

Unseen Existences Online Book Study

Week 7: Chapter 7

1. Consider Plato's metaphor of being dragged from a dark room into blazing sun. How have you experienced "blinding light" when being presented with new ways of thinking and believing?
2. Why must our faith development be slow and steady, instead of "getting it all" in the beginning? Why must "truth dazzle gradually"?
3. Why do we often think of the "first glimmer of revelation in the dark as the full enlightenment of truth?" (pg 112)
4. Read John 16:12,13. What feelings and ideas arise in you when you hear these words from Jesus?
5. Consider the sentence "This declaring of things to come should not be thought of as the prognostication of particular events but as further development in Christian thought." (pg 114) Can we regard the OT prophets not so much as "fortune tellers" predicting the future, but warning (graphically and poetically) of the inevitable consequences of Israel's refusal to live obediently?
6. Brian says "The Christian canon is fixed and closed, but the Christian religion rooted in the soul of Scripture is capable of growth and development through the long, gradual, Spirit-guided journey into the dazzling light of all truth." (pg 115) How have you seen your faith develop from a tiny seed to a more mature living tree? What other characteristics of a plant does this metaphor inspire?
7. It's hard to read the gruesome passage from Judges that Brian quotes on pg 120. Can you see it as a description of the world at that time and realize the stark difference of the gospel that Jesus brought?
8. Brian states the story in 1 Samuel 15 shows "the internal contradiction as part of the inspiration of Scripture." How does this affect your reading of other OT passages where the writer states "God said"? Does the idea of the unreliable narrator sometimes apply to the Bible?
9. Why must we be careful not to blind others as we share our beliefs? What are some examples of this?