

QUESTIONS FROM SECOND PLATO READING

The Sun

Plato says that the idea of the good is the highest knowledge.

How does the idea of the good differ from the God of Israel?
What is the highest good according to scripture?

The Line

Plato maintains that there are two worlds to be known, and are known by "opinion" and "intelligence."

From a Christian perspective, what is there to be known?
How is it known?

The Cave

1. What would the church and Plato say respectively concerning the "darkness" that beclouds and imprisons people?
2. Is knowledge of the highest a natural possibility for Plato? for Christians?
3. Does Plato's notion that the happiness of the state takes precedence over the happiness of individuals foster totalitarianism?

Does modernity's notion that the happiness of the individual takes precedence over the happiness of the state foster social disintegration?

4. What understanding of the human condition does Plato presuppose when he says that in states not governed by philosopher-kings people fight one another over shadows and are distracted by the struggle for power?