

Medieval Philosophy

Study Questions: Maimonides

- (1) What was Maimonides's reason for writing the *Guide of the Perplexed*? For whom did he write it?
- (2) What was Maimonides's main philosophical influence? How did it influence his philosophy of God?
- (3) What are the five reasons Maimonides cites for not teaching metaphysics to "the vulgar"?
- (4) What are the five kinds of positive attribution according to Maimonides?
- (5) Which kind of attribution does Maimonides argue is permissible with reference to God? Why?
- (6) What is Maimonides's basis for contending that the four (remaining) kinds of attribution are inapplicable to God?
- (7) What is meant by divine simplicity? How is it related to Aristotelian metaphysics?
- (8) Maimonides thinks that God may produce diverse actions. What is his way of arguing this consistent with divine simplicity?
- (9) What is the *via negativa*? What is Maimonides view of it?
- (10) What is Maimonides's view of creation? What does he think about attempts to prove that the universe has a beginning or attempts to prove that the universe is eternal?
- (11) According to Maimonides, when should Scripture be interpreted metaphorically?