

# Read Free The End Of Religion Encountering Subversive Spirituality Jesus Bruxy Cavey Read Pdf Free

The End of Religion *The End of Religion Study Companion* **The End of Religion Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry, Volume 1, Issue 1** *The Subversive Evangelical* **Rationality, Humility, and Spirituality in Christian Life** The Atheist Who Didn't Exist Handbook of Megachurches *The New Canadian Pentecostals* Centered-Set Church **High on God** *The Great Reckoning* *The Religious Subversion of Democracy* **Religion-State Encounters in Hindu Domains** **Subversive Spirituality** Towards a Theology of Relationship *The Storied Church* Religious Encounters in Transcultural Society *If I Was God Just faith Dynamics in the History of Religions Between Asia and Europe* Encounters with God in Medieval and Early Modern English Poetry **Encountering the Jewish Future** *Irresistible Humble Confidence* *Subversion and Liberation in the Writings of St. Teresa of Avila* **God is Subversive** *Intellect Encounters Faith - A Synthesis* *Religious Education as Encounter. A Tribute to John M. Hull* **Reunion** *Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe* **Encounters with World Affairs** **Polemical Encounters** **The Souls of China** **Mixed Blessings** *Possessed by the Virgin* **The Subversion of Christianity** **Close Encounters With the Deity** Connecting with the Enemy **Cross-Cultural Encounters and Conflicts**

The historical and empirical project presented here is grounded in a desire to theorize ‘religion-state’ relations in the multi-ethnic, multi-religious, secular city-state of Singapore. The core research problematic of this project has emerged out of the confluence of two domains, ‘religion, law and bureaucracy’ and ‘religion and colonial encounters.’ This work has two core objectives: one, to articulate the actual points of engagement between institutions of religion and the state, and two, to identify the various processes, mechanisms and strategies through which relations across these spheres are sustained. The thematic foundations of this book rest on disentangling the complex interactions between religious communities, individuals and the various manifestations of the Singapore state, relationships that are framed within a culture of bureaucracy. This is accomplished through a scrutiny of Hindu domains on the island nation-state, from her identity as part of the Straits Settlements to the present day. The empirical and analytical emphases of this book rest on the author's engagement with the realm of Hinduism as it is conceived, structured, framed and practiced within the context of a strong state in Singapore today. Ethnographically, the book focusses on Hindu temple management and the observance of Hindu festivals and processions, enacted within administrative and bureaucratic frames. Evangelicals have been scandalized by their association with Donald Trump, their megachurches summarily dismissed as “religious Walmarts.” In *The Subversive Evangelical* Peter Schuurman shows how a growing group of “reflexive evangelicals” use irony to critique their own tradition and distinguish themselves from the stereotype of right-wing evangelicalism. Entering the Meeting House – an Ontario-based Anabaptist megachurch – as a participant observer, Schuurman discovers that the marketing is clever and the venue (a rented movie theatre) is attractive to the more than five thousand weekly attendees. But the heart of the church is its charismatic leader, Bruxy Cavey, whose anti-religious teaching and ironic tattoos offer a fresh image for evangelicals. This charisma, Schuurman argues, is not just the power of one individual; it is a dramatic production in which Cavey, his staff, and attendees cooperate, cultivating an identity as an “irreligious” megachurch and providing followers with a more culturally acceptable way to practise their faith in a secular age. Going behind the scenes to small group meetings, church dance parties, and the homes of attendees to investigate what motivates these reflexive evangelicals, Schuurman reveals a playful and provocative counterculture that distances itself from prevailing stereotypes while still embracing a conservative Christian faith. We live in an era in which

relations are considered to be of the utmost importance in almost every field of science and society. For theology, however, this is nothing new. Having a personal relationship with God is a common Christian expression, and while this notion of relationship with God usually lacks a clear definition and its explication is often deeply flawed, this book argues nevertheless for the centrality of a theology of relationship. By reintroducing Emil Brunner as a relational theologian, based on his seminal work *Truth as Encounter*, it is boldly proposed that relationship must be the prime leitmotif for the whole of theology. Furthermore, the relationship analogy is investigated in light of contemporary relationship science: is it accurate to speak of a relationship with God? Berra argues that God-human interaction is indeed categorically a relationship and existentially intended to be intimate. Consequently, this relationship needs to be the theological leitmotif leading to a theology of relationship. In the last decade, atheism has leapt from obscurity to the front pages: producing best-selling books, making movies, and plastering adverts on the side of buses. There's an energy and a confidence to contemporary atheism: many people now assume that a godless scepticism is the default position, indeed the only position for anybody wishing to appear educated, contemporary, and urbane. Atheism is hip, religion is boring. Yet when one pokes at popular atheism, many of the arguments used to prop it up quickly unravel. *The Atheist Who Didn't Exist* is designed to expose some of the loose threads on the cardigan of atheism, tug a little, and see what happens. Blending humour with serious thought, Andy Bannister helps the reader question everything, assume nothing and, above all, recognise lazy scepticism and bad arguments. Be an atheist by all means: but do be a thought-through one. *Mixed Blessings* transforms our understanding of the relationship between Indigenous people and Christianity in Canada from the early 1600s to the present day. While acknowledging the harm of colonialism, including the trauma inflicted by church-run residential schools, this interdisciplinary collection challenges the portrayal of Indigenous people as passive victims of malevolent missionaries who experienced a uniformly dark history. Instead, this book illuminates the diverse and multifaceted ways that Indigenous communities and individuals – including prominent leaders such as Louis Riel and Edward Ahenakew – have interacted, and continue to interact, meaningfully with Christianity. As Euro-American culture turns resolutely away from religiosity toward spirituality and becomes increasingly post-Christian, the ordinary, everyday practice of Christian life is ever more questioned and in need of scrutiny. In this interdisciplinary analysis, Christians are first called to comprehend the excessive rationality that modernity has built into both the cognitive and organizational structure of contemporary Christian life. They are then summoned to personify an authentic attitude of humility, and in particular, the virtue of intellectual humility that is most challenged and tested by religious convictions. Going forward, Christians are subsequently invited to live their faith more as an internally differentiated and open spirituality, rather than an externally determined and regulated religiosity. When we exhaust our rationality and are confronted with its limitations, we are humbled by our finitude and animated by our spirituality. The conference volume of the Bochumer Kolleg “Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe” outlines the thesis that religion is not a homogeneous cultural phenomenon, but a dense network of diachronically and synchronically differing traditions. In its historical development from late antiquity to the present, western esotericism has repeatedly been the issue of polemical discourse. This volume engages the polemical structures that underlie esoteric identities and the controversy about esoteric currents in European history. *Socio-Historical Examination of Religion and Ministry* (SHERM journal) is a biannual, not-for-profit, free peer-reviewed academic journal that publishes the latest social-scientific, historiographic, and ecclesiastic research on religious institutions and their ministerial practices. SHERM is dedicated to the critical and scholarly inquiry of historical and contemporary religious phenomena, both from within particular religious traditions and across cultural boundaries, so as to inform the broader socio-historical analysis of religion and its related fields of study. The purpose of SHERM is to provide a scholarly medium for the social-scientific study of religion where specialists can publish advanced studies on religious trends, theologies, rituals, philosophies, socio-political influences, or experimental and applied ministry research in the hopes of generating enthusiasm for the vocational and academic study of religion while fostering collegiality among religious specialists. Its mission is to provide academics, professionals, and nonspecialists with critical reflections and evidence-based insights into the socio-historical study of religion and, where appropriate, its implications for ministry and expressions of religiosity. Join Bruxy Cavey, bestselling author and teaching pastor at The Meeting House, in the pages of *Reunion: a dynamic investigation of the most earth-shattering, piety-smashing, life-changing news ever*. Dig into Scripture with Bruxy as he unfolds God's message for the world in one word, three words, and thirty words. Learn why you shouldn't follow the Bible (but why you'll

want to read it to learn how to follow Jesus). Scout out the real definitions of sin and salvation, which might surprise you. Discover your true citizenship in the Jesus nation, where you might be ready to die for a cause but never willing to kill for one. Glimpse a God who is Love itself and who, like it or not, just can't stop thinking about you. If you've heard about Jesus so often that he makes you yawn, give him one more chance. If you think the gospel has something to do with religious rules or rituals, think again. Whether you are a restless seeker, struggling sinner, or sanctimonious saint, get ready for a reunion: with your true self, with others, and with the God who longs to welcome you home. One of Missio Alliance's Top 15 Essential Reads of 2017. Charles Issawi's collection of essays, *Cross-Cultural Encounters and Conflicts*, has been written in the belief that a study of the past encounters and conflicts between the world's major cultures can shed light on their nature and importance. Though the emphasis is on the Middle East, of which Issawi is one of our foremost scholars, the subjects covered here range in scope from the great ancient civilizations to Shelley's passion for the Middle East, from the failures of the Greeks as empire builders to the preeminence of English as an international language today. Other essays examine either the way in which certain cultures were formed, or the effects of the direct control of one culture over another, or cross-cultural perceptions, most notably the dramatic change in the Western perception of the Orient between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In this age of multiculturalism, conflicts between the world's cultures have become a dominant feature of the international landscape. This excellent collection is a much-needed exploration of their historical nature. Benno van den Toren and Kang-San Tan provide a global, intercultural model of apologetics as crosscultural dialogue and accountable witness. Filled with Scriptural examples and real-world experiences, this is a conversational, patient, holistic, and embodied guide to creating true dialogue in our multicultural, multifaith world. Matthew Gorkos begins *The Storied Church* with this compelling statement: "I believe in the church--in the power of faithful people serving a good and gracious God--and I believe in the power of a good story. Moreover, I believe, as this book will argue, that church and story--harnessed together--could be an even more powerful force for goodness in our world." Neuroscientists, anthropologists, archeologists, and psychologists all agree. Story is how our brains and our communities make sense of things. Storytelling helps us cope with change and loss. Storytelling helps us transmit lessons and life-skills to the next generation. As human beings, it seems we can't do without story. This book--indeed, this whole idea of story-centered church renewal--was born of a suspicion that the restorative, transformative, life-giving function that stories have for us as individuals may serve communities of faithful people as well. If stories help us survive as human creatures, why can't they help churches survive? The problem that story-centered renewal seeks to remedy has only become more prevalent and urgent in the age of Covid-19. Our churches need hope now more than ever. Writing from a pastor's perspective, Gorkos hopes to encourage and empower other pastors and lay leaders with both the hope and the tools they need to effect revitalizing change in their faith communities. Each chapter includes questions for reflection to help readers listen to and tell the stories that will lead to renewal and transformation. Pointing to the many contradictions between the Bible and the practice of the church, Jacques Ellul asserts in this provocative and stimulating book that what we today call Christianity is actually far removed from the revelation of God. Successive generations have reinterpreted Scripture and modeled it after their own cultures, thus moving society further from the truth of the original gospel. The church also perverted the gospel message, for instead of simply doing away with pagan practice and belief, it reconstituted the sacred, set up its own religious forms, and thus resacralized the world. Ellul develops several areas in which this perversion is most obvious, including the church's emphasis on moralism and its teaching in the political sphere. The heart of the problem, he says, is that we have not accepted the fact that Christianity is a scandal; we attempt to make it acceptable and easy--and thus pervert its true message. Ultimately, however, Ellul remains hopeful. For, in spite of all that has been done to subvert the message of God, the Holy Spirit continues to move in the world. Christianity, writes Ellul, never carries the day decisively against Christ. What do we do when the church looks nothing like Jesus? Many followers of Jesus feel disillusioned by a broken religion—one that loves political power, promises prosperity, and feeds on fear. We are desperately trying to rationalize how a loving God can be connected to unloving churches, institutions, and people. We can no longer deny that our version of Christianity is not just imperfect but has been coopted to inflict violence, racism, abuse, hate, and even death. The question before many Christians is no longer how their faith can survive within a secular culture. It's how their faith can survive Christianity itself. In *The Great Reckoning*, writer Stephen Mattson writes out of the rubble of the failed American faith. Instead of doomsaying or casting aspersions, however, Mattson offers hope for seekers looking for inspiration,

solace for Christians fed up with an unsatisfying religion, and clarity for those sifting through the remains. *The Great Reckoning* is a clear-eyed yet tender critique of where we've gone wrong, and a guide away from the culture wars and toward the life of Jesus. Rather than further immersing ourselves in Christendom, what if we started rethinking what it means to be a Christian in the first place? What if Christians shed the hopes and dreams of Christianity and turned instead of the Christ at the center of our faith? Consider this a dispatch from the wreckage of American cultural Christianity, and an ode to the Jesus-looking faith we seek.

*The New Canadian Pentecostals* takes readers into the everyday religious lives of the members of three Pentecostal congregations located in the Region of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Using the rich qualitative and quantitative data gathered through participant observation, personal interviews, and surveys conducted within these congregations, Adam Stewart provides the first book-length study focusing on the specific characteristics of Canadian Pentecostal identity, belief, and practice. Stewart asserts that Pentecostalism remains an important tradition in the Canadian religious landscape—contrary to the assumptions of many Canadian sociologists and scholars of religion. Recent decreases in Canadian Pentecostal affiliation recorded by Statistics Canada are not the result of Pentecostals abandoning their congregations; rather, they are indicative of a radical transformation from traditionally Pentecostal to generically evangelical modes of religious identity, belief, and practice that are changing the ways that Pentecostals understand and explain their religious identities. The case study presented in this book suggests that a new breed of Canadian Pentecostals are emerging for whom traditional definitions and expressions of Pentecostalism are much less important than religious autonomy and individualism. This volume is a tribute to our esteemed colleague Professor John Martin Hull for his exceptional academic achievements in the field of religious education. Especially worth mentioning are his worldwide continuous efforts in trying to realize interreligious education and interreligious learning in public schools. In his approach there is a strong emphasis on openness, dialogue, and encounter. When we are looking for an adequate vignette to characterize the contribution of this famous religious educator, a good one might be 'religious education as encounter'. That is why this volume is systematically focusing on this topic. It brings together contributions from leading researchers in the international field of religious education adhering to a great variety of religious or worldview traditions, and it addresses a wide range of perspectives regarding the concept of encounter in religious education.

To Lee Griffith, being a peacemaker means much more than sporting PEACE T-shirts or voting for left-wing political candidates. Peacemaking is for him a daily practice of community formation, lifestyle decisions, and prayer ordinary living that is faithful to the gospel and happily out of sync with most of the world most of the time and it is a vital part of following Jesus Christ. In these challenging talks, Griffith a veteran anti-war activist who has been arrested many times for his pro-peace demonstrations sets forth a solidly biblical argument for uncompromising nonviolence. Along the way, he describes encounters with dumpster divers and prostitutes, with bag ladies and judges, with people who hear voices and see ghosts and he shares how, through these encounters and more, he has come to know better the subversive God of the gospel. The most vital questions about Judaism—present and future—are prefigured, says Marc Ellis in the work of Elie Wiesel, Martin Buber, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Hannah Arendt, and Emmanuel Levinas. Ellis encounters each thinker to contemplate biblical, theological, and philosophical insights so to foster Jewish empowerment and to ensure a Jewish future. The megachurch is an exceptional recent religious trend, certainly within Christian spheres. Spreading from the USA, megachurches now reached reach different global contexts. The edited volume *Handbook of Megachurches* offers a comprehensive account of the subject from various academic perspectives. 'Possessed By The Virgin' is an ethnographic account of three Roman Catholic women in Tamil Nadu, South India who claim to be possessed by Mary, the mother of Jesus. The author follows the lives of these women over many years, investigating questions about gender, social power, agency, and authenticity. In no society on Earth was there such a ferocious attempt to eradicate all trace of religion as in modern China. But now, following a century of violent antireligious campaigns, China is awash with new temples, churches, and mosques - as well as cults, sects, and politicians trying to harness religion for their own ends. Driving this explosion of faith is uncertainty - over what it means to be Chinese, and how to live an ethical life in a country that discarded traditional morality and is still searching for new guideposts. *The Souls of China* is the result of some fifteen years of studying and travelling around China. The message of Ian Johnson's extraordinary book is that China is now experiencing a 'Great Awakening' on a vast scale. Everywhere long-suppressed religions are rebuilding, often in new forms, and reshaping the values and behaviours of entire communities. Ian Johnson is as happy explaining the wonders of the lunar calendar as talking to

the yinyang man who ensures proper burials. He visits meditation masters and the charismatic head of a Chengdu church. The result is a rich and funny work that challenges conventional wisdom about China. Xi Jinping, China's current leader, has put a return to morality and Chinese tradition at the heart of his ideas for his country - but, Johnson asks, at what point will the rapid spread of belief form an unmanageable challenge to the Party's monopoly on power? *Intellect Encounters Faith – A Synthesis* is a Festschrift crafted to honor a renaissance man: a literary tribute to Dr. Jay Harold Ellens that has been long overdue. While attending the 2014 International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature at the University of Vienna (July 6–10), Professor Ellens celebrated his eighty-second birthday. He is still a most engaged and active scholar, practicing clinical psychologist, and military chaplain (with the rank of Colonel). He publishes widely in Second Temple Judaism, and works that are on the cusp between religious studies/history of religions and psychology, as well as spirituality. He is a marvel to behold and is an excellent, indefatigable Vorbild for both professional colleagues, as well as an ever-growing number of aspiring scholars he mentors. He is the model of the modern peripatetic scholar. The Festschrift acknowledges the major foci of Professor Doctor Ellens' own work: Psychology, Religious Literature, and Military History. Moreover, there are included in this volume several personal reflections by some of his friends and colleagues, also. The essays/chapters contained herein are works of deep and broad scholarship. Yet, they are deeply personal tributes to a master pedagogue who has touched many lives in many walks of life. All, however, reflect Professor Ellens' influence on the contributors as if one is looking at them through their writings and seeing him. The reader will find this a most informative volume, and will return to it often as an up-to-date reference work on trends in religious studies, psychology, psychology of religion(s), and even the archaeology of the Second Jewish Temple period. One will discover between these covers a rare and valuable reference work that honors a rare, prolific, and generous man. Sick of religion? So was Jesus. Around the world a movement is growing. People are waking up to the spiritual beauty of the teachings of Jesus while rejecting the many ugly aspects of the religion that bears his name. If you are among those who are disappointed with religion yet are still strangely pulled toward spirituality, author Bruxy Cavey will help you make sense of it all. Join Bruxy Cavey in an exploration of how twenty-first-century people can live into the subversive spirituality of a first-century radical and discover what the Bible claims is the world God originally intended and still desires: a world without religion. *The End of Religion Study Guide* will help you and your group unpack Cavey's teachings in *The End of Religion* to help you understand, discuss, and live into the subversive spirituality of Jesus. This book examines the condition of religious organizations or teachings within a different culture where one or more indigenous religions are already present. Through the means of what he calls "speculative fiction", Michael Bishop examines the various links between man and the supernatural by exploring the relationships and conflicts between mortals and deities of other worlds, in other times and within other cultures. His scope isn't limited to alien environments, however. Bishop's talent for transforming the commonplace into the fantastic often reaches into our own backyards, and the results are astounding: - A father's love for his son and the influence of the evangelist's strange teachings prompt a desperate and violent act. - In a surreal world of unceasing movies where the inhabitants serve constantly as an audience, one man seeks to confront the ultimate power which controls their lives. - A young boy's talent for ventriloquism results in an irresistible summons from an all-powerful source. - A Midwestern farmer's compelling visions draw him to the oceanic god of an unusual cult. - Mysterious airborne hieroglyphics become a young scientist's obsession. With these and other stories, Michael Bishop weaves a colourful tapestry of character, theme and circumstance which attests to his position as one of the best in the field. The purpose of this scholarly book is to expand the body of knowledge available on urban theology. It introduces readers to the concept of planetary urbanisation, with the view of deepening an understanding of urbanisation and its all-pervasive impact on the planet, people and places from a theological perspective. A critical theological reading of 'the urban' is also provided, deliberating on bridging the divide between voices from the Global South and the Global North. In doing so, this book simultaneously seeks out robust and dynamic faith constructs, expressed in various forms and embodiments of justice. The methodology chosen transcended narrow disciplinary boundaries, situating reflections between and across disciplines, in the interface between scholarly reflection and an activist faith, as well as between local rootedness and global connectedness. This was facilitated by the collected gathering of authors, spanning all continents, various Christian faith traditions and multiple disciplines, as well as a range of methodological approaches. The book endeavours to contribute to knowledge production in a number of ways. Firstly, it suggests the inadequacy of most dominant faith expressions in the face of all-pervasive

forces of urbanisation, and it also provides clues as to the possibility of fostering potent alternative imaginaries. Secondly, it explores a decolonial faith that is expressed in various forms of justice. It is an attempt to offer concrete embodiments of what such a faith could look like in the context of planetary urbanisation. Thirdly, the book does not focus on one specific urban challenge or mode of ministry but rather introduces the concept of planetary urbanisation and then offers critical lenses with which to interrogate its consequences and challenges. It considers concrete and liberating faith constructs in areas ranging from gender, race, economic inequality, a solidarity economics and housing to urban violence, indigeneity and urbanisation, the interface between economic and environmental sustainability, and grass-roots theological education. Sick of religion? So was Jesus. In this expanded edition of the bestselling *The End of Religion*, Bruxy Cavey asks: Has Christianity missed the point? Was Jesus setting up a new religion or abolishing the entire concept? Have Christians gotten faith in Jesus pretty much right—or all wrong? Thoroughly revised and updated, *The End of Religion* now includes five entirely new chapters by the author, a new preface, and updates throughout. Join Bruxy Cavey in a dynamic, breath-taking investigation into what Jesus was all about. Find out how twenty-first-century people can live into the subversive spirituality of Jesus. Jesus lived a scandalous life. Shouldn't we? We have no evidence that there is any personal Superbeing who has anything to do with our lives. The best evidence we have is that we live in a universe of chance and probability, with physical laws that can describe only the interaction of large objects. The only god we know is the god of chance which chooses, by natural selection, those who have adapted to their environment, and unceremoniously, without remorse, eliminates those who do not adapt. If we accept this apparent fact, we will make entirely different decisions about how we manage our personal lives, and the structure of our societies. We will see that blind allegiance to the wild mythologies of our major religions is ripping apart the fabric of our societies. The religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are schizophrenically bipolar. Until we realize we are blindly hating and killing each other on the basis of false myths, peaceful co-existence of all people will not be possible. The conference volume of the Bochumer Kolleg "Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe" outlines the thesis that religion is not a homogeneous cultural phenomenon, but a dense network of diachronically and synchronically differing traditions. "Highlights the significance of those Israelis and Palestinians who have chosen connection and dialogue as a practical alternative to the use of force." —Euphrates Institute Thousands of ordinary people in Israel and Palestine have engaged in a dazzling array of daring and visionary joint nonviolent initiatives for more than a century. They have endured despite condemnation by their own societies, repetitive failures of diplomacy, harsh inequalities, and endemic cycles of violence. *Connecting with the Enemy* presents the first comprehensive history of unprecedented grassroots efforts to forge nonviolent alternatives to the lethal collision of the two national movements. Bringing to light the work of over five hundred groups, Sheila H. Katz describes how Arabs and Jews, children and elders, artists and activists, educators and students, garage mechanics and physicists, and lawyers and prisoners have spoken truth to power, protected the environment, demonstrated peacefully, mourned together, stood in resistance and solidarity, and advocated for justice and security. She also critiques and assesses the significance of their work and explores why these good-will efforts have not yet managed to end the conflict or occupation. This previously untold story of Palestinian-Israeli joint nonviolence will challenge the mainstream narratives of terror and despair, monsters and heroes, that help to perpetuate the conflict. It will also inspire and encourage anyone grappling with social change, peace and war, oppression and inequality, and grassroots activism anywhere in the world. "A profoundly important study of the history and ongoing efforts for Israeli-Palestinian peace by ordinary Israelis and Palestinians . . . A genuinely balanced perspective." —Stephen Zunes, author of *Tinderbox: U.S. Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism* This book is designed to familiarise students with leading International Relations (IR) theories and their explanation of political events, phenomena, and processes which cross the territorial boundaries of the state. Thus, students will be exposed to the interplay between power, interest, ideas, identity, and resistance, in explaining continuity and change in international relations. Developed to provide students with the analytical tools and intellectual frameworks needed to understand the behaviour of different international actors in contemporary global affairs. This textbook responds to the challenges of a dynamic job market by assisting students to gain both thorough theoretical knowledge and training them to apply this knowledge to real world problems. In short, this textbook delivers: A comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to the examination of national, regional and global trends in politics, economics and socio-cultural developments allowing students to understand: ∅ the practice and theory of contemporary international relations ∅ the politics, culture, history, and

economies of different regions around the world & the role played by international interactions, culture, and government in local, national, and global settings. Equipping students with the proficiency: & to understand and interpret the dynamics, patterns, and issues of global affairs & to know how to get more information about particular questions & to evaluate that information independently and effectively. To these ends, the textbook provides a number of features that will appeal to students and avoids overwhelming students with chapters on topics which (in practice) are rarely on courses, while nonetheless providing a comprehensive overview of the field. Introduces students to the main debates, topics, and terms in the field and allows them to decide which they would like to focus on in their further studies. "Focuses on the emotional, social, and religious dynamics that pull thousands of people into megachurches and how those churches make some feel like they are 'high on God' and can't wait to get their next spiritual 'hit'"--Publisher marketing. In *The End of Religion*, Bruxy Cavey shares that relationship has no room for religion. Believers and seekers alike will discover anew the wondrous promise found in our savior. And Christ's eternal call to walk in love and freedom will resonate with readers of all ages and denominations. What would you do — If You Were God and Larry sat down to be judged in the old chair on your Front Porch after committing suicide at a young age? Or . . . If the wealthy and beloved Diva and Pop Singer, Grace Wonder Star died from an overdose? Would you put on your Black Robe and sentence them to an eternity of shame and punishment? What would you do — If You Were God — and Gerry came to your door after a life of “trying to be a Christian?” Would you pat him on the back for fulfilling his religious duties? If I was God, I think I know what I would do. Engaging with four English poems or groups of poems—the anonymous medieval Crucifixion lyrics; William Langland's *Piers Plowman*, John Donne's *Divine Poems*, and John Milton's *Paradise Lost*—this book examines the nature of poetic encounter with God. At the same time, the author makes original contributions to the discussion of critical dilemmas in the study of each poem or group of poems. The main linguistic focus of this book is on the nature of dialogue with God in religious poetry, an area much neglected by grammarians and often overlooked in studies of literary style. It constitutes an important contribution to our understanding of the relationship between literature and theology. In *Subversive Spirituality* Peterson has gathered together a host of writings penned over the past twenty-five years that reflect on the overlooked facets of the spiritual life. Comprising occasional pieces, short biblical studies, poetry, pastoral readings, and interviews, this work captures the epiphanies of life with the pleasing pastoral style and inspiring depth of insight for which Peterson is well known. Peterson describes his book this way: "This gathering of articles and essays, poems and conversations, is a kind of kitchen midden of my noticings of the obvious in the course of living out the Christian life in the vocational context of pastor, writer, and professor. The randomness and repetitions and false starts are rough edges that I am leaving as is in the interests of honesty. Spirituality is not, by and large, smooth. I do hope, however, that these pieces will be found to be freshly phrased". Is there an alternative to the church's impulse to either obsess over boundaries or erase them completely? Building on the work of Paul Hiebert, Mark D. Baker provides a unique manual for understanding and applying the vision of a "centered" church, charting a new path for congregations and leaders to grow in authentic freedom and dynamic movement toward the true center: Jesus himself. A fresh look at the earliest Christian movement reveals what made the new faith so compelling...and what we need to change today to make it so again. Once upon a time there was a version of the Christian faith that was practically irresistible. After all, what could be more so than the gospel that Jesus ushered in? Why, then, isn't it the same with Christianity today? Author and pastor Andy Stanley is deeply concerned with the present-day church and its future. He believes that many of the solutions to our issues can be found by investigating our roots. In *Irresistible*, Andy chronicles what made the early Jesus Movement so compelling, resilient, and irresistible by answering these questions: What did first-century Christians know that we don't—about God's Word, about their lives, about love? What did they do that we're not doing? What makes Christianity so resistible in today's culture? What needs to change in order to repeat the growth our faith had at its beginning? Many people who leave or disparage the faith cite reasons that have less to do with Jesus than with the conduct of his followers. It's time to hit pause and consider the faith modeled by our first-century brothers and sisters who had no official Bible, no status, and little chance of survival. It's time to embrace the version of faith that initiated—against all human odds—a chain of events resulting in the most significant and extensive cultural transformation the world has ever seen. This is a version of Christianity we must remember and re-embrace if we want to be salt and light in an increasingly savorless and dark world.