

## The Case For God Karen Armstrong

From one of the world's leading writers on religion and the highly acclaimed author of the bestselling *A History of God*, *The Battle for God* and *The Spiral Staircase*, comes a major new work: a chronicle of one of the most important intellectual revolutions in world history and its relevance to our own time. In one astonishing, short period – the ninth century BCE – the peoples of four distinct regions of the civilized world created the religious and philosophical traditions that have continued to nourish humanity into the present day: Confucianism and Daoism in China; Hinduism and Buddhism in India; monotheism in Israel; and philosophical rationalism in Greece. Historians call this the Axial Age because of its central importance to humanity's spiritual development. Now, Karen Armstrong traces the rise and development of this transformative moment in history, examining the brilliant contributions to these traditions made by such figures as the Buddha, Socrates, Confucius and Ezekiel. Armstrong makes clear that despite some differences of emphasis, there was remarkable consensus among these religions and philosophies: each insisted on the primacy of compassion over hatred and violence. She illuminates what this “family” resemblance reveals about the religious impulse and quest of humankind. And

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she goes beyond spiritual archaeology, delving into the ways in which these Axial Age beliefs can present an instructive and thought-provoking challenge to the ways we think about and practice religion today. A revelation of humankind's early shared imperatives, yearnings and inspired solutions – as salutary as it is fascinating. Excerpt from *The Great Transformation*: In our global world, we can no longer afford a parochial or exclusive vision. We must learn to live and behave as though people in remote parts of the globe were as important as ourselves. The sages of the Axial Age did not create their compassionate ethic in idyllic circumstances. Each tradition developed in societies like our own that were torn apart by violence and warfare as never before; indeed, the first catalyst of religious change was usually a visceral rejection of the aggression that the sages witnessed all around them. . . . All the great traditions that were created at this time are in agreement about the supreme importance of charity and benevolence, and this tells us something important about our humanity. Available in Canada for the first time since its initial publication in 1981, this is acclaimed author Karen Armstrong's classic memoir of her life as a young woman in a convent — the precursor to the bestseller *The Spiral Staircase*. *Through the Narrow Gate* is Karen Armstrong's intimate memoir of life inside a Catholic convent. With honesty and clarity, she explains what drove her at age

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seventeen to devote herself to God. Over the next seven years, she endures the difficulties of convent life — the enforced silence, the lack of friendship and family, her own guilt at not being able to stifle her voracious intelligence — and unveils the secrets of religious life during the post–Vatican II years. *Through the Narrow Gate* is a moving account of a young woman’s search for God and the experiences that put Karen Armstrong on her way to becoming one of the most admired and most respected interpreters of religious faith.

One of the most original thinkers on the role of religion in the modern world—author of such acclaimed books as *A History of God*, *Islam*, and *Buddha*—now gives us an impassioned and practical book that can help us make the world a more compassionate place. Karen Armstrong believes that while compassion is intrinsic in all human beings, each of us needs to work diligently to cultivate and expand our capacity for compassion. Here, in this straightforward, thoughtful, and thought-provoking book, she sets out a program that can lead us toward a more compassionate life. The twelve steps Armstrong suggests begin with “Learn About Compassion” and close with “Love Your Enemies.” In between, she takes up “compassion for yourself,” mindfulness, suffering, sympathetic joy, the limits of our knowledge of others, and “concern for everybody.” She suggests concrete ways of enhancing our compassion and

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putting it into action in our everyday lives, and provides, as well, a reading list to encourage us to “hear one another’s narratives.” Throughout, Armstrong makes clear that a compassionate life is not a matter of only heart or mind but a deliberate and often life-altering commingling of the two.

This book will allow you to experience, as you read, what it was like for this woman of God, as she graciously started ministry at just 18 1/2 years old. Elder, Evangelist, Della Clark, has been called, chosen, and appointed by God to go into all the world to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She is equipped and anointed to finish the work that He has called her to do. This book is a great read, and as you peel back each page, you will begin to see, that, on her journey, she has made full proof of the ministry by the power of the Holy Spirit. Elder, Evangelist, Della Clark, boldly confesses with conviction that "No devil in hell can stop it" because her work and call into the ministry is ordained by God. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that, he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 1Timothy 1:12KJV Authors note... Keep pressing on as you are courageous and free and never held back by fear, intimidation, or defeat. The battle belongs to the Lord, and He has the final victory...

Reveals how the fundamentalist movements in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam

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were born out of a dread of modernity.

A portrait of the Buddha explores his identities both as an archetypal religious icon and as a man, chronicling his journey from his decision to leave a life of ease and power to his attainment of spiritual enlightenment.

In every trial or tribulation, there is an opportunity that can bring us closer to God and to our goals when we allow God to take control. *God, Take Over; I Am Finished* is a cry for mercy and divine intervention when suffering seems unfair and you realize that no one else can help you. A dry valley and wilderness experience story, based on the author's tribulations and triumphs as she struggled, willingly and sometimes unwillingly, to submit to God's will. It reveals how she passed through the storm and survived and what she gained out of the pains she had to endure. Its principal message lies in the realization and fact that where human senses, strength, power, abilities, knowledge, and intelligence end, God's supremacy begins. By applying her experiences and the Word of God, Catherine Agada shows you how to discover divine strength in weakness; peace in chaos, and His love in suffering. She inspires and teaches you to love better, live happier, forgive faster, pray efficiently, and increase faith. *God, Take Over; I Am Finished* can restore hope and improve your relationships with God and man. 'Because "God" is infinite, nobody can have the last word' What is this thing,

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religion, supposedly the cause of bloodshed and warring for centuries? What is 'God' and do we need 'Him' in our modern world? Karen Armstrong looks again at these questions in a refreshing and startling way. God is not to be 'believed in' as a child believes in Santa Claus; religion is not a story to be proven true or false, but a discipline akin to music or art that answers a deeply human need, and can teach us to discover new capacities of mind and heart. Selected from A Case for God, Fields of Blood and The Lost Art of Scripture VINTAGE MINIS: GREAT MINDS. BIG IDEAS. LITTLE BOOKS. A series of short books by the world's greatest writers on the experiences that make us human Also in the Vintage Minis 'Great Ideas' series: Art by Simon Schama Science by Ian McEwan

This is not just a book just to be READ - it is a book to be SAID! "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it [for death or life]." Proverbs 18:21 If I could hand you a key that is guaranteed to change your life and circumstances; a principle that places the supernatural power of God on tap for every situation in your life and ministry, would you want to know what it is? Sometimes people shroud the simplicity of the gospel in a mess of religious rhetoric and theological confusion. Thankfully the Scriptures make plain and simple how we are to engage with God and receive and release

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His transforming power consistently in our everyday lives. In this practical Spirit-filled series of books, pastor and Bible teacher, David Lee Martin, unpacks the amazing truth concerning the power of the words that you speak, and shows clearly how you can apply this truth to change your world, and the world of those around you. This Edition: COLOSSIANS The book of Colossians is a book of putting off the old, and putting on the new. The truths you are about to declare will uproot all that hinders you in your walk with God and with others, and firmly establish your present and true identity in Christ. Take the words on the following pages, salt them with your own thanksgiving, and let God's love and grace touch the very depths of your being. The Benefits of Applying the Word As with several of my other books, this one is intended to be applied. It's words and message are impotent if they are not vigorously acted upon. The 'His Word My Word' series of books take eternal truth and shape it for application right here and now! This series of books will train your tongue by planting the Word in your heart, and harnessing your testimony (the confession of your mouth) with the law of liberty - the perfect Word of our Father. Just a few the benefits you can expect as you act on what you read, and become a doer of the work include: -It renews the mind, building into your consciousness and expectation new truths to live by. -It moulds your vocabulary, harnessing your tongue to speak only those things God (and

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you) desire for your life. -It conforms your thoughts and words to His thoughts and Words. -It gives expression to the mind of Christ in any and all situations. -It raises our perspective from earthly to heavenly, from below circumstances to above them. -It banishes wrong thinking and emotions, replacing them with God's own thoughts - our emotions will always follow our thinking, and our thinking will follow the deposit in our heart, and the words of our mouths. -It gives you an actionable principle you can apply to combat any adversity you face with confidence. -It establishes Godly boundaries in your life. -It overcomes the devil's plans and purposes because you are never in agreement with him, and they cannot be established. -It develops new pictures of ourselves, ones that are shaped by God's unchanging love for us. -It equips us with the necessary weapons for the Holy Spirit to bring to our remembrance what is needed to overcome, any time our mind, body or spirit come under attack. -It brings every thought into captivity and conformity to Christ, resulting in increased spiritual authority in the spirit realm and in relationships and ministry. -It is health to our flesh and strength to our bones. There are many more wonderful benefits that flow from disciplining ourselves to speak the Word only, but I am sure that you already agree, any investment we need to make putting this into practice is far outweighed by the promised returns. It is truly life changing, and a spiritual

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principle that will stand the test of time and every challenge that is thrown at it. Karen Johnson has managed to convey her deepest fears, pain, faith and joy in this intimate and honest account of her journey in her walk with Christ... She holds nothing back, hoping the reader will gain an insight to what it means to be a true woman or man of God in spite of loss and tragedy. This book will take you from Karen's earliest experiences of her life up to the senseless and brutal murder of her late husband, Jon Johnson. You will undoubtedly learn, as she has, how God has always had his hands on her life assuring her she is, "Covered...& Kept." - F. Byrd As I read "Covered & Kept," my heart and head were glued to the story as if I was watching a movie. I think Karen has done an excellent job bringing honor to our heavenly Father. Blessed Be His Name, forever! - Angle Thomas "Oh, God, please tell me why?" This desperate cry rings out from the lips of two women from two distinct walks of life as their worlds are turned upside down. One was celebrating the 84th birthday of her mother-in-law while the other was out on a date night with her husband. The nightmare begins when gun shots ring out leaving two husbands dying in pools of their own blood just a mile apart. Horrified bystanders ducked for cover while witnessing police engaged in a deadly shootout that left many people asking, "Why?" This riveting book is a true story about how Satan suddenly snatched a woman's husband

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without giving her "time to say goodbye." Karen and her husband's romantic date night suddenly ended in the tragic death of TV Cameraman Jon Johnson. The story includes the trial and verdict of the Aaron Dunn Case, Sacramento CA, 2010.

Color your way into quiet times with God through this collection of Bible verse coloring book pages. As you color, you will dwell on a verse for much longer than you would if you were reading through it. You might just find the passage of scripture makes its way further into your heart and mind once you have spent more time with it. Color, and through coloring, bring these words of truth to life in new ways and let God bring peace to a few moments of your busy day.

“Karen Armstrong is a genius.”—A. N. Wilson As the foundation stone of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, The Book of Genesis unfolds some of the most arresting stories of world literature—the Creation; Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel; the sacrifice of Isaac. Yet the meaning of Genesis remains enigmatic. In this fascinating volume, Karen Armstrong, author of the highly acclaimed bestseller *A History of God*, brilliantly illuminates the mysteries and profundities of this mystifying work. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. “A lyrical chronicle of one woman's wrestling with Genesis that can serve as a guide to others . . . As

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notable for its scholarship as it is for its honesty and vulnerability.”—Publishers Weekly “Armstrong can simplify complex ideas, but she is never simplistic.”—The New York Times Book Review

Venerated for millennia by three faiths, torn by irreconcilable conflict, conquered, rebuilt, and mourned for again and again, Jerusalem is a sacred city whose very sacredness has engendered terrible tragedy. In this fascinating volume, Karen Armstrong, author of the highly praised *A History of God*, traces the history of how Jews, Christians, and Muslims have all laid claim to Jerusalem as their holy place, and how three radically different concepts of holiness have shaped and scarred the city for thousands of years. Armstrong unfolds a complex story of spiritual upheaval and political transformation--from King David's capital to an administrative outpost of the Roman Empire, from the cosmopolitan city sanctified by Christ to the spiritual center conquered and glorified by Muslims, from the gleaming prize of European Crusaders to the bullet-ridden symbol of the present-day Arab-Israeli conflict. Written with grace and clarity, the product of years of meticulous research, *Jerusalem* combines the pageant of history with the profundity of searching spiritual analysis. Like Karen Armstrong's *A History of God*, *Jerusalem* is a book for the ages. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

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A penetrating narrative history of the Crusades that reveals the ominous links and parallels between those medieval clashes and the violent rivalries of the Middle East today. "From the Trade Paperback edition.

The Beginner's Guide to Atheism is a sometimes serious, sometimes witty (and sarcastic) look at religion and why people should avoid superstitious beliefs whenever possible. This book is a highly opinionated assault on all things supernatural and a real take-down of deities and demons alike. It covers logic, reason, belief, knowledge, dogma and even apologetics in a way that guarantees you'll not only understand it, you'll also never forget what you just read.

Remember: Nothing is sacred.

Miracles happen today. Do you want to increase your faith? Read about miracles. True stories of God's faithfulness, love, and power are woven together with art, poetry and scripture into a tapestry made of the colors of the rainbow that demonstrate the many aspects of faith. A woman finds herself in a car accident on a lonely Nevada highway gazing at her two daughters sprawled on the road. She screams in terror for help. Someone places a white gold cross in the palm of her hand. This changes everything. "A White Gold Cross," one of the true stories found in "Faith Colors, Encounters with God in Living Faith," explores the power of faith in God to transform the outcome of a terrible crisis. This story is found in

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the section called White Faith, the kind of faith that strengthens the inner heart to persevere. A son prays in earnest while the emergency team from the fire station try to revive his father. After the paramedics give up and permission is granted to stop CPR, the father miraculously begins to breathe on his own. But will he survive long enough to take care of his unfinished business? This story is found under Blue Faith, the kind of faith that looks up from a dark pit to find hope. These testimonies and others, including some of the author's own experiences, are grouped into the colors of the rainbow to highlight important aspects of faith. Poems and prophetic art, intensifying the impact of the messages, are found throughout the book. Each color section concludes with a prayer to draw the reader's heart closer to God. Scriptures and colorful prophetic pictures featured in this book highlight significant attributes of faith that are bound to spark hope in God and His promises found in the Bible.

Albert the Great was born in Swabia, the son of a military nobleman. He was a Dominican priest who taught theology in Cologne and Paris. His most distinguished student was Saint Thomas Aquinas. Albert was called "Doctor universalis" because his breadth of knowledge spanned not only philosophy and theology but all the natural sciences. He was a dedicated student of nature, and although he argued that the physical world can only be known reliably through

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observation and comparison, Albert distinguished between truths, which are naturally knowable, and mysteries, which cannot be known without revelation. People can only reach God through Himself - that is, by leaving behind the entanglements of earthly things and contemplating Him exclusively. The image and reality of God's incarnation in Jesus gives human beings the opportunity to attain a more perfect knowledge God through contemplation. Albert refers to the teaching of St. Peter, "Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." Using ranch-based stories, ranch owner Gooch details how to apply cowboy wisdom to everyday management challenges.

The moving story of her own search for God by the highly-acclaimed author of the bestselling *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*; *The Battle for God: A History of Fundamentalism*; and *Islam: A Short History*. In 1969, after seven years as a Roman Catholic nun -- hoping, but ultimately failing, to find God -- Armstrong left her convent. She knew almost nothing of the changed world she was entering, and she was tormented by panic attacks and inexplicable seizures. Her struggle against despair was fueled by a string of discouragements -- failed spirituality, doctorate and jobs, fruitless dealings with psychiatrists -- but finally, in 1976, she was diagnosed with epilepsy and given proper treatment. She then began the writing career that would

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become her true calling, and as she focused on the sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, her own true inner story began to emerge. She would come to experience brief moments of transcendence through her work -- the profound fulfillment that she had not found in the long hours of prayer as a young nun. Powerfully engaging, often heart-breaking, but lit with bursts of humour, *The Spiral Staircase* is an extraordinary history of self.

Why does God exist? How have the three dominant monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—shaped and altered the conception of God? How have these religions influenced each other? In this stunningly intelligent book, Karen Armstrong, one of Britain's foremost commentators on religious affairs, traces the history of how men and women have perceived and experienced God, from the time of Abraham to the present. The epic story begins with the Jews' gradual transformation of pagan idol worship in Babylon into true monotheism—a concept previously unknown in the world. Christianity and Islam both rose on the foundation of this revolutionary idea, but these religions refashioned 'the One God' to suit the social and political needs of their followers. From classical philosophy and medieval mysticism to the Reformation, Karen Armstrong performs the near miracle of distilling the intellectual history of monotheism into one superbly readable volume, destined to take its place as a

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classic. Praise for History of God “An admirable and impressive work of synthesis that will give insight and satisfaction to thousands of lay readers.”—The Washington Post Book World “A brilliantly lucid, splendidly readable book. [Karen] Armstrong has a dazzling ability: she can take a long and complex subject and reduce it to the fundamentals, without oversimplifying.”—The Sunday Times (London) “Absorbing . . . A lode of learning.”—Time “The most fascinating and learned study of the biggest wild goose chase in history—the quest for God. Karen Armstrong is a genius.”—A.N. Wilson, author of Jesus: A Life

When a young peasant girl is injured while hunting, she meets a strange, magical man who is a member of a despised race - Mular. Truemen scorn the shape-shifting unmen for their odd, humble ways, and envy their power over the elements. Mular do not use their powers for good or evil, they simply exist, immortal and apparently purposeless. Now a scourge is sweeping the land, armies of mounted warriors who cannot be defeated are wiping out Truemankind without mercy. They are known as the Black Riders, but no one knows where they come from or why they seem bent on exterminating every man, woman and child. Talsy traps the Mular with gold, which has an odd effect on them, to make him help her, but her father intends to throw him in a Pit, from which he will be unable to escape. Talsy does not believe the Mular deserves such a fate, so she

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frees him and begs him to take her with him on his journey. He agrees, and they set off across Shamarese, continuing his quest to find an old hermit's lost son. There is far more at stake than Talsy realises, however, and she has innocently stumbled upon the last free Mujar, who has the power to decide the fate of her race.

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On the one hand, Eagleton demolishes what he calls the "superstitious" view of God held by most atheists and agnostics and offers in its place a revolutionary account of the Christian Gospel. On the other hand, he launches a stinging assault on the betrayal of this revolution by institutional Christianity. There is little joy here, then, either for the anti-God brigade -- Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens in particular -- nor for many conventional believers. --Résumé de l'éditeur.

From the renowned and best-selling author of *A History of God*, a sweeping exploration of religion and the history of human violence. For the first time, religious self-identification is on the decline in American. Some analysts have cited as cause a post-9/11 perception: that faith in general is a source of aggression, intolerance, and divisiveness—something bad for society. But how accurate is that view? With deep learning and sympathetic understanding, Karen

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Armstrong sets out to discover the truth about religion and violence in each of the world's great traditions, taking us on an astonishing journey from prehistoric times to the present. While many historians have looked at violence in connection with particular religious manifestations (jihad in Islam or Christianity's Crusades), Armstrong looks at each faith—not only Christianity and Islam, but also Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Judaism—in its totality over time. As she describes, each arose in an agrarian society with plenty powerful landowners brutalizing peasants while also warring among themselves over land, then the only real source of wealth. In this world, religion was not the discrete and personal matter it would become for us but rather something that permeated all aspects of society. And so it was that agrarian aggression, and the warrior ethos it begot, became bound up with observances of the sacred. In each tradition, however, a counterbalance to the warrior code also developed. Around sages, prophets, and mystics there grew up communities protesting the injustice and bloodshed endemic to agrarian society, the violence to which religion had become heir. And so by the time the great confessional faiths came of age, all understood themselves as ultimately devoted to peace, equality, and reconciliation, whatever the acts of violence perpetrated in their name. Industrialization and modernity have ushered in an epoch of spectacular and

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unexampled violence, although, as Armstrong explains, relatively little of it can be ascribed directly to religion. Nevertheless, she shows us how and in what measure religions, in their relative maturity, came to absorb modern belligerence—and what hope there might be for peace among believers of different creeds in our time. At a moment of rising geopolitical chaos, the imperative of mutual understanding between nations and faith communities has never been more urgent, the dangers of action based on misunderstanding never greater. Informed by Armstrong's sweeping erudition and personal commitment to the promotion of compassion, *Fields of Blood* makes vividly clear that religion is not the problem.

Herman Philipse puts forward a powerful new critique of belief in God. He examines the strategies that have been used for the philosophical defence of religious belief, and by careful reasoning casts doubt on the legitimacy of relying on faith instead of evidence, and on probabilistic arguments for the existence of God.

The 4,000-year quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

A nuanced exploration of the part that religion plays in human life, drawing on the insights of the past in order to build a faith that speaks to the needs of our dangerously polarized age. Moving from the Paleolithic age to the present, Karen

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Armstrong details the great lengths to which humankind has gone in order to experience a sacred reality that it called by many names, such as God, Brahman, Nirvana, Allah, or Dao. Focusing especially on Christianity but including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Chinese spiritualities, Armstrong examines the diminished impulse toward religion in our own time, when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with God or question the efficacy of faith. Why has God become unbelievable? Why is it that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about God in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors? Answering these questions with the same depth of knowledge and profound insight that have marked all her acclaimed books, Armstrong makes clear how the changing face of the world has necessarily changed the importance of religion at both the societal and the individual level. Yet she cautions us that religion was never supposed to provide answers that lie within the competence of human reason; that, she says, is the role of logos. The task of religion is “to help us live creatively, peacefully, and even joyously with realities for which there are no easy explanations.” She emphasizes, too, that religion will not work automatically. It is, she says, a practical discipline: its insights are derived not from abstract speculation but from “dedicated intellectual endeavor” and a “compassionate lifestyle that enables us to break out of the prism of

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selfhood.”

Karen Kilby explores the doctrine of the Trinity and issues of evil, suffering and sin. She offers a critique of the lack of respect for mystery found in the most popular Trinitarian thinking of our time. Kilby gives an apophatic reading of Aquinas on the Trinity and offers a distinct next step in the sequence on the Trinity – the appeal of social doctrines of the Trinity lies principally in their ecclesial and political relevance. She engages with Miroslav Volf's famous 'The Trinity is our social program' essay and addresses the question of what an alternative politics of an apophatic theology of the Trinity might look like. The essays explore the question of theodicy and argue that evil poses a question to Christians and Christian's theology which can neither be answered nor dismissed. Kilby argues that Christians must live with this mystery, this lack of resolution, rather than trying to diminish the gravity of evil, or allowing evil to dictate their conception of God's goodness or power. By offering a critical reading of Hans Urs von Balthasar and Julian of Norwich she explores the question of whether Christianity can avoid giving a positive valuation to suffering, and concludes the two represent two different strands within the Christian tradition in relation to thought on suffering.

Here Armstrong argues that atheism has rarely been a denial of the sacred itself

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but has nearly always rejected a particular conception of God. She suggests that if we draw on the insights of the past, we can build a faith that speaks to our needs.

A stirring account of the life of Paul, who brought Christianity to the Jews, by the most popular writer on religion in the English-speaking world, Karen Armstrong, author of *The History of God*, which has been translated into thirty languages “Courageous and inspiring.”—Karen Armstrong, author of *The Case for God* “James Carroll takes us to the heart of one of the great crises of our times.”—Stephen Greenblatt, author of *The Swerve* An eloquent memoir by a former priest and National Book Award–winning writer who traces the roots of the Catholic sexual abuse scandal back to the power structure of the Church itself, as he explores his own crisis of faith and journey to renewal NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY PUBLISHERS WEEKLY James Carroll weaves together the story of his quest to understand his personal beliefs and his relationship to the Catholic Church with the history of the Church itself. From his first awakening of faith as a boy to his gradual disillusionment as a Catholic, Carroll offers a razor-sharp examination both of himself and of how the Church became an institution that places power and dominance over people through an all-male clergy. Carroll argues that a male-supremacist clericalism is both the

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root cause and the ongoing enabler of the sexual abuse crisis. The power structure of clericalism poses an existential threat to the Church and compromises the ability of even a progressive pope like Pope Francis to advance change in an institution accountable only to itself. Carroll traces this dilemma back to the Roman Empire and the Middle Ages, when Scripture, Jesus Christ, and His teachings were reinterpreted as the Church became an empire. In a deeply personal re-examination of self, Carroll grapples with his own feelings of being chosen, his experiences as a priest, and the moments of doubt that made him leave the priesthood and embark on a long personal journey toward renewal—including his tenure as an op-ed columnist at *The Boston Globe* writing about sexual abuse in the Church. Ultimately, Carroll calls on the Church and all reform-minded Catholics to revive the culture from within by embracing anti-clerical, anti-misogynist resistance and staying grounded in the spirit of love that is the essential truth at the heart of Christian belief and Christian life.

There is widespread confusion about the nature of religious truth. For the first time in history, a significantly large number of people want nothing to do with God. Militant atheists preach a gospel of godlessness with the zeal of missionaries and find an eager audience. Tracing the history of faith from the Palaeolithic Age to the present, Karen Armstrong shows that meaning of words

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such as 'belief', 'faith', and 'mystery' has been entirely altered, so that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about God - and, indeed, reason itself - in a way that our ancestors would have found astonishing. Does God have a future? Karen Armstrong examines how we can build a faith that speaks to the needs of our troubled and dangerously polarised world.

Exploring the work of mystics who resisted the confines of traditional religion, writings of Richard Rolle of Hampole, Walter Hilton, Dame Julian of Norwich, and the unknown author of *The Cloud of Unknowing* are included. Original.

#1 New York Times bestselling author Karen Kingsbury shares a collection of inspiring true stories from women whose faith has sustained them through monumental trials. For mothers, wives, sisters, and friends, this book will uplift the hearts of its readers through accounts of faith proving triumphant over any obstacle.

Evaluates the role of religion, stating that today's expressions of faith differ from those of previous generations while arguing that an increased awareness of the past may help to build a faith that speaks to a polarized society.

"An immigrant reflects on Scripture, her life, and the God who sees the plight of migrants and refugees"--

In the late twentieth century, fundamentalism has emerged as one of the most powerful forces at work in the world, contesting the dominance of modern secular values and threatening peace and harmony around the globe. Yet it remains incomprehensible to a large number of people. In *The Battle for God*, Karen Armstrong brilliantly and sympathetically shows us how

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and why fundamentalist groups came into existence and what they yearn to accomplish. We see the West in the sixteenth century beginning to create an entirely new kind of civilization, which brought in its wake change in every aspect of life -- often painful and violent, even if liberating. Armstrong argues that one of the things that changed most was religion. People could no longer think about or experience the divine in the same way; they had to develop new forms of faith to fit their new circumstances. Armstrong characterizes fundamentalism as one of these new ways of being religious that have emerged in every major faith tradition. Focusing on Protestant fundamentalism in the United States, Jewish fundamentalism in Israel, and Muslim fundamentalism in Egypt and Iran, she examines the ways in which these movements, while not monolithic, have each sprung from a dread of modernity -- often in response to assault (sometimes unwitting, sometimes intentional) by the mainstream society. Armstrong sees fundamentalist groups as complex, innovative, and modern -- rather than as throwbacks to the past -- but contends that they have failed in religious terms. Maintaining that fundamentalism often exists in symbiotic relationship with an aggressive modernity, each impelling the other on to greater excess, she suggests compassion as a way to defuse what is now an intensifying conflict. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

The *God Delusion* caused a sensation when it was published in 2006. Within weeks it became the most hotly debated topic, with Dawkins himself branded as either saint or sinner for presenting his hard-hitting, impassioned rebuttal of religion of all types. His argument could hardly be more topical. While Europe is becoming increasingly secularized, the rise of religious fundamentalism, whether in the Middle East or Middle America, is dramatically and

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dangerously dividing opinion around the world. In America, and elsewhere, a vigorous dispute between 'intelligent design' and Darwinism is seriously undermining and restricting the teaching of science. In many countries religious dogma from medieval times still serves to abuse basic human rights such as women's and gay rights. And all from a belief in a God whose existence lacks evidence of any kind. Dawkins attacks God in all his forms. He eviscerates the major arguments for religion and demonstrates the supreme improbability of a supreme being. He shows how religion fuels war, foments bigotry and abuses children. The God Delusion is a brilliantly argued, fascinating polemic that will be required reading for anyone interested in this most emotional and important subject.

From the bestselling author of *A History of God* and *The Great Transformation* comes a balanced, nuanced understanding of the role religion plays in human life and the trajectory of faith in modern times. Why has God become incredible? Why is it that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about God in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors? Moving from the Paleolithic Age to the present, Karen Armstrong details the lengths to which humankind has gone to experience a sacred reality that it called God, Brahman, Nirvana, Allah, or Dao. She examines the diminished impulse toward religion in our own time when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with God or question the efficacy of faith. With her trademark depth of knowledge and profound insight, Armstrong elucidates how the changing world has necessarily altered the importance of religion at both societal and individual levels. And she makes a powerful, convincing argument for structuring a faith that speaks to the needs of our dangerously polarized age.

This is the forth book in this series that began with an in-depth look at how God views details,

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communicates with this world, and decides what process to use. Of course this series of books looked at aspects recorded in scripture about the Tabernacle. How the materials were collected, specific design details, who did the work, and how the Tabernacle was constructed. Much of that information is found in dozens, maybe hundreds of other books about the Tabernacle. But there are details setting this book apart from every other book written about the Tabernacle. This book takes a verse by verse, story by story, chapter by chapter look at the Tabernacle. In other words, this book presents a picture of the Tabernacle from God's point of view. Which the beginning of this series pointed out, is much different than any human perspective.

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