

Aquinas

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RESOURCES

Primary

1. Aquinas, Edward Feser, ISBN 978-1851686902
2. Aquinas 101 Videos <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/>

Introductory

3. Free E-Book: Thomas Aquinas in 50 Pages
<https://taylormarshall.com/2013/05/free-book-is-ready-thomas-aquinas-in-50.html>
4. Free E-Book: You Can Understand Aquinas
<https://pintswithaquinas.com/>

Supplementary

5. Documents available with videos at <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/>

Meeting 1: Application IV

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

- **Thomas Aquinas in 50 Pages** by Dr. Taylor Marshall, Pgs. 19-26 (e-book)

Available free online: <http://newsaintthomas.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Thomas-Aquinas-in-50-Pages-Final.pdf>

Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 29. Divine Attributes
- 30. Naming God

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 4, a. 1](#)
- Aquinas, Feser Pgs. 120-130

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

29. Divine Attributes

1. What are the 8 Divine Attributes?
2. In your own words, explain Divine Simplicity?
3. When God tells Moses, "I am who am," what does that mean?
4. God's perfection depends upon what metaphysical principle? (5:09)
5. What attributes logically flow from Divine Simplicity?
6. What attributes logically flow from Divine Perfection?

30. Naming God

7. How can we know God?
8. What are the three ways in which we name God?
9. What does Aquinas mean by analogy?
10. How do we come to perfectly know God?

Meeting 2

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

- **The One-Minute Aquinas** by Kevin Vost, Pgs. 161-162

Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 30. [God's Knowledge](#)
- 31. [God's Will](#)

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 15, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 16, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 19, a. 6](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 20, a. 3](#)
- **Reality: A Synthesis of Thomistic Thought** by Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange Pgs. 67-77

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

31. God's Knowledge

1. What does God know?
2. Why does God not know things by sensation?
3. Why does God not learn things from nature?
4. Why does God not form judgments or reason?
5. Why does God not have a lot of concepts in His mind?
6. How would St. Thomas characterize God's knowledge?
7. What does God see first?
8. What is the criterion of all truth?

32. God's Will

9. How can we define will, from a human experience?
10. Why is this definition insufficient for discussing God's will?
11. What is the principle manner in which God expresses His will?
12. Can God's will be distinguished from who He is? Why or why not?
13. What does Fr. Pine mean when he says, that God's causal power "is so rich that He also wills that each thing transpires according to its proper principles?"
14. Define and explain antecedent will and consequent will.

Meeting 3

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

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Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 33. [Providence and Chance](#)
- 34. [Freedom](#)

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 22, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 22, a. 4](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 83, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; IaIIae, Q. 10, a. 2](#)
- **Reality: A Synthesis of Thomistic Thought** by Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange Pgs. 78-80

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

33. Providence and Chance

1. How does St. Thomas characterize creation?
2. How does St. Thomas define providence?
3. How would St. Thomas respond to the deist understanding of creation, that God just initiated everything but afterwards remains uninvolved?
4. Does the existence of chance events disprove God's providence?
5. Does pure randomness exist?
6. Distinguish between *per se causes*, *per accidens causes*, and contingent causes.

34. Freedom

7. What is the modern understanding of freedom?
8. For St. Thomas, what is the goal of every choice we make?
9. What is the primary act of the will?
10. What does the will desire?
11. Why would an athlete choose to exercise, even when he does not feel like doing so?
12. What is the true and ultimate reason for human freedom?
13. Does God's movements upon the human soul contradict human freedom?

Meeting 4

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)
Ephesians 1:4-6

Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 35. [Predestination](#)

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 23, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 23, a. 8](#)
- **Reality: A Synthesis of Thomistic Thought** by Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange Pgs. 80-85

Vocabulary

Determinism: the doctrine that all events, including human action, are ultimately determined by causes external to the will. Some philosophers have taken determinism to imply that individual human beings have no free will and cannot be held morally responsible for their actions.

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

35. Predestination

1. In what way does God provide for humans beyond that of other creatures under His providence. Why does He do this?
2. Does predestination disprove human free will? Does predestination necessarily suggest determinism?
3. What is the cause of a man's salvation?
4. Define the **Primacy of Grace**. What two things does grace accomplish?
5. Define Pelagianism. What are some modern forms of Pelagianism?
6. Why is Pelagianism problematic?
7. What are the two reasons that we cannot save ourselves?
8. What is the cause of a man's particular sin? Does God move us to refuse Him?
9. How does St. Thomas define predestination?
10. In what ways does God work within us?

Meeting 5

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

- **The One-Minute Aquinas** by Kevin Vost, Pgs. 167-174

Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 36. [The Triune God](#)
- 37. [Persons of the Trinity](#)

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 15, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 16, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 34, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 37, a. 1](#)
- **Reality: A Synthesis of Thomistic Thought** by Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange Pgs. 92-112

Facilitator Note: Share Dogmatic formulations

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

36. The Triune God

1. What is the only way we come to know about the mystery of God's inner life? Why is this the only way?
2. What does St. Thomas mean by procession?
3. What does the Greek term *Logos* mean?
4. There are two processions in God. What are they?
5. What are the relations between the Persons of the Trinity?
6. How is the Father related to the Son? How is the Son related to the Father?
7. How is the Spirit related to the Father and the Son?
8. Define Homoousios.
9. Who is the Son? (6:40)
10. Who is the Spirit? (6:49)

37. The Persons of the Trinity

11. Why should we inquire into the Names and Identities of the Divine Persons?
12. What limitations does our language have when it comes to describing the Trinity?
13. What are the two kinds of names that St. Thomas finds in scripture?
14. Give some examples of each.

Meeting 6

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

- **The One-Minute Aquinas** by Kevin Vost, Pgs. 167-174

Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 38. [The Missions of the Trinity](#)

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 43, a. 1](#)
- [The Trinitarian Christology of St. Thomas Aquinas](#)
- **Reality: A Synthesis of Thomistic Thought** by Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange Pgs. 92-112

Facilitator Note: Share Dogmatic formulations

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

38. The Missions of the Trinity

1. What do the Divine Missions articulate?
2. What is the purpose that the eternal processions in God are made present in the world?
3. Define Divine Mission.
4. What is the created effect of the Mission of the Son.
5. What are the four visible missions of the Holy Spirit.
6. What is the indwelling of the Divine Persons? What does it mean?
7. What are the invisible missions? What are their effects?

Meeting 7

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

- **The One-Minute Aquinas** by Kevin Vost, Pgs. 175-180

Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 39. [Creation and Governance](#)
- 40. [Problem of Evil](#)

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 45, a. 3](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 45, a. 7](#)

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

36. Creation and Governance

1. Explain the Latin phrase, *creation non est mutation*.
2. What is creation? How does God create?
3. What does Aquinas mean by *A Relation of Dependence*?

Key Point: This understanding of creation does not depend upon any particular picture of the cosmos. (i.e. big bang, evolution, multiverse)

4. Distinguish between essence and existence. [From Lesson 13](#)

Key Point: The modern sciences study an object's essences without reference to its existence. An object's existence relates to its relation to God. Therefore, an individual making a scientific study will apprehend an object essence, while never apprehending its creation or creator.

5. Distinguish between primary and secondary causes. Why does God utilize secondary causes?
6. Explain God as the efficient cause.
7. Explain God as the exemplary cause.
8. Explain God as the final cause.
9. Does God create out need? Why or why not?
10. Why does God create?
11. Distinguish between this view and the Deistic view.
12. Explain the symmetry between creation and divinization.

Meeting 8

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

- **The One-Minute Aquinas** by Kevin Vost, Pgs. 175-180

Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 40. [Problem of Evil](#)

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 49, a. 2](#)
- [Selection from “Davies on Evil Suffered”](#)

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)

37. Problem of Evil

1. How does St. Thomas Aquinas explain evil?
2. In this video, Fr. Legge draws a defective circle. Is this evil?
3. What is a natural evil?
4. What does the evil of *Poena* refer to? Can you give an example? Does God will this kind of evil? Why or why not?
5. What does the evil of *culpa* refer to? Can you give an example? Does God will this kind of evil? Why or why not?
6. How did the evil of suffering, illness, and death enter the world?
7. Explain how sin is possible.
8. Why can we not explain why a creature commits sin?
9. How does Aquinas answer the question, “Why did God create this world and not some other?”
10. Why does God allow sin?

Bonus Material

Introduction: (Get your feet wet)

- **The One-Minute Aquinas** by Kevin Vost, Pgs. 181-184

Primary Resources: (Meat of the Lesson)

Videos online: <https://aquinas101.thomisticinstitute.org/course-3-god-and-his-creation>

- 41. [Angels and Demons](#)
- 42. [Angelic Knowledge and Choice](#)

Supplementary Reading: (If you want to go deeper)

- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 50, a. 1](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 108, a. 6](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 55, a. 2](#)
- [Summa Theologiae; Ia, Q. 63, a. 3](#)
- **Reality: A Synthesis of Thomistic Thought** by Reginald Garrigou-Lagrance Pgs. 113-121

Questions (Correspond to Aquinas 101 Videos)