

Dante, Theologian of the End of Time



Dante Domenico di Michelino Duomo Florence

An online three-part lecture series by
Professor Denys Turner

24 – 26 June 2020 8am (Melbourne) /
 6pm (EST-USA) / 11pm (GMT-UK)

Wednesday 24 June

Dante, Theologian-Poet

It doesn't make a lot of difference to Dante if one calls him a medieval theologian, but it does make a great deal of difference to how one thinks of theology in the Middle Ages. This lecture explores the difference it makes for how we think about medieval theology to take the *Comedy* as a paradigm for theological work. One consequence is that letting Dante into the club relativises the theology of the university men by making their approach but one way of doing theology rather than definitive, which, by the same token, lets in a lot of women too.

Thursday 25 June

Dante, Augustine, and Confession

Curiously, Augustine does not appear by name in Dante's *Comedy*. This lecture explores the possibility that this is because his influence on the theology of the poem is pervasive throughout its whole trajectory. It contributes something of significance to both theologies to compare the "confessing" strategies of them both.

Friday 26 June

Dante, Aquinas, and Hell

Recent critiques of "infernalist" theologies, in particular of Aquinas's, raise the question of how far Dante's *Inferno* entails a commitment to a doctrine of eternal punishment in hell for unrepentant sinners in the way in which Aquinas' teachings on hell seem unmistakably to do. Do we have to read *Inferno* as descriptive, however imaginatively, of a real condition of eternal punishment of unrepentant sinners? And if not, how may one legitimately read it as allegory?



Professor Turner teaches in the Princeton University Religion Department, having previously taught at Yale, Cambridge, Birmingham, Bristol and University College Dublin. He is the author of a number of books in medieval theology including *Eros and Allegory*; *The Darkness of God*; *Faith, Reason, and the Existence of God*; *Julian of Norwich, Theologian*; and *Thomas Aquinas, a Portrait*. He is now writing a short book on the theology of Dante's *Comedy*.

RSVP is necessary Lectures will be held via Zoom. If you wish to attend, please contact Rachel Davies (Rachel.Davies@acu.edu.au) to receive an invitation and password. Please note the time and date for the seminars, and be sure to check your Zoom invitations, which will automatically convert the time to your time zone.

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