



107: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION READING LIST

Professor BRIAN LEFTOW

Introduction and Textbooks

- Mawson, T.J., Belief in God (OUP 2005).
Morris, T., Our Idea of God (Notre Dame, 1991)
Peterson, M. et al Reason and Religious Belief 2nd edition (OUP, 1998)
Taliaferro, C. Contemporary Philosophy of Religion (Blackwell, 1998)
Zagzebski, L., Philosophy of Religion: A Historical Introduction (Blackwell 2007).

Collections

- Brody, B. ed Readings in the Philosophy of Religion 2nd edition (Prentice Hall, 1992)
Craig, W.L., ed, Philosophy of Religion: A Reader and Guide (Rutgers, 2002)
Davies, B. ed. Philosophy of Religion. A guide and Anthology (OUP, 2000)
Flint, T., and Rea, M., eds., The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Theology (OUP 2009).
Peterson, M. et al, eds., Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings (OUP, 1996)
Peterson, M., and VanArragon, R., eds., Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Religion (Blackwell 2004).
Pojman, L. ed., Philosophy of Religion 3rd edition (Wadsworth, 1998)
Quinn, P, and Taliaferro, C., eds., A companion to philosophy of religion (Blackwell, 1997)
Stump, E. & Murray, M. Philosophy of Religion: the Big Questions (Blackwell, 1998)
Wainwright, W., ed., The Oxford Handbook to Philosophy of Religion (OUP 2005)

(Most of these collections have selections on most of the topics listed below, and many of the readings given below are contained also in one or more of these collections)

Influential books on the justification of religious belief generally

- Mackie, J.L. The Miracle of Theism (Clarendon, 1982)
Swinburne, R. The Existence of God 2nd edition (OUP, 1991); see also the easier version of this: Is There a God? (OUP, 1996)
Plantinga, A. God, Freedom and Evil (George Allen & Unwin 1975 or reprint)
Plantinga, A. & Wolterstorff, N. eds Faith and Rationality (Univ. Notre Dame Press, 1983)

Influential books on the nature of God generally

Swinburne, Richard, The Coherence of Theism, 2nd ed. (OUP 1993).
Swinburne, Richard, The Christian God (OUP 1994)
Wierenga, Edward, The Nature of God (Cornell, 1991)

Topics

In the following lists, "*" marks the more central items.

1. Omniscience

a. Could anyone be omniscient?

*Kretzmann, N. 'Omniscience and Immutability' in Journal of Philosophy, vol 63 (1966), pp 409-420
Casteneda, H-N. 'Omniscience and Indexical Reference' in Journal of Philosophy, vol 64 (1967), pp 203-209
*Grim, P. 'Against Omniscience: the Case from Essential Indexicals' in Noûs, vol 19 (1985), pp 151-180

b. Can God know today what we will freely do tomorrow?

For a "no" answer:

*Pike, N. 'Divine Omniscience and Voluntary Action' in Philosophical Review, vol 74, (1965), pp 27-46
Hasker, W. God, Time and Knowledge (Cornell UP, 1989) chs 1-7 & 10
Pike, N. 'A Latter-day look at the Foreknowledge Problem' in International Journal for Philosophy of Religion, vol 33 (1993), pp 129-164.

For the claim that foreknowledge isn't needed:

Sanders, J. 'Why Simple Foreknowledge offers no more Providential Control than the Openness of God' in Faith and Philosophy, vol 14 (1997), pp 26-40

The major approaches to reconciling freedom and foreknowledge:

*Leftow, B., "Timelessness and Foreknowledge," Philosophical Studies (U.S.) 63 (1991), 309-25.
Plantinga, A., "On Ockham's Way Out," Faith and Philosophy 1986.
*Fischer, J., ed., God, Freedom and Foreknowledge (Stanford University Press, 1989)
*Flint, T.P., Divine Providence (Cornell UP, 1998), chs. 1-5 and 7.

See also: Linda Zagzebski, The Dilemma of Freedom and Foreknowledge (OUP 1991).

2. Perfect Goodness.

A. Is what is good independent of the will of God?

Swinburne, R. The Coherence of Theism 2nd edition (OUP, 1993) ch 11

Rachels, J 'God and human attitudes' in Helm, P. ed Divine Commands and Morality (OUP, 1981), pp 34-48

*Adams, R.M. 'A modified divine command theory of ethical wrongness' in Helm, P. ed Divine Commands and Morality (OUP, 1981), pp. 83-108

*Adams, R.M. 'Divine command metaethics as necessary *a posteriori*' in Helm, P. ed Divine Commands and Morality (OUP, 1981), pp. 109-119

Murphy, M.C., "Divine Command, Divine Will and Moral Obligation," Faith and Philosophy 1998

B. Could God be essentially perfectly good?

*Pike, N. 'Omnipotence and God's ability to sin' in Helm, P. ed Divine Commands and Morality (OUP, 1981), pp. 67-82

*Adams, R.M. 'Must God create the best?' in Morris, T.V. ed The Concept of God (OUP, 1987), pp. 91-106

*Morris, T.V. 'Duty and divine goodness' in ' in Morris, T.V. ed The Concept of God (OUP, 1987), pp 107-121

*Rowe, W., "The Problem of Divine Perfection and Freedom," in E. Stump, ed., Reasoned Faith (Cornell).

3. Omnipotence

A. defining omnipotence

Aquinas, ST Ia 25, 3.

R. Swinburne: The Coherence of Theism, ch. 9.

*Flint, T., and Freddoso, A., "Maximal Power," in Thomas Morris, ed., The Concept of God (OUP)

*Wielenberg, E.J., "Omnipotence Again," Faith and Philosophy 2000

B. does an omnipotent being control necessary truths?

*Plantinga, A., Does God Have a Nature? (Marquette, 1980).

C. is omnipotence compatible with being unable to sin?

*Pike, N. 'Omnipotence and God's ability to sin' in Helm, P. ed Divine Commands and Morality (OUP, 1981), pp. 67-82.

Morris, Thomas, "Perfection and Power," in his Anselmian Explorations (Notre Dame, 1987).

Morrison, Wes, "Omnipotence and Necessary Moral Perfection: Are They Compatible?," Religious Studies 37 (2001), 143-60.

4. Timelessness

Could God be outside time?

*Wolterstorff, N. 'God Everlasting' in Cahn, S. & Shatz, D. eds Contemporary Philosophy of Religion (OUP, 1982)

Pike, N. God and Timelessness (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1970)

*Stump, E. & Kretzmann, N. 'Eternity' in Journal of Philosophy vol 78 1981 pp 429-58

- *Stump, E. & Kretzmann, N., 'Eternity, Action and Awareness,' Faith and Philosophy 9 (1992), 463-482.
- Hasker, W. God, Time and Knowledge (Cornell, 1989) chs 8-9
- Leftow, B., 'Eternity,' in Quinn and Taliaferro, eds., A Companion to Philosophy of Religion (Blackwell, 1997)
- ___ *Swinburne, R. 'God and Time' in Stump, E. ed Reasoned Faith (Cornell, 1993)

5. Necessity

In what sense –if any– of 'necessary' could God be a necessary being?

- *Adams, R.M. 'Has it been proved that all real existence is contingent?' in American Philosophical Quarterly vol 8 (1971), pp 284-291
- *Adams, R.M. 'Divine Necessity' in Journal of Philosophy vol 80 (1983), pp 741-751
The two previous papers are reproduced in Adams, R. The Virtue of Faith (OUP, 1987), the latter also in T.V. Morris, ed., The Concept of God (OUP).
- Hick, J.H. 'Necessary Being' in Donnelly, J. ed Logical Analysis and Contemporary Theism, (Fordham University Press, 1972). Also in Rowe, W. & Wainwright, W. Philosophy of Religion: Selected Readings, 1st edition only (Harcourt, 1973)
- *Findlay, J.N., "Can God Existence be Disproved?." Mind, 1948 (reprinted in ed. A. Flew and A. MacIntyre New Essays in Philosophical Theology (Macmillan, 1955)).
- Leftow, Brian, "Divine Necessity," in Charles Taliaferro and Chad Meister, eds., The Cambridge Companion to Christian Philosophical Theology (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

6. Divine Simplicity

Is the classical doctrine that God is "simple" coherent?

Aquinas, Summa Theologiae Ia, q. 3.

- *Stump, Eleonore, Aquinas (Routledge, 2003), 92-130.
- *Alvin Plantinga, Does God Have a Nature? (Marquette, 1980), 27-42.
- *Morris, T., "On God and Mann," in his Anselmian Explorations (Notre Dame, 1987).
- *Brower, Jeffrey, "Making Sense of Divine Simplicity," Faith and Philosophy 25 (2008), 3-30.

7. Creation, conservation and causation

What are the metaphysical implications of the classical doctrines that God creates and sustains all other things ex nihilo? Is it possible to maintain both these doctrines and that creatures are genuine causes? Is it possible to maintain both these doctrines and belief in genuine randomness or created freedom in nature?

- *Freddoso, A., "Medieval Aristotelianism and the Case against Secondary Causation in Nature," in Thomas Morris, ed., Divine and Human Action (Cornell 1988), 74-118.
- Freddoso, A., "God's Concurrence with Secondary Causes," in Tomberlin, J., ed., Philosophical Perspectives 5: Philosophy of Religion (Ridgeview, 1991), 553-586.
- Mann, W., "God's Freedom, Human Freedom, and God's Responsibility for Sin," in Thomas Morris, ed., Divine and Human Action (Cornell 1988), 182-210.

McCann, H., and Kvanvig, J., "The Occasionalist Proselytizer," in Tomberlin, J., ed., Philosophical Perspectives 5: Philosophy of Religion (Ridgeview, 1991), 587-616.

*Quinn, P., "Divine Conservation, Secondary Causes and Occasionalism," in Thomas Morris, ed., Divine and Human Action (Cornell 1988), 50-73.

*Van Inwagen, P., "The Place of Chance in a World Sustained by God," in Thomas Morris, ed., Divine and Human Action (Cornell 1988), 211-235.

8. Incarnation

Could God have a body? Could God become man?

*Wainwright, W. in Morris, T. ed. The Concept of God (OUP, 1987)

Morris, T.V. The Logic of God Incarnate (Cornell UP, 1986) esp. ch 1-6

*Richard Swinburne, The Christian God (OUP 1994), 192-215.

*Leftow, Brian, "A Timeless God Incarnate," in Steven Davis and Daniel Kendall, eds., The Incarnation (OUP 2002), 273-99.

9. Analogy

In talking about God, in what sense – if any – of analogy does Theology use words in analogical senses?

St. Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologiae (Blackfriars, 1964-81) Ia.13

Sherry, P. 'Analogy Today' in Philosophy vol 51 1976 pp 431-446

(NB this is not his paper 'Analogy Reviewed').

*Alston, W.P. 'Can we speak literally of God?' and 'Functionalism and Theological Language' in his Divine Nature and Human Language (Cornell UP, 1989). The former is also in Peterson ed Philosophy of Religion (OUP, 1996); the latter is in Morris ed The Concept of God (OUP, 1987)

*Alston, W.P. 'Aquinas on Theological Predication' in Stump, E. ed Reasoned Faith (Cornell UP, 1993)

Soskice, J. Metaphor and Religious Language (Clarendon, 1985) chs 6-8.

10. Cosmological Arguments

*Aquinas, ST Ia 2, 2.

Anthony Kenny, The Five Ways (Notre Dame).

*Leibniz, G. On the Ultimate Origination of Things (found in Leibniz, Philosophical Writings ed Parkinson, G. (Everyman, 1973) or Leibniz, Philosophical Essays tr. Ariew, R. & Garber, D. (Hacker, 1989))

Mackie, J.L. The Miracle of Theism (Clarendon, 1982) ch. 5

*William Rowe, The Cosmological Argument (Princeton, 1975).

11. Design Arguments

*Hume, D. Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion (Routledge, 1991 or reprint)

An early edition is available online at Past Masters

- *Swinburne, R. The Existence of God 2nd edition (OUP, 1991) chs 1-6, 8; or Is There a God? (OUP, 1996) chs 1-4
- Mackie, J.L. The Miracle of Theism (Clarendon, 1982) ch 8.
- Leslie, J. 'Anthropic Principle. World Ensemble, Design' in American Philosophical Quarterly vol 19 (1982), pp 141-152.
- Manson, N., ed., God and Design (Routledge 2003).

12. The Problem of Evil

A. Free will defense vs. the logical problem

- *Plantinga, A. God, Freedom and Evil (George Allen & Unwin, 1975) pp 7-64
- Swinburne, R. Providence and the Problem of Evil (Clarendon, 1998)
- Tracy, T.M. 'Victimization and the Problem of Evil' in Faith and Philosophy vol 9 (1992), pp 301-324

B. The evidential problem

- *Rowe, W.L. 'The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism' in American Philosophical Quarterly vol 16 (1979), pp 335-341
- *Wykstra, S.J. 'The Humean Objection to Evidential Arguments from Suffering: On Avoiding the Evils of Appearance' in International Journal for Philosophy of Religion vol 16 (1984), pp 73-94
- *Alston, W.P. 'The Inductive Argument from Evil and the Human Cognitive Condition' in Howard-Snyder, D. ed The Evidential Argument from Evil (Indiana UP, 1996)

13. The Evidential Value of Religious Experience.

- Rowe, W. & Wainwright, W. eds The Philosophy of Religion: selected readings (Harcourt, 1997 3rd edition): the papers in section 5 'Mysticism and Religious Experience' (section 4 of 1st edition, 1973), esp. Martin, C. 'Seeing God'.
- *Alston, W. 'Christian Experience and Christian Belief' in Plantinga, A. & Wolterstorff, N. Faith and Rationality (Univ. Notre-Dame, 1983)
- Wainwright, W. 'Natural Explanations and Religious Experience' in Ratio vol 15 (1973), pp 98-102 or his Mysticism: A Study of its Nature, Cognitive Value and Moral Implications (Harvester, 1981) ch 3.
- *Davis, C. F. The Evidential Force of Religious Experience (Clarendon, 1989) ch 7-8
- Draper, P. 'God and Perceptual Evidence' in International Journal for Philosophy of Religion vol 32 (1992), pp 149-165
(NOTE Alston's fuller presentation in his Perceiving God (Cornell UP, 1991))
- *Swinburne, Richard, The Existence of God (OUP 1979), 244-276.

14. The Ontological Argument

- Hick, J.H. Arguments for the Existence of God (Macmillan, 1970) chs 5-6

Hick, J.H. ed The Existence of God (Macmillan, 1964) : extracts from Anselm, Aquinas, Descartes, Leibniz, Kant.

*Plantinga, A. God, Freedom and Evil (George Allen & Unwin, 1975) pp 85-112

*Leftow, B. "The Ontological Argument," in William Wainwright, ed., The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Religion.

*Graham Oppy, The Ontological Argument (Cambridge 1995), chapters on Anselm, Descartes, modal arguments.

15. Assess Plantinga's Two different accounts of what it is for religious belief to be rational, justified or warranted

1st Account

*Plantinga, A. & Wolterstorff, (eds.) N. Faith and Rationality (Univ. Notre-Dame, 1983) introduction and paper by Plantinga.

Alston, W.P. 'Plantinga's Epistemology of Religious Belief' in Tomberlin, J. & Van Inwagen, P. eds., Alvin Plantinga (Reidel, 1985)

Kenny, A. Faith and Reason (Columbia UP, 1983) chs 1-3 OR What is Faith? (OUP, 1992)

2nd Account

*Plantinga, A. Warranted Christian Belief, (OUP, 1999) parts 2 and 3

16. Does the kind of faith which is required for the practice of religion involve belief that certain propositions are true; and if so, can someone rationally choose to acquire it?

Penelhum, T. ed Faith (Macmillan, 1989)

Pojman, Louis Religious Belief and the Will (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1986)

Mackie, J.L. The Miracle of Theism (Clarendon, 1982) ch 11

Adams, R.M. The Virtue of Faith (OUP, 1987) Part I.

17. The Nature of Miracles and Petitionary Prayer and their evidential force.

*Swinburne, R. ed Miracles (Macmillan, 1989)

Mackie, J.L. The Miracle of Theism (Clarendon, 1982) ch 1

Keller, James A. 'A Moral Argument Against Miracles', Faith and Philosophy (1995) 12(1) pp.54-78

*Stump, E. 'Petitionary Prayer' in American Philosophical Quarterly vol 16 (1979), pp 81-91

Brümmer, V. What are We Doing When We Pray: a philosophical enquiry? (SCM, 1984)

*Forrest, P. 'Answers to Prayer and Conditional Situations' in Faith and Philosophy vol 15 (1998), pp 41-51

18. Philosophical difficulties in the Christian Doctrine of Life after Death.

T. Penelhum, Survival and Disembodied Existence (Routledge, 1970).

*R. Swinburne, The Evolution of the Soul, part II and ch 15

*Dean Zimmerman, "The Compatibility of Materialism and Survival," Faith and Philosophy, 1999

Essays by Merricks, Corcoran and Davis in Kevin Corcoran, ed., Soul, Body and Survival (Cornell, 2001).

19. Religious diversity

*Philip Quinn and Kevin Meeker, eds., The philosophical challenge of religious diversity (OUP 2000).

J. Hick An interpretation of religion : human responses to the transcendent (Macmillan, 1989, 2004), parts IV and V.

Paul Griffiths, Problems of Religious Diversity (Blackwell, 2001)

An extensive bibliography on the Philosophy of Religion prepared by David Brown, is available from the Sub-Faculty of Philosophy (10, Merton St., Oxford)

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