

Religion and Theology 2024



Religion & Theology

2024

Foreign Rights Guide

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If Only There Were Someone to

Listen to Me!

THOMAS WEIB

GEREON ALTER

Those Who Bike Will Find

FROM THE TRAVEL JOURNAL OF THE BICYCLING PRIEST

Date of publication: February 28, 2024

"For me, a bicycle trip is not only a physical challenge or a search for special experiences. It is also always a journey to myself, to other people, and to God."

It has long been known that bicycle touring is a healthy, environmentally friendly, and variety-filled form of vacation – even more so since the pandemic. What perhaps not everyone realizes is that a biking adventure can also become a journey into your own life. This is because those who ride through the world on a bike will encounter their own strengths and limitations, their thirst for new experiences and their fear of the unknown, their desire for social interaction and their need to be alone – in short, everything that constitutes life. And in all of this, it is possible to encounter God.

Gereon Alter has a wealth of experience in this. The well-known, highly regarded pastor appearing on television and radio has already made over 70 trips by bike, both short and long, in groups, as a couple, or solo. He has biked historic pilgrimage routes, endless roads, and rough trails; navigated cities with millions of inhabitants; traversed rushing rivers and remote deserts; and journeyed in the Sahara, the Himalayas, and Alaska. This all began with his irresistible zest for life, for discovery and experimentation, and for what really counts in life.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Kösel
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 224 | 13,5x21,5 cm
 Original title: Wer radelt, der findet

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AUTHOR

Gereon Alter



© Nicole Cronauge

Gereon Alter, born in 1967, studied in Bochum, Münster, Innsbruck, and Rome. Since 2011 he has been head of the Essen parish of St. Josef Ruhrhalbinsel with its more than 20,000 members. He is also active in Catholic radio and television, regularly organizes TV church services, and was a part of the speaker team for the ARD program "Das Wort zum Sonntag" ("The Word for Sunday") from 2010 to 2021.



Religion, Theology

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus

Format: Hardcover

Pages & Size: 288 | 13,5x21,5 cm

Original title: Profile evangelischer Ethik

REINER ANSELM (EDITOR), TRAUGOTT JÄHNICHEN (EDITOR), MATHIAS WIRTH (EDITOR)

Profiles of Protestant Ethics

30 CONCEPTS FROM THE PAST 100 YEARS

Date of publication: November 06, 2024

Protestant ethics through biographical portraits


The challenges of modernization, pluralization, and globalization against the backdrop of the calamities of the 20th century have shaped people's lives over the past 100 years. This perpetual process of change has generated and continues to generate controversial ethical debates. High-profile representatives in Protestant ethics are instrumental to this discourse.

In this volume the editors of the "Zeitschrift für Evangelische Ethik" (Journal of Protestant Ethics) present the ethical approaches of 30 of these representatives, including Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth, Emil Brunner, Heinz-Dietrich Wendland, Helmut Thielicke, Wolfgang Trillhaas, Reinhold Niebuhr, H. Richard Niebuhr, Paul Tillich, Ernst Wolf, Arthur Rich, Heinz Eduard Tödt, Dorothee Sölle, and Trutz Rendtorff.

- Concise outlines of the most influential ethical concepts of the last 100 years, presented through short sketches
- An overview of the responses of Protestant ethics to the challenges of the 20th and 21st centuries

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EDITOR

Reiner Anselm



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Reiner Anselm, Dr. theol., is professor of systematic theology and ethics at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. He is the chairperson of the 'Church and Society' section of the network of the Protestant Church in Germany and co-editor of the "Journal of Protestant Ethics".

EDITOR

Traugott Jähnichen



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Traugott Jähnichen, Dr. theol., has held the Chair of Christian Social Theory at the Protestant Theological Faculty of the Ruhr University Bochum since 1998. He studied Protestant theology and economics in Bochum, Bonn, and Wuppertal. After his two theological examinations and ordination, he completed his doctorate in theology, his master's in economics, and then his

habilitation. He is a member of the Theological Commission and of the Social Commission of the Protestant Church of Westphalia as well as the Division for Social Order of the Protestant Church of Germany (EKD). He is co-editor of the "Journal of Protestant Ethics" and the "Social Protestantism Yearbook". His current research focuses on the history of social Protestantism, fundamental questions of social and economic ethics, and contemporary church history with a focus on the history of welfare and social work.

EDITOR

Mathias Wirth

Mathias Wirth, Dr. theol., has been professor of systematic theology and ethics as well as the head of the Department of Ethics and Diaconal Studies at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Bern since 2023. He is the managing editor of the "Journal of Protestant Ethics" (ZEE).



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus

Format: Hardcover

Pages & Size: 432 | 15,0x22,7 cm

Original title: 42 große Wörter

EGBERT BALLHORN (EDITOR), GEORG STEINS (EDITOR), REGINA WILDGRUBER (EDITOR), UTA ZWINGENBERGER (EDITOR)

42 Great Words

KEYS TO THE MESSAGES OF THE BIBLE

Date of publication: September 25, 2024

The answers to the questions of God, humanity, and all the rest


The profusion of images, ideas, and literary forms in the Bible can easily become overwhelming to readers. But there are many powerful words that appear repeatedly, such as suffering, blessing, shalom, and wisdom. They are of great help in tracing the core themes of the Bible.

Each of the 42 essays takes a key word, explores the significance of the theme, and then traces a pattern of interpretation throughout the entire Bible. The patterns of the 42 key words merge into a network of paths through this foundational book of our culture. A biblical map of the world is thus gradually pieced together – with many unexpected perspectives on God and humanity, and on life between birth and death and beyond.

- 42 key words opening up the message of the Bible in its plan and relevancy to everyday life
- Insights and perspectives instead of disjointed factual knowledge – accessible and comprehensible

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EDITOR

Egbert Ballhorn



© Professor Dr. Egbert Ballhorn

Egbert Ballhorn has a PhD in theology and is professor for the Old Testament at the Technical University in Dortmund. He is the vice-president of the Katholisches Bibelwerk e.V.

EDITOR

Georg Steins



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Georg Steins has a PhD in theology and is professor for the Old Testament at Osnabrück University. He developed the internationally acclaimed programme of a "canonical-intertextual reading of the Bible" and represents a culturological approach to interpreting the Bible.



**Religion, Religion, Religion,
Spirituality**

Publishing House: Gütersloher
Verlagshaus
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 256 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Original title: Begeisterung

SIEGFRIED ECKERT

Enthusiasm

OF THE STRENGTH THAT MAKES EVERYTHING POSSIBLE

Date of publication: September 25, 2024

Inspiring, inter-religious, powerful!


The more confusing life appears, the more the longing intensifies for a home secured by sturdy boundaries. People who are exhausted are not capable to be creative; those who are burned out can't be on fire for others. In his book, Siegfried Eckert embarks on an unconventional quest for the creative resources of God. Among other things, he examines divine kairos moments and explores the manifold gifts of the soul and spiritual resources.

What kind of strength enables us to rise and be creative? Where can we discover the fresh sources of strength that provide us with power in a world that offers little grounds for hope? How can we live more spiritually in soulless times? The author refreshingly highlights spiritual resources that can provide renewed strength to burned-out souls, and to an exhausted church as well.

A book of faith for extraordinary times, blending biblical and theological insights with the latest findings from creativity research.

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AUTHOR

Siegfried Eckert



© Rainer Steinbrecher

Siegfried Eckert, born in 1963, studied Protestant theology in Neuendettelsau, Bonn, and Tübingen, after which he was a minister in Essen. He has been a synod representative for the Protestant Church Gathering (Kirchentag), a state synod member of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, and chairman of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation in Bonn. He is the author of assorted sermon studies, essays, and books, has been the head of pastoral colleges, and is active nationwide in the areas of church and culture. Following the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, he founded the Reformation Forum. He currently works as a parish pastor in Leverkusen.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus

Format: Paperback

Pages & Size: 288 | 13,5x21,5 cm

Original title: „Gott habe ihm gesagt, er solle mich zur Frau machen“

UTE GAUSE

“God Told Him To Make Me Into A Woman”

SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE PROTESTANT CHURCH – A CASE STUDY

Date of publication: November 06, 2024

Sexual abuse in the Protestant church, illustrated through a case study

It is not only a Catholic problem: in the Protestant church as well, ministers – almost exclusively men – abused people who trusted them and were entrusted to them. What could have allowed this to happen? Why did the offenders often go unpunished? What did the victims experience and how do they feel today?


Ute Gause considers these questions by examining the specific case of a pastor who had for decades engaged in improper and abusive relationships with mostly younger women in his parish. The account of that case presented here is based on an analysis of comprehensive archival evidence. The interviews the author also conducted with other victims and with people from their personal surroundings provide particular vividness and depth to the book.

Along with giving the victims a voice, the book impressively reveals in historical perspective the structures and conditions that have contributed to and facilitated such abuse in the Protestant Church.

- Focus on a specific case, with a proximity to the people involved
- Provides social contexts and the relevant church background
- An opportunity for the voices of those affected to be heard

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AUTHOR

Ute Gause



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Ute Gause, born in 1962, is a professor of Reformation and modern church history at the Protestant Theological Faculty of the Ruhr University in Bochum. Her research has included the history of deaconry and presently involves the Reformation and especially the role and significance of women in the history of the Church.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Bassermann

Format: Hardcover

Pages & Size: 288 | 13,5x21,5
cm

Illustrations: 15 b/w
illustrations

Original title: Die Bibel - Das
mächtigste Buch der Welt

ANNETTE GROßBONGARDT (EDITOR), JOHANNES SALTZWEDEL (EDITOR)

The Bible – The World’s Most Powerful Book

3000 YEARS OF BIBLE HISTORY

ORIGIN, IMPACTS, FACTS, AND MYTHS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Date of publication: February 28, 2024

With 15 b/w illustrations

An evocative portrait of development and life of the Bible, from its beginnings to the present day

The Bible, the foundation of the Christian religion, has influenced the mentality of the Western world like no other document. Stories such as the banishment of Adam and Eve from Paradise and Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai have become part of our cultural memory. Even Europe’s languages are strongly shaped by the wording of the Holy Scriptures. To this day, the Bible is venerated and intensively studied worldwide. But do these ancient stories rest on historical facts? Spiegel magazine authors and historians trace the creation and influence of the Bible over the course of 3,000 years, profiling such key figures as the apostles Peter and Paul, the church father Jerome, and Martin Luther.

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EDITOR

Annette Großbongardt

Annette Großbongardt, born in 1961, took Romance and German studies at university and has been working for Spiegel since 1993, initially as an editor for German affairs, from 1998 to 2005 as a correspondent in Jerusalem, and until the end of 2007 in Istanbul.

EDITOR

Johannes Saltzweidel

Johannes Saltzweidel, born in 1962, has been a Spiegel editor since 1991, where he is mainly involved in the history of culture and philosophy, non-fiction literature and classical music. Among his published works are several studies of Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Rudolf Borchardt.

TOBIAS HABERL



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: btb
Format: Hardcover
Pages & Size: 288 | 13,5x21,5
cm
Original title: Unter Heiden

Among Heathens

WHY I REMAIN A CHRISTIAN – DESPITE EVERYTHING

Date of publication: October 02, 2024

"Tobias Haberl speaks so purely about his uncertainties and his paths towards God that you will look up to the sky in a completely different way." Florian Illies

"In my childhood, being Catholic was nothing unusual. Today I have to justify it: How can you still believe in God in the 21st century? How can you still belong to the Church after all that has come to light? In my neighbourhood (gentrified), my field (media), and my workplace (left-liberal newspaper), I am surrounded by people who mostly see only the abuses and cover-ups. Critical of something they have never learned about, they don't see what is basic: support, comfort, and hope.

What can the 21st century in fact learn from people of faith? Which supposedly outmoded rituals might be able to rescue late-modern society from its gasping for breath? One thing is obvious: people who have left God will not find what they are searching for. The freedom they find comes with new restrictions, new anxieties, mere diversions in place of consolation, and then more disorientation.

This book is about how faith beautifies and deepens my life, how I combine a 'contemporary life' with a supposedly 'anachronistic faith', and how wonderful freedom is, if we have some idea what it's for."

- Tobias Haberl was awarded the German Journalism Prize in 2023 for his highly acclaimed essay "Unter Heiden" ("Among Heathens") in the Süddeutsche Zeitung magazine, on which this book is based

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AUTHOR

Tobias Haberl

Tobias Haberl, born in 1975, studied Latin, German and English in Germany and Great Britain. In 2001 and 2002 he freelanced as a journalist, then went to study at the Henri Nannen School of Journalism in Hamburg and since 2005 has been an editor on the staff of the Süddeutsche Zeitung magazine. In 2016 he was awarded the Theodor Wolff Prize.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 288 | 15,0x22,7 cm
 Original title: "Wer nicht liebt, steht vor dem Nichts!"

MICHAEL HASPEL

"Whoever Doesn't Love Is Facing Nothingness"

MARTIN LUTHER KING'S SPIRITUALITY AS THE FOUNDATION OF HIS BATTLE AGAINST RACISM AND INJUSTICE

Date of publication: August 28, 2024

A renewed look at Martin Luther King's impulses for resistance


Martin Luther King is an icon of non-violent resistance to oppression. His life story has been told countless times. What is less well documented, however, is the extent to which King's struggle for political freedom and social justice was rooted in his religious and spiritual beliefs.

Michael Haspel investigates these influences, revealing how religious belief, theological convictions, and political strategies blended together to infuse King's life and his concept of resistance. For King, faith was not a feeling of consolation, but rather a worldly outlook of love that has proven effective in the fight for justice. This message warrants being heard again, especially in consideration of the upcoming commemorations of Martin Luther King. It is an invitation to a liberated and liberating spirituality.

- A perspective on King's work and impact that has thus far received too little attention
- An example of what faith and theology can achieve – even today

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AUTHOR

Michael Haspel



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Michael Haspel teaches systematic theology as an adjunct professor at the Martin Luther Institute of the University of Erfurt and at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 208 | 13,5x21,5 cm
 Illustrations: 22 color illustrations, 11 b/w illustrations
 Original title: Verzaubert leben

KLAAS HUIZING

Living Enchantedly

A ROADMAP TO THE SACRED

Date of publication: September 25, 2024

With 11 b/w and 22 4-colour illustrations

Why it can be a devout thing to do to get your family a dog

A lot of people today do not want to have anything to do with religion anymore.


Why is this? Do these people know what they are missing out on?

Klaas Huizing invites us to take a different approach to religion and its intrinsic life-orienting qualities. In three short journeys, he explores places that offer physical, tangible experiences of the sacred, which are able to alter the direction of one's life. The three road trips are interspersed with exercises that are focused on allowing the body, as it reacts to experiences of holiness, to voice itself. To develop life-giving powers, however, the experiences need to be interpreted. Thus the final section of this book explains, without theological complexities, how this can be achieved, offering innovative, practical suggestions.

- An inspirationally different perception of the meaningfulness of everyday life
- An invitation to open up to the healing and sacred forces found in our world
- A theology that teaches life – a very personal, joyful book

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AUTHOR

Klaas Huizing



© Valerie Schmidt

Klaas Huizing, born in 1958, is professor of systematic theology and contemporary theological issues at the University of Würzburg. He is one of the most prolific theologians of the present time. In addition to his numerous theological publications, he has written several novels, which have been well received internationally. In 2003/2004, he received a one-year fellowship at the International House of Artists at Villa Concordia.

THOMAS LARDON

GÜTERSLOHER
VERLAGSHAUS 

Strong Women of the Bible

12 GUIDING FIGURES TOWARDS MORE CLARITY AND INSPIRATION

Date of publication: August 28, 2024

48 4-colour impulse cards with booklet

Twelve prominent women of the Bible as guides in life

Their lives were not unlike those of women today: burdened by the demands of being a wife, mother, sister and friend, they struggled to find their own way. Where they succeeded and where they failed can offer inspiration, strength, and guidance today. Whether it was Sarah, who relied on God's promise and thus embraced freedom, Rebecca, who engaged in manipulation and lost everything as a consequence, or Lydia, who never regretted trusting a stranger – they and the nine other biblical women in this set followed paths from which we can learn and be fortified and comforted.

The 48 cards and the accompanying booklet in this set invite you to get to know twelve remarkable women of the Bible as mentors and dialogue companions.

- Fascinating life stories made accessible for today
- Inspiration, encouragement, and spiritual guidance for women



Religion, Religion, Religion, Spirituality

Publishing House: Gütersloher
Verlagshaus

Format: Hardcover


With illustrations from:
Friederike Rave

Pages & Size: 136 | 8,9x12,8 cm

Original title: Starke Frauen
der Bibel

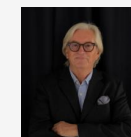
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AUTHOR

Thomas Lardon



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Thomas Lardon has been active for forty years as an author, editor, and entrepreneur in publishing and the arts, particularly in the fields of biography and spirituality. The books he has written or edited have sold well over two million copies.

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Friederike Rave

Friederike Rave is a freelance painter, graphic artist, and illustrator. She draws and paints in her studio in Drönnewitz, in the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus
Format: Paperback
Pages & Size: 128 | 12,5x20,0 cm
Original title: Quizbuch Bibel

THOMAS LARDON

The Quiz Book for the Bible

Date of publication: March 27, 2024


Over 120 questions in multiple-choice format – clever enjoyment for quiz enthusiasts, alone or in groups

This quiz book on the Bible and the history of Christianity will challenge you, perplex you, and surely surprise you! Whether you have long been acquainted with the Bible or are just beginning to familiarize yourself with it, whether you paid attention in religion class or not – this book will provide new insights and intriguing knowledge about the Bible and Christianity in playful, witty, and sometimes rather mischievous ways. This is entertainment filled with information – for individuals, in small groups, or for a private quiz show.

- For Bible experts and those who would like to become one
- With plenty of surprising insights and fascinating facts about the Bible

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AUTHOR

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Thomas Lardon has been active for forty years as an author, editor, and entrepreneur in publishing and the arts, particularly in the fields of biography and spirituality. The books he has written or edited have sold well over two million copies.

WOLF-ANDREAS LIEBERT

Grassroots Faith

ON NEW FORMS OF THE RELIGIOUS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE FOR SOCIETY

Date of publication: September 11, 2024

With 3 b/w illustrations



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Kösel
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 176 | 13,5x21,5 cm
 Illustrations: 3 b/w illustrations
 Original title: Graswurzelglaube

Where are new forms of religion emerging?


People quitting the church, disillusioned members, hardly any religious community left: it would appear that the golden age of religion is passing, especially in Central Europe, where the relevance of Christianity is on the decline. Anyone who is still religious is almost inherently suspect of being backward-looking and outdated. Yet at the same time, it is evident that religion is resurfacing in the most diverse aspects of our ostensibly secularized society, breaking new ground, even proliferating and exerting a fascination that is totally independent of church institutions.

This is exactly what cultural scholar Wolf-Andreas Liebert is investigating. He examines quasi-religious ways of talking in politics, takes a good look at Eckhart Tolle's large-scale events, and explores the varieties of spiritual awakening. What emerges from this is a discerning conclusion: the age of religion is by no means past; in fact, our disenchanting, demystified modernity has actually prepared the ground for religion belief to emerge and grow in fresh and innovative ways. This is at the same time a danger and an opportunity.

Here is a book that makes a case for religion that helps us maintain cohesion as a society, but also warns against extremist ways of thinking and speaking and spiritual decay.

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AUTHOR

Wolf-Andreas Liebert



© Moritz Liebert

Prof. Dr. Wolf-Andreas Liebert, born in 1959, is a linguist and cultural scientist at the University of Koblenz. He is co-director of the religion division in the Language and Knowledge Network at Heidelberg University. He has published many articles on the language of contemporary spiritual movements and the language of religious and political extremism (which is included in such handbooks as the "Federal Criminal Law Enforcement Office's Handbook on Prevention").

MANFRED LÜTZ

The Meaning of Life

Date of publication: March 13, 2024

4-colour illustrations throughout

Can the meaning of life be seen?

The bestselling author Manfred Lütz has been grappling his whole life with the question of the meaning of life. It is possible to think the meaning of life, and this is why he studied philosophy. One can believe it, which is why he studied theology. There is even a way to sense the meaning of life in people's madness, which is why he became a psychiatrist and psychotherapist. But how and where can you see the meaning of life?

Many people see it in the beauty of nature, feeling something divine in it. For scientists like Albert Einstein, nature is something sublime and profound. But if there were only the natural world, if there were no human beings, there would be no one to perceive any meaning in the vastness of the universe.

The greatest expression of meaning is art. And there is probably no other place that has attracted the world's greatest artists like Rome. For 50 years, Manfred Lütz has known and loved this city, and he lived there himself for two years. Even as a student, he acted as a guide, taking people through Rome, not just to fill them with knowledge, but also to present them with the meaning of life there. He is convinced that in Rome it is indeed possible to see the meaning of life. That is the theme of his book.




Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Kösel
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 368 | 17,0x24,0 cm
 Original title: Der Sinn des Lebens

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AUTHOR

Manfred Lütz



© Random House/Amanda Berens

Manfred Lütz, born in 1954 is a psychiatrist, psychotherapist, doctor of theology, and cabaret artist. He studied medicine, philosophy, and Catholic theology in Bonn and Rome. From 1997 to 2019, he was chief medical officer at the Alexian Hospital in Cologne. In 2003, he founded the Alexian Therapy Forum with renowned international speakers, which he continues to coordinate. He is the author of numerous bestsellers and regularly comments on current issues in columns and articles. He is a welcome guest on talk shows and is a sought-after speaker, and also makes an occasional appearance in cabaret.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus

Format: Hardcover

Pages & Size: 192 | 13,5x21,5 cm

Original title: Und das soll man glauben?

ANDREAS MALESSA

And We Should Believe That?

WHY I TRUST THE BIBLE IN SPITE OF ALL

Date of publication: February 14, 2024


Read the Bible – because we are all in it

Some people take every word literally, and for others the stories are just simple things from ancient times. Both of these groups have a wrong understanding of the Bible. Andreas Malessa explains here how knowledgeable 21st-century people can appreciate the Bible without having to abandon their rationality. Through the author's entertaining and well-founded book, the Bible becomes a guide to modern ethical and moral questions – precisely because you will then be able to read it 'critically', that is, with discernment. Here is a classic of life knowledge that still inspires a worldview that contributes to joy in one's existence and in the community. Malessa allays the fears devout believers have regarding their own doubts and offers skeptics a new perspective on this classic of world literature, without which the history, art, and culture of the Western world would never have developed.

- Understanding the Bible better and finding a compass for life
- An introduction to the basics of human values and culture

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AUTHOR

Andreas Malessa



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Andreas Malessa is a radio journalist for the ARD network, a Protestant theologian, and an author of non-fiction books, biographies, and satirical short stories. His TV talk shows, documentaries, audio books, lectures, and the musicals "Amazing Grace" and "Martin Luther King" are a blend of competence and humour in the interpretation of biblical texts.

RAINER OBERTHÜR

The God Seekers

24 PATHS TOWARDS THE HIDDEN

Date of publication: January 24, 2024

For children 9 years and up, and anyone asking about God

4-colour throughout, numerous illustrations

A mysterious theological classic rediscovered

A thousand years ago a modest-looking book appeared out of nowhere in a library in Paris. Its title was "What Is God? The Book of the 24 Philosophers", and it is now considered one of the most mystifying books in the world. It has one theme: 24 attempts to define God. The exact age of the book is unknown. It's still not clear where it came from, or who wrote it, or even whether it was one person or several. But one thing is certain: to this day, it has helped many people think about God and the world.

Rainer Oberthür has taken "The Book of 24 Philosophers" and interpreted it freely through his own words for today's readership. Enhancing the story and expressing everything in simpler language, he depicts the philosophers gathering together along with their children to discuss and reflect on these 24 attempts to understand God.

This book concludes Rainer Oberthür's "Seeker" series: in "The Soul Seeker" he explores secrets on the ego level; in "The Peace Seeker" he poses questions about the "we" of society. Finally, in "The God Seekers", he goes in search of answers to the ultimate questions.




Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Kösel
 Format: Hardcover
 With illustrations from:
 Barbara Nascimbeni
 Pages & Size: 112 | 13,5x17,5
 cm
 Original title: Die Gottsucher

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Rainer Oberthür



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Rainer Oberthür, born in 1961, is among the best-regarded religious educators in the German-speaking world. He has been a lecturer in religious education since 1989 at the Catechetical Institute of the Diocese of Aachen and is the author of numerous successful books for children and adults. He is also involved in projects at elementary schools as a religion teacher, developing and applying his ideas with the children. He was the deputy director of the Catechetical Institute for 18 years and on the advisory board of the religious education journal "Katechetische Blätter" for 22 years.
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Barbara Nascimbeni studied illustration in Milan and Darmstadt. Her books have been published in many countries. She lives in Hamburg and the south of France.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus

Format: Paperback

Pages & Size: 176 | 13,5x21,5 cm

Original title: Der unbekannte Messias

SIMONE PAGANINI, CLAUDIA PAGANINI

The Unknown Messiah

THE ROUGH EDGES OF JESUS OF NAZARETH

Date of publication: September 25, 2024

Between ego and salvation – the somewhat different image of Jesus

When we picture the historical Jesus, we like to see him as a gentle, friendly holy man with long hair and an attractive appearance – as he appears in movies, for example.


In a delightfully brazen and entertaining way, Simone and Claudia Paganini show how people interpreted the man from Nazareth in such surprisingly different ways in early Christianity. In the first centuries after Jesus' death, the Messiah was seen as anything but a refined and pious figure. The messenger of the kingdom of God was described as temperamental, dogmatic, and vociferous, and then also as despondent, a bit of a complainer, and somewhat distracted. In any case, he was an ill-bred child and a willful teenager.

This book portrays the divine Savior as someone who inspired people in his time, but as an earthly man with very distinctive rough edges.

- A surprisingly different view of the Savior of the world
- Expertly told – sharp-edged and entertaining

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AUTHOR

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Dr. Simone Paganini, born in 1972, studied Catholic theology in Florence, Rome, and Innsbruck. He has been a professor of biblical theology at RWTH Aachen University since 2013. Dr. Simone Paganini and Dr. Claudia Paganini both have enthralled large audiences at science slams and have co-authored successful non-fiction.

AUTHOR

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Dr. Claudia Paganini, born in 1978, received her doctorate in cultural philosophy in 2005 after studying theology and philosophy. She is currently a professor of media ethics at the Institute of Philosophy in Munich.



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Kösel
 Format: Hardcover
 Pages & Size: 240 | 12,5x20,0 cm
 Original title: »Ja, es ist Weihnachten!«

RAINER M. SCHIEßLER

“Yes Indeed, It’s Christmas!”

MY BEST STORIES FOR THE FEAST OF FEASTS

Date of publication: September 25, 2024


2-colour throughout

Christmas experienced in a surprisingly new way

Rainer Maria Schießler, the eminent priest of Munich, is a fervent fan of Christmas. With this book he shares his most personal and moving stories relating to Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. He tells of the flurry of mixed emotions he experienced as a child when the impending arrival of St. Nicholas was announced and of the deep sense of coziness and comfort he felt when he huddled by the small kitchen window, warmed by the crackling stove, peering out into the darkening Advent evening. He also mentions that cookies were quickly discovered and avidly eaten in those days as well. And he also knows what it means when Christmas joy turns into mourning, as when he is called to perform last rites on December 23rd ... Those who read these stories will experience Christmas in unexpectedly new ways and come to know familiar figures and motifs of the Christmas season from a very different perspective. The book’s calendar format makes it suitable as an Advent calendar, for gifting and for daily reading throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

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AUTHOR

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Rainer Maria Schießler, born in 1960, is a Catholic parish priest. Because of his unconventional pastoral care and media-enhanced projects, he is one of the most well-known religious figures in Germany. His intentions are to shake things up with explicit proposals and advocate for a living, engaged church. Since 1993, he has been the parish priest at St. Maximilian in Munich. From 2006 to 2017, he worked as a server in the Schottenhamel Tent at the Munich Oktoberfest. He is the author of the Spiegel bestselling books "Jessas, Maria und Josef" ("Jesus, Mary and Joseph"); "Die Schießler-Bibel" ("The Schießler Bible"); and "Himmel, Herrgott, Sakrament" ("Heaven, Lord God, Sacrament"), which has been filmed.



THOMAS WEIß

God Will Shower You With Blessings

WORDS OF BLESSING THROUGH THE YEAR

Date of publication: September 25, 2024


May you be blessed!

This book has gathered together memorable words of blessing for a variety of experiences and occasions, such as Easter, Christmas, illnesses, birthdays, travel, and much more. The words of blessing are in the broad tradition of personal devout and church liturgical blessings. They dispense with 'grand phrases', focussing instead on actual human experiences. Their tone is poetic and sensuous, and in touch with listeners and their lives.

This book is for people who want to express their personal spirituality through words of blessing, as well as liturgists who seek to enrich their services, devotions, and impulses with practical and newly formulated blessings.

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Thomas Weiß



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Thomas Weiss, born in 1961, studied Protestant theology before working as a coach for adults. He is a member of the Society for Contemporary Poetry, Leipzig and fellow of the sponsoring society of German authors Baden-Württemberg. In 2020 he became a member of the PEN centre Germany.
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Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus

Format: Hardcover

Pages & Size: 160 | 12,5x20,0 cm

Original title: Mit Segen soll Gott dich überschütten



Religion, Religion

Publishing House: Gütersloher Verlagshaus

Format: Hardcover

Pages & Size: 192 | 12,5x20,0 cm

Original title: Wäre da doch jemand, der mich hört!

THOMAS WEIß

If Only There Were Someone to Listen to Me!

PATHS THROUGH TIMES OF SUFFERING

Date of publication: March 27, 2024

Where is God when life is going awry?

As a pastor, Thomas Weiß has often sought to find answers to this question with people in need. When he himself was stricken by adversity and a grave illness, what he said and thought about seemed dull and stale to him. God seemed to have distanced Himself from him. In his anxiety, it is uncertain if he will still be able to listen to whom he has been trusting so far. Even with his doubts, he does not want to let go of this God.


The meditations, poems, short stories, and essays in this book are testimonials to this struggle. They reveal that in times of fear, doubting the closeness of God can actually be the kind of faith that helps us through adversity.

A book that does not evade the difficult questions of life, a book that comforts and helps.

- How to deal with unfortunate experiences in life – versatile ways out of life crises

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