Essay 2 by Bright Obiallor

What is one new thing you learned or idea to which you were exposed?

Based on the reading of the week, I would like to touch on the idea of rebellion and ignorance that was a major theme in the first chapter of the book of Isaiah. Oswalt was careful to note that at the heart of Isaiah 1:1-9 is rebellion and ignorance, and that rebellion brings about undesirable consequences and the inability to see the connection between an action and its consequences. Rebellion was defined as the refusal to recognize boundaries (Oswalt, 73). The prophet cried to the people and said, “why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint” (Isaiah 1:5). To revolt was to rebel against the boundaries that God had established for his people.

Oswalt went ahead to highlight on what grounds or rights God had in order to establish such boundaries and expectations from his people. One of such grounds was rooted in the fact that there was only one Holy One. Oswalt pointed out that in the ancient times, the phrase “the holy” was one which was only associated with deity (Oswalt, 73). Unfortunately, the heathen nations that surrounded the Israelites had associated deity to things that were not divine at all. Thus this was an abomination that was a constant temptation to the Israelites. Since God was God alone, the only One divine, He alone could draw the boundary about Who should be worshiped. The sad reality is that Christians today are tempted by many strange idols and there is a temptation to ascribe divine attributes to things that are not divine at all for example money. People do not just wake up one day and decided to worship money but many times it is a slow and gradual slide into the darkness. Money and worldly success become the chief source of peace, joy, happiness and fulfilment, and thus without knowing it, they have given money attributes or qualities that are exclusive to God. Another aspect that gave God sole right to demand worship was because he is the Only Creator-the source of all things.