“Most people today would agree that history is not merely a matter of getting the facts right. Always it is a matter of interpreting facts in the face of the data available. Not surprisingly, competent scholars frequently differ in their interpretations. … The underlying thesis of the book is that we in the West—like all humanity—have moved through a succession of crises. A society lives with a certain ideal vision of reality and the good, and it attempts to interpret its experience in the light of that vision and to guide its actions by it. But sometimes the ideal and the real move so far apart that attempts to bring them together are sensed by society at large, to be failures. The society is then in crisis. Professor Well’s story of Western humanity is the story of the crises through which we have moved. … Professor Wells tries to get beyond the bits and pieces to see Western history whole. He struggles to bring together his Christian faith with the history he knows. In our culture, which, while longing for wholeness, finds almost everything piecemeal, that is remarkable.”

Nicholas Wolterstorff
Professor of Philosophy
Calvin College and the Free University of Amsterdam
AN INVITATION TO HISTORY:
A CHRISTIAN CALLING

READ Chapter 1 of History Through the Eyes of Faith and answer these questions.

1. In what way is this a Christian book?

2. In what way is this a history book?

3. In what way is this a Christian history book?

4. In what way is this a Western Christian history book?

5. In what way is this an honest Western Christian history book?

6. Should Christian historians study God or humankind?
The Self-Consciousness of the Historian
7. Is the study of history subjective or objective? Explain.

8. Is it wrong for Christians to bring their presuppositions to the study of history? Explain.

Objectivity Reasserted
9. Is there any sense in which history is objective? Explain.

10. How does the Christian’s view of history differ from a non-Christian’s view of history?

A Whole View of Reality
11. “Everyone knows that reality consists of _______________________. We Christians insist that there is a third dimension—____________________—and that a whole view of the world must be three-dimensional.”

Crisis and the Kingdom
12. Explain: “The ‘is’ always falls short of the ‘ought’.”

13. What happens when the gap between “is” and “ought” grows too big? What happens at this point?

14. What will be the guiding principle of the argument of this book?