

PHYS 395, SOCI 395, THEO 375
God, Physics and the Human Prospect

Term assignment # 5

Due in class, March 1, 2017

Divine Reality and Creaturely Reality: The Burning Bush

Central to understanding the relationship between theology and science is having some sense of the relationship between divine reality and creaturely reality. Numerous texts in the Bible guide us in this matter, if we are sensitive to discerning their significance. Before engaging these texts, however, it is instructive to know the current scientific/philosophical/sociological context within which we are reading these texts. **Chapters 7-10 of Mary Midgley** are especially helpful. Read them. Then, spend time with these biblical texts, asking what they might show about the relationship between divine reality and creaturely reality:

Exodus 3:1-6

Isaiah 6:1-5

Luke 1:26-38

Matthew 17:1-8

Questions to ask of each text:

What is the form of the creaturely reality in each of these texts—i.e., what is it?

What form does divine reality take in these texts? How is the divinity manifest?

What becomes of the creaturely reality when divinity is present in it?

Considering each of these events as a specific revelation of a more universal truth about the relation of God and creation, how would you describe that relation?

What do these texts taken together lead you understand about the relationship of science and theology?

How do these texts taken together compare and contrast to the “scientific” approach to knowing the world as described by Midgley in chapters 7-10.

Write a brief essay (550-660 words) summing up your reflections on these texts, using the questions to shape your response.