* Kathleen Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 8:36 PM EST) Patrick: I think the structure of scripture has meaning, but the actual words have meaning also, dependent on who is writing, who is speaking in the passage, what is happening in the scripture passage.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:36 PM EST) Jamie. But the actual literal description of what is happening is not scientific in that it is happening on a transcendent level,
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:37 PM EST) E.g. confusing us with the sun and moon occurring on the fourth day when the period of days started from the beginning. How could their be day and night without a sun?
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:38 PM EST) James. Maybe. Maybe there is something more going on.
* John Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 8:38 PM EST) need for some hidden knowledge about the structure to know what is intended. I'm more attracted to a simpler understanding that allows our inability o understand things, such as how something can be created from nothing
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:39 PM EST) I am learning more about the power of the Holy Spirit; now I realize the Holy Spirit is guiding us and not speaking in specifics.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:39 PM EST) Kathleen. Of course. I think I bring this up becasue so many people discount Scripture becasue of these problems...maybe we need to look at the Scripture in a historical manner like you suggest, but also on a meta-textural level.
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:39 PM EST) I agree. It's not the words by themselves the ones that reveal the truth. The mystery of creation goes beyond words. We need to be open and receptive to the spirit to understand God's message.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:39 PM EST) The "mystery" aspects of it seem much greater than the physical cosmological mechanics.
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:39 PM EST) I tend to agree with Kathleen, though I think it depends on what we are reading as well. I think of some of the memorable verses in the New Testament, like how Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," or John 3:16, take your pick. Often in the New Testament writings, I think the words can accurately express the meaning. Whereas, in the stories of the Old Testament, we encounter obstacles more often that tend to bog down our understanding.
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:40 PM EST) I would also add that there are certain limitations of language involved here as well...
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:40 PM EST) John. I think the "hidden knowledge" is not necessary in order to conclude the mystery of God. The point is not to know the Truth of Scripture, but instead to know the Truth of the mystery of Scripture.
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:40 PM EST) Language limitations, certainly.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:40 PM EST) In speaking of the transcendence of God, what we say is that we don't understand where God is coming from> He is beyond the transcendant, and therefore deifies explanation. His will, His action: us
* Michael O'Leary  (Mar 7, 2017 8:41 PM EST) Agree with Jeanne, and although we need to seek in order to find-understanding is a process of revelation. It engenders charachter-patience, fortitiude (gifts of the Spirit). It is a blessing that it can not be confined to tweets and sound bites
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:41 PM EST) God is truth! Yes indeed
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:42 PM EST) Jamie. To even go further...Cavidini teaches in his other classes that God transcends His transcendence in the Incarnation and Crucifixion...so many layers of Truth.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:42 PM EST) Michael. I like that!
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:43 PM EST) @Patrick, can you talk a little more about this: The point is not to know the Truth of Scripture, but instead to know the Truth of the mystery of Scripture.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:43 PM EST) This is important in other parts of Scripture...the Ark, Abraham's sacrifice, etc.... as it causes the reader to suspend normal human logic and submit to the mystery of God.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:44 PM EST) you read Scripture carefully, you see a theme of a Hierarchy of Truth needed in order to have a proper relationship with God.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:45 PM EST) Yes, Patrick. And it starts with knowing the nature of the universe and man's part in it. Ultimate end.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:45 PM EST) The hierarchy of the truth: Remember that and one must remain humble before the Lord
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:45 PM EST) So what is original sin?
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:45 PM EST) Jeanne. re:Hierarchy of Truth....Adam and Eve invert the order of Truth in the Garden, seemingly claiming themselves to be the source of Truth...Jesus changes this...Scripture prefigures this recapitualtion.
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 8:45 PM EST) @Nic which is why the doctrine of Creation is so important
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:46 PM EST) Will we spend more time on this in this course
* John Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 8:45 PM EST) what do you mean by a "hierarchy of truth"
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:46 PM EST) So, the actual structure of Scripture may serve to "humble" us.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:46 PM EST) Jeanne. I Hope so!
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:46 PM EST) sorry my internet is being slow. I like that Patrick, scripture(bible) is instruction on how to have relationship with God???
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:46 PM EST) Maybe, as starters, an understanding of a Triune God
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:46 PM EST) @Patrick, thank you. That helps
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:47 PM EST) From that, all else flows. Heiarchy of truth?
* Colin Then  (Mar 7, 2017 8:47 PM EST) Wow.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:47 PM EST) John. Hierarchy of Truth is a theological/philosophical concept that there are varying levels of Truth...God is the MOST True and therefore at the top. All other Truths are good, but only as they relate to the most True Truth...God.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:47 PM EST) The hierarchy of truth is slowly revealed throughout Holy Scripture: htat is the mercy of God
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:48 PM EST) You can't understand the holy eucharist and the sacrifice of the Mass without a prior knowledge of the Trinity, e.g.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:48 PM EST) Jamie. The psalms especially!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:48 PM EST) Jeanne. You're welcome.
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:48 PM EST) Only, humility and faith can help us understand the structure of Scripture and accept the mystery of God's creation and acts.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:49 PM EST) Joseph. No worries.
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:49 PM EST) Does anyone know the time of the writing of the book of genesis?
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:49 PM EST) Omar. Exactly.
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:49 PM EST) Patrick, I had a question/comment, though it might transition us to something else. I encountered several times in the reading, this idea that by human reason alone, we can look at the universe and conclude that it was created by God. Here is the text from the Catechism: "The existence of God the Creator can be known with certainty through his works, by the light of human reason." 286. And yet, it is very common for people to reason the other way, that there is not a Creator. So, how can they say this?
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:49 PM EST) question... are we saying, we need "faith" to understand scripture?
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:49 PM EST) Evil (sin) is a real and tragic moral defect, as blindness is a real and tragic physical defect. It is real like blindness, but it is not a thing created by by God, like the eye.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:50 PM EST) As to the Psalms: I most heartily agree
* Michael O'Leary  (Mar 7, 2017 8:50 PM EST) Nic-I think children have an understanding of the Eucharist but less sophisticated then someone with years of Theology. Do we need to know history and every efficacious effect of the sacrament to appreciate it?
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:51 PM EST) Jeffrey. The CCC is referring to Aquinas. It is complex and profound, but it can be done...with discipline. Most "modern" reason uses a more limited set of rules for logical conclusion. that is a short answer to your question. We can explore this more.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:51 PM EST) @Jeffrey: Paul alludes to that when he takes the Greeks to task for not recogtnizing God in nature
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:51 PM EST) Joseph I think we do!
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:51 PM EST) @Jeffrey, similar to acceptance of Jesus as the Savior. All the things he did, all the signs, yet many did not believe.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:51 PM EST) No. But it's like the difference between a black and white photo, vs. a color picture. The more you know, the deeper you can enter into it.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:52 PM EST) Joseph. More precisely...we need Faith to ENCOUNTER Scripture. I might argue that we cannot "understand" Scripture as much as we can develop a relationship with it.
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:52 PM EST) thank you Patrick!
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:52 PM EST) @Nic, maybe that is why I like black and white photos better -- simpler, take as face value
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:53 PM EST) Jaime, I like the reference there. I actually saw a similar reference when I was reading through Wisdom this week. Talks about how we can recognize God in his created works.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:53 PM EST) To understand scripture is to understand God
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:53 PM EST) Joseph. Of course.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:54 PM EST) To understand nature is to understand God. St. Thomas Acquinas.
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:54 PM EST) I'm sorry but I don't think we can - understand God, that is
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 8:54 PM EST) @ Patrick, thank you for helping us with this course. I will never read Genesis the same.
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:54 PM EST) Kristi. I agree. All we can do is develop a relationship with Him...encounter Him through His Grace.
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 8:54 PM EST) @Jaime. I think that we can not always understand God. We believe by faith and accept his will because we know that his plan is perfect. Our mind is finite. His infinite.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:54 PM EST) @Kristi: for the mind of man, I agree
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 8:55 PM EST) Only tiny, tiny pieces, Kristi.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 8:55 PM EST) I agree Kristi. If we could understand God would it really be God?
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:55 PM EST) Yes, I think this is our end--to come into relationship with God
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 8:55 PM EST) we can't fully understand God. with faith we continue our relationship with him.
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:55 PM EST) @ Jaes: good point
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:55 PM EST) Jeanne. Sorry if that ruins you!!! Some people really prefer to just keep it literal...hence the Second Great Awakening!
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:55 PM EST) Yes, but note, God gives us each differently; some ten talents, some 5, and some 1.
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 8:56 PM EST) and that is a journey of faith...
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:56 PM EST) Depends on what God is calling to us.
* John Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 8:56 PM EST) jeffrey. I too was struck by the claim that we can arrive at knowledge God exists by reason alone. I think aquinas makes his argument from the basis of faith and lacking that faith I think there is no way to "prove or disprove" gods existence
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:56 PM EST) \*us to
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:57 PM EST) The 5 Proofs
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:57 PM EST) Has converted many
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:57 PM EST) @ John: there is the a priori concept that keeps me from straying to far afield
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:58 PM EST) John. That is accurate. Of course, Aquinas is using Classical philosophical techniques which includes "Faith". To the ancients "Faith" was a given. There is actual philosopical "proof" for Faith, so it is legitimate.
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:58 PM EST) Yep, we live in the world of material experiences
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 8:58 PM EST) God is the and only prime mover
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:58 PM EST) Or, experiential knowledge
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 8:59 PM EST) Ok...I'm going to say a prayer and you can keep chatting if you like....
* Nic Haros  (Mar 7, 2017 8:59 PM EST) Yes. I AM WHO AM
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Thank you God for this conversation.We pray that we can tale what we have said and heard and use it to grow closer to You and to Your Church....Help us to grow deeper in relationship with each other and with You. Amen.
* Jeffrey Kremer  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen.
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen!
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen+
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen
* Leon Foreman  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen
* Katie Fortunato  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Thanks for the great chat, everyone. Lenten blessings!
* Jaime Rodriguez  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Good night, all. Peace
* Michael O'Leary  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen. And good night
* Colin Then  (Mar 7, 2017 9:00 PM EST) Amen
* Colin Then  (Mar 7, 2017 9:01 PM EST) Good night!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 9:01 PM EST) Good night, Y'all!
* Kristi Stubbings  (Mar 7, 2017 9:01 PM EST) Thank you. Good night and God Bless.
* John Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 9:01 PM EST) amen. Patrick, amazing job responding so often and quickly!
* Kathleen Kubinski  (Mar 7, 2017 9:01 PM EST) Amen. Good night all and thank you.
* Omar Mirabal  (Mar 7, 2017 9:01 PM EST) Lots of substance in this chat tonight! Thanks to you all. Good night and blessings!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 9:02 PM EST) John. It is my biggest concern! Balancing a dozen conversations!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 9:02 PM EST) Omar. Glad to hear there was substance!
* Jeanne Eagle  (Mar 7, 2017 9:02 PM EST) Looking forward to next week.
* James Lonergan  (Mar 7, 2017 9:02 PM EST) Gentle people! Blessing always, good night!
* Patrick Smith  (Mar 7, 2017 9:03 PM EST) Jeanne. Have a good week!
* Joseph Tun  (Mar 7, 2017 9:03 PM EST) Good night everyone