

## READINGS FOR AUGUSTINE'S "CITY OF GOD."

First seminar: from I,1 to IX,1  
Second seminar: from X,1 to XIV, 26  
Third seminar: from XIV,28 to the end

### PART ONE

(Books One Through Ten)

Against those who believe that happiness comes from  
the worship of the Roman gods

*Books One through Five: Against those who believe that the worship of the gods leads to HAPPINESS IN THIS LIFE.*

**Books One to Three: The gods did not prevent physical and moral evils in Rome's history.**

Book One (I): The fall of Rome not due to the Christians; why disasters happen to good and bad people alike.

Preface:

1-3: Introduction; issues surrounding the fall of Rome.

16: Violation of chastity against the will.

28: Why God allowed the enemy to sin against the chaste.

35-36: Outline of the work.

Book Two (II): Moral evils of the Romans, not prevented, but caused by the gods.

2: Summary of Book One.

21: Cicero on the Roman "**commonwealth.**"

29: Exhortation to the Romans to abandon their gods.

Book Three (III): Physical disasters in Rome's history not prevented by the gods.

1: Introduction.

**Books Four and Five: Roman power and glory is not due to the gods, but to the one God.**

Book Four (IV): Rome's power is not due to the Roman gods.

1-2: Summary of the previous discussion. Transition to the new theme.

3-4: Dominion, happiness and justice.

27-28: Three kinds of gods (Scaevola). Roman power is not due to these.

Book Five (V): Power and glory was given by God to the Romans to achieve various goals of his providence.

Preface: On happiness. Why did the Romans have power?

1-2: Roman power is not due to the stars.

8-11: It is not due to fate (discussion of fate and of Cicero's denial of divine foreknowledge), but to God, who is the cause of everything, **including all acts of free will.**

12-17: The goal of the Romans: honor and power; why God granted them the achievement of their goal.

20-21: Critique of Roman aspirations: It is shameful to let virtue serve honor.

24: The temporal happiness of a Christian emperor contrasted with the Roman ideal of a happy emperor.

*Books Six through Ten: Against those who believe that the worship of the gods leads to HAPPINESS IN THE LIFE TO COME.*

**Books Six and Seven: Official Roman polytheism.**

Book Six (VI): The civil religion of Rome cannot provide eternal happiness.

Preface: Summary of previous discussion.

1-8: Varro on mythical, natural and civil religion; civil gods cannot provide happiness.

Book Seven (VII): The select or principal gods of Rome cannot provide eternal happiness.

Preface: Goal of the discussion.

1: The new topic: select or principal gods.

**Books Eight through Ten: The religion of the Platonists.**

Book Eight (VIII): Platonic religious philosophy and polytheism.

1-12: The natural theology of the Platonists and their polytheist practices.

Book Nine (IX): Worship of good and bad demons among Platonists.

1: Summary of the previous discussion.

Book Ten (X): The religion of the Platonists and the Christian religion compared.

1-6; 20: The true worship of God; personal love and sacrifice; **the universal sacrifice of Christ.**

29: The incarnation: center of the difference between Christianity and the Platonists.

32: Conclusion: The universal way to salvation found in the City of God.

**PART TWO**  
**(Books Eleven through Twenty-Two)**  
**The Origin, Development and Ends**  
**of the City of God and the Earthly City**

*Books Eleven through Fourteen: The ORIGIN of the City of God and the Earthly City*

**Books Eleven and Twelve: The origin of Two Cities among ANGELS.**

Book Eleven (XI): The origin of the City of God: Angels, created good; creation of a good world.

1: Introduction to Part Two of the City of God.

2-3: The point of departure of a Christian's reflections: the Word of God, both Jesus and Scripture.

Book Twelve (XII): The origin an Earthly City in the fall of the angels; the creation of man.

1-10: The fall of the angels and the origin of evil.

28: Conclusion.

**Books Thirteen and Fourteen: The origin of Two Cities among HUMAN BEINGS.**

Book Thirteen (XIII): The fall of the human race in Adam and Eve; death.

1-4: The fall of the first human beings; original sin.

12-15: Original sin.

Book Fourteen (XIV): Detailed analysis of the fall and its effects.

1: Introduction: The fall and original sin; grace and redemption.

2-7: "Living by the rule of the flesh" versus "living by the rule of the spirit" as modes of love.

11-18: The fall of man: a voluntary darkening and chilling of love; slavery, death as results.

23-24, 26: Issues concerning lust, will, and generation in paradise.

28: Two kinds of love create the Two cities.

*Books Fifteen through Eighteen: The DEVELOPMENT of the Two Cities*

Book Fifteen (XV): The Two Cities in the first age: From Adam to Noah.

1-2: The Two Cities in history.

4-7: The fratricide of Cain.

Book Sixteen (XVI): The Two Cities in the second age: Noah to Abraham. The City of God in the third age: Abraham to David; prophecies.

12: The beginning of a new age with Abraham.

Book Seventeen (XVII): The City of God in the fourth age: from David to the Babylonian captivity; prophecies. The City of God in the fifth age: from the Babylonian captivity to Christ; prophecies.

1: Summary and transition.

Book Eighteen (XVIII): The Earthly City in the third to fifth ages; prophecies. The City of God in the sixth age: from Jesus to the end-times (general features); prophecies.

1: Summary and transition.

54: (last paragraph only; p.842): Conclusion.

*Books Nineteen through Twenty-Two: The ENDS of the Two Cities*

Book Nineteen (XIX): The supreme good and evil: definitive peace and definitive war.

4-5: Final happiness is not possible in this life.

13-21: The goal of life is definitive peace.

27: Preliminary and definitive peace.

28: The definitive war which is the lot of the evil.

Book Twenty (XX): The end-times and the final judgment that separates the Two Cities.

1-2: God's judgment.

30: (Only the last paragraph; p.963): transition.

Book Twenty-One (XXI): The end of the Earthly City: eternal damnation.

1: The punishment of the wicked.

4: Instances of bodies living under torture.

9: The nature of eternal punishment.

12: The magnitude of the first transgression.

23: Will the devil be saved?

Book Twenty-Two (XXII): The end of the City of God: eternal happiness (the seventh age).

1: Introduction: eternal happiness.

2: The eternal and unchangeable will of God.

22: The miseries of the present life.

24-25: Good things in the present life; the resurrection.

29-30: The definitive and eternal happiness of the City of God.