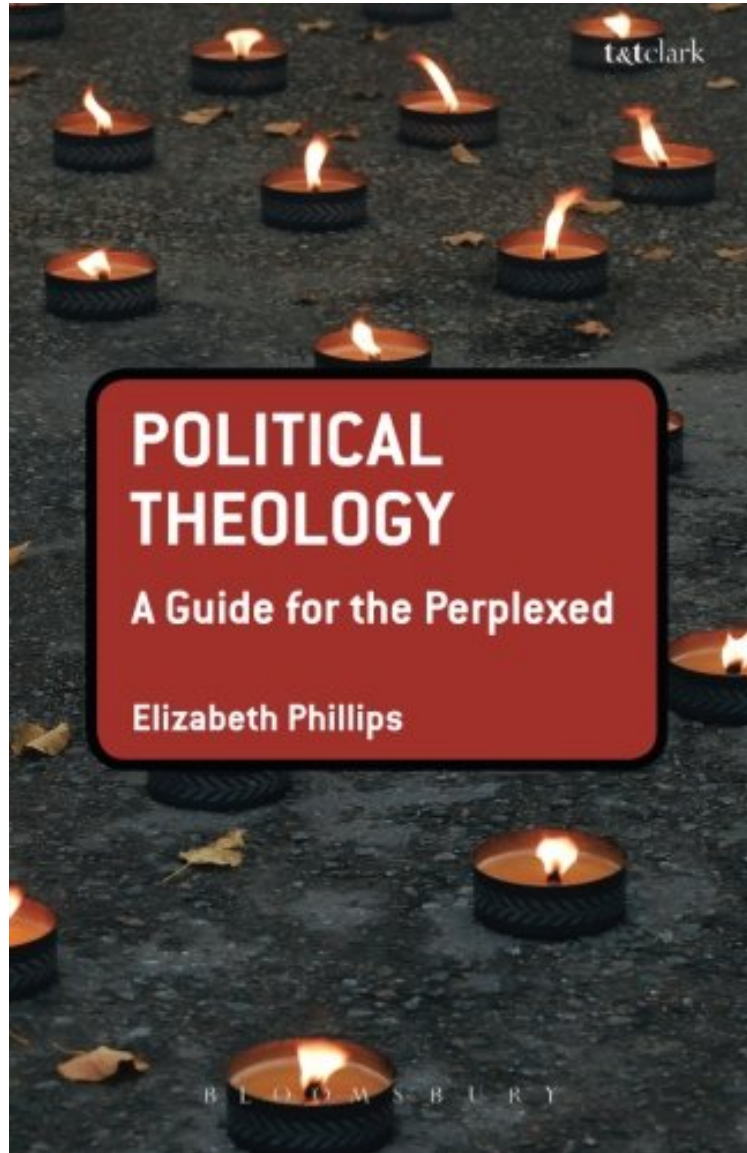


[Ebook pdf] Political Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed (Guides for the Perplexed)

Political Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed (Guides for the Perplexed)

Elizabeth Phillips

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#957926 in Books TT Clark 2012-08-02 2012-08-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .44 x 5.50l, .65 #File Name: 0567263541208 pages | File size: 15.Mb

Elizabeth Phillips : Political Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed (Guides for the Perplexed) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Political Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed (Guides for the Perplexed):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Reading Political TheologyBy CustomerGreat intro to this topic.

Helpful analysis with depth of reference. Encouraged my to continue reading with its references. Highly recommended because of its clarity!0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It was requiredBy J. PREVEAUXNeeded for a paper. It was required reading.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Best Introduction AvailableBy Johnny WalkerPolitical Theology: A Guide for the Perplexedby Elizabeth Phillips(T T Clark, 208 pages, \$24.95)Introducing a discipline poses several hurdles for the scholar. For one, there is the risk that too much material will be surveyed, and thus, any engagement for the reader is general and tertiary at best, or simply overwhelming. On the other hand, one's focus can be too acute, too narrow, delivering in depth exposition, yet, only of a couple key topics, and so presenting a myopic, reductionistic account of the discipline. And of course, there is the dicey challenge of language. How does one introduce a whole field of study, with its over-specialized, hyper-particular jargon, without becoming a mere lexicographer - providing little more than a handbook of definitions? In light of all these obstacles, Elizabeth Phillips must be commended for providing readers a lively, lucid, even-handed initiation into one of the most stimulating theological disciplines in her debut volume, Political Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed.Phillips is able to cover a wide range of material, charting a broad history of the field, addressing the primary loci of conversation and contention, while remaining largely accessible to newcomers.In defining "political theology", Phillips follows the description offered by William Cavanaugh in the Blackwell Companion (Cavanaugh's influence is detected throughout the volume):Theology is broadly understood as discourse about God, and human persons as they relate to God. The political is broadly understood as the use of structural power to organize a society or community of people . . . Political theology is, then, the analysis and criticism of political arrangements (including cultural-psychological, social and economic aspects) from the perspective of differing interpretations of God's way with the world. (3)The breadth of this definition provides a spaciousness in which Phillips can address topics many and diverse while not deviating from the stated purpose of her volume.While I cannot home in on these topics here with any depth, I can briefly relay the general outline of her discussion.Having presented the various ways in which political theology has been construed and practiced within the history of the Church, with a particularly helpful account of "second generation" political theologians (Part 1), Phillips moves on to discuss particular areas of debate within the current landscape (Part 2). Her selection of the issues to be addressed reveals a keen grasp of the matters that are most determinative for one's overall theo-political vision.She devotes chapters to the discussion of the Church and its political significance (chapt. 3), the impact of Christology on political thought (chapt. 4), violence and peace (chapt. 5), criticism and defense of liberalism and democracy (chapt. 6), as well as several other topics (liberation theology, etc.). These distinct areas of conversation are rightly revealed to be deeply interdependent. For example, the significance one attributes to Jesus for political thought will have major ramifications upon one's construal of violence and peace, ultimately determining one's relationship to political orders like liberal democracy, properly demonstrating the notion of distinction without separation.The treatment of the above topics serves Phillips' overall purpose doubly by allowing her to introduce the most significant thinkers in political theology. While Part 1 does give a general history, replete with some reference to major thinker, Part 2 offers readers an opportunity to assess the seminal contributions of these thinkers. In the course of the volume readers will be introduced to St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther, Reinhold Niebhur, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Karl Barth, Martin Luther King Jr., Oliver O'Donovan, John Howard Yoder, Stanley Hauerwas, and many others. Her expositions of the above figures serve well in piquing interest, and her endnotes in turn provide helpful resources for further study.All in all, Phillips volume serves as top-notch introduction to the field of political theology. Newcomers will be well equipped to pursue more deeply the discipline, having received a strong orientation to the major areas of debate and contention. University professors will be served unmeasurably, as well as interested layperson seeking to get a grasp on the wild field of theological politics. I recommend it whole-heartedly.NOTE: This book was provided free of charge in exchange for an honest review.

There is an increasingly intense interest in political theology amongst contemporary scholars and students. Yet, while there are many authors engaging in political theology, there are very few resources about political theology which aim to orient students and other recent new-comers to the field. This is a concise and accessible advanced introduction which distinguishes various approaches to political theology, and which explores several of the central issues addressed in political theologies. Theological students will be able to approach courses and readings in political theology with a renewed confidence with this overview in hand.

This short volume by Elizabeth Phillips is a welcome contribution that will assist the beginner to understand theological debates over the nature of politics . . . The presentation is clear and direct, and appropriate particularly for undergraduate students. (Christopher Craig Brittain, University of Aberdeen The Expository Times)Elizabeth Phillips offers a solid and concise introductory text for those who want to become acquainted with Political Theology or introduce students to this field. (Nathan Willowby, Marquette University, US Theological Book)"This is one of the most lucidly composed and carefully constructed books on political theology. Undergraduates and graduate students alike will greatly appreciate Elizabeth Phillips' systematic thinking and crystal clear writing. I can't wait to use this book in the classroom!" - Craig Hovey, Ashland University, USA. (Craig Hovey)"This book is unlike any other. It is an

accessible map of the field of political theology, providing a brief history of its emergence, an outline of types of approach, and a sampling of how major theologians have dealt with the central issues in political theology. The clear organization and writing make the book ideally suited for the classroom. Beyond introducing the thought of others, Phillips also interjects insightful comments and questions into the text that show her to be a worthy participant in the wider conversation that she summarizes so lucidly. This book is a valuable contribution to a growing field." - William T. Cavanaugh, DePaul University, USA (William T. Cavanaugh)'A fine introduction to political theology. Writing in a style that makes the book eminently suitable for undergraduate as well as postgraduate students, Phillips offers a refreshingly non-partisan presentation, focussing on both theological sources and political contexts. Discussion of important historical figures-such as Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Barth and Bonhoeffer-are complemented by an engagement with contemporary political theologians-from Gutierrez and Cone to Yoder and O'Donovan, from Milbank and Cavanaugh to Althaus-Reid and Ruether. Interwoven with these discussions is the critical consideration of contexts: from 'liberal society' to 'marginalisation'. Above all, the reader is persuaded that political theology matters. A compelling introduction.' - Peter Manley Scott, The University of Manchester, UK (Peter Manley Scott)About the AuthorElizabeth Philips has completed her PhD in Political Theology at the University of Cambridge, UK.