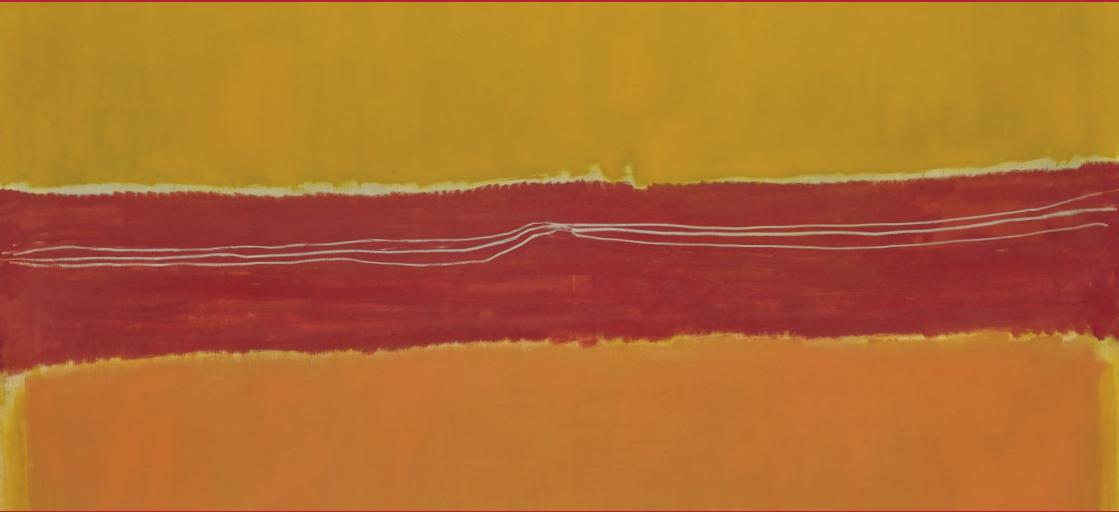


THE 2018 GIFFORD LECTURES

# Discerning the Dawn— History, Eschatology and New Creation

Professor N.T. Wright



*Image: <https://www.moma.org/collection/works/80566>*

The question of 'natural theology' interlocks with the related questions of whether we can conceive of God acting in the world at all, as well as why, if God is God, evil persists in the world. Can specific events in history, like those reported in the Gospels, afford the necessary point from which to ask and answer such questions? Widely shared cultural and philosophical presumptions have conditioned our understanding of history in ways that truncate our epistemic horizons and make the idea of historical divine action problematic. But could better historical study itself win from ancient Jewish and Christian cosmology and eschatology a renewed account of knowledge by which to open up and reconsider the fundamental question of the relation of God and world for today?

Professor N.T. Wright argues that this can indeed be done. The eight lectures in this series develop a distinctive approach to natural theology grounded in an 'epistemology of love'. This approach arises from reflection upon the significance of the ancient concept of the 'new creation' for our understanding the reality of the world and the reality of God in relation to one another.

**Monday, 12th February - Wednesday, 7th March, 2018**

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## THE 2018 GIFFORD LECTURES



Since their inception in 1888, the Gifford Lectures have been the premier venue for advancing intellectual engagement with questions of natural theology, broadly conceived. Lord Gifford's endowments support regular lectures on this theme at the four ancient Scottish Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and St. Andrews.

In this series of eight lectures the world renowned biblical scholar **Professor N.T. Wright** (University of St. Andrews) develops a distinctive approach to natural theology. The lectures will take place in the King's College Conference Centre on successive Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm, beginning 12th February and concluding 7th March.

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|-----------|---|
| Lecture 1 | The Fallen Shrine: Lisbon 1755 and the Triumph of Epicureanism              |
| Lecture 2 | The Questioned Book: Critical Scholarship and the Gospels                   |
| Lecture 3 | The Shifting Sand: The Meanings of 'History'                                |
| Lecture 4 | The End of the World? Eschatology and Apocalyptic in Historical Perspective |
| Lecture 5 | The Stone the Builders Rejected: Jesus, the Temple and the Kingdom          |
| Lecture 6 | A New Creation: Resurrection and Epistemology                               |
| Lecture 7 | Broken Signposts? New Answers for the Right Questions                       |
| Lecture 8 | The Waiting Chalice: Natural Theology and the <i>Missio Dei</i>             |