

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

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Humanities Discipline: History

Date: January 18, 2016

World Religion: Christianity

Teaching Module Title: The role of the new covenant in Christian Tradition

Goal: To discuss the role of the covenant in the Christian tradition

Assigned Readings:

World Religions by John Bowker, Christianity, pp 150-173

Bible: Read John 1:28, Revelations Chapters 21,22, Revelations 1:5 , Mark 1:1-14 (Jesus)

Read Hebrews 7:20-25, Hebrews 8:13, Hebrews 9:11-15, Matthew 24:1-2 (Old Covenant)

Read Hebrews 4:14-16 (High Priest)

Read Matthew 25:40 (Action)

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (Reconciliation)

Prompts:

1. Discuss the Covenant in the Hebrew Bible. How was it fulfilled, according to many early Christians?
2. Discuss the New Testament Covenant. What is it?
3. The idea that the New Covenant superceded the Old Covenant helped to justify anti-Semitism and attacks on Jews, who were insulted as "Christ deniers." Is there any way to interpret the New Covenant in a way that does not lead to anti-Semitism?
4. How do most Christians understand salvation, reconciliation, crucifixion, and atonement?

Assignments:

Write short answers to the following:

Define the Christian doctrines of Incarnation, Trinity, and Atonement.

What happened at the Crucifixion? What did Christ do to atone for sins, according to Christian doctrine? What do Christians have to do to atone for their sins?

For American history students: Did the early settlers and colonists treat Native Americans or First Nations in a "Christian" fashion? Why or why not?

For world history students: How did Christianity become a world religion?