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# Pro Rege

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Volume 50  
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue*

Article 1

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December 2021

## Prescience

Bob De Smith

*Dordt University*, [bob.desmith@dordt.edu](mailto:bob.desmith@dordt.edu)

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### Recommended Citation

De Smith, Bob (2021) "Prescience," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 50: No. 2, 2 - 3.

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# Prescience

*Bob De Smith*

*"I have told you these things so that you will have peace."*

*John 16:33*

We shudder  
At the genetics test,  
Hesitate to do the family history,  
Recoil from the pre-natal ultra-sound.

We fear the future,  
Preferring unknowingness.

So how did you, Lord Christ,  
Live in the present  
With your future always before you?

I don't mean you knowing your end—  
We all know that about you and us—  
Just not the details,  
Whips, stumbles, bruised metacarpals,  
  “and the spurs  
That patient merit of th'unworthy takes.”

Did you have a kind of  
Rheostat in your brain,  
Dimming your prescience  
So you could live as you taught,  
Considering, say, the lilies.

Were you tempted  
To party tricks:  
“Think of a number . . .”  
Or play out alternative scenarios:  
“What if I turned left here?”  
Or “I think I’ll heal these eyes in two steps?”

Did you endure perennial *déjà vu*?

Were you plagiarizing yourself  
When you spoke the Gospels into being?

But you did what you did,  
Knowing and not knowing.  
Fully present,  
Living the script of God,  
Go thou and do likewise.

And we?  
The DNA test  
Is no destiny, despite  
Its inexorability.  
But to know—  
No, better to be known.