

Abstract

“Biblical, Modern, and Post-Modern/Post-Christian Views of Nature, Human Nature and Mimetic Theory”

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Most contemporary readers of the Bible assume that it teaches a distinctively “modern” (à la Hobbes, Locke, Bacon) view of nature, one that tells us to be masters and possessors – and at least implicitly, exploiters – of nature. However, recent advances in biblical theology and hermeneutics plus developments in ecological awareness not only make possible an ecologically more sensitive reading of, e.g., the creation stories of Genesis, but also suggest that such an ecologically sensitive reading is closer to the intended meaning of the biblical authors than the more commonly accepted ideas of a stewardship of creation that veer dangerously close to outright exploitation. The paper then goes on to explore how these different ideas of nature in general, and similar ideas of nature, whether religious or not, have an effect on our ideas of human nature in particular which is, of course, the primary field of analysis for mimetic theory.

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