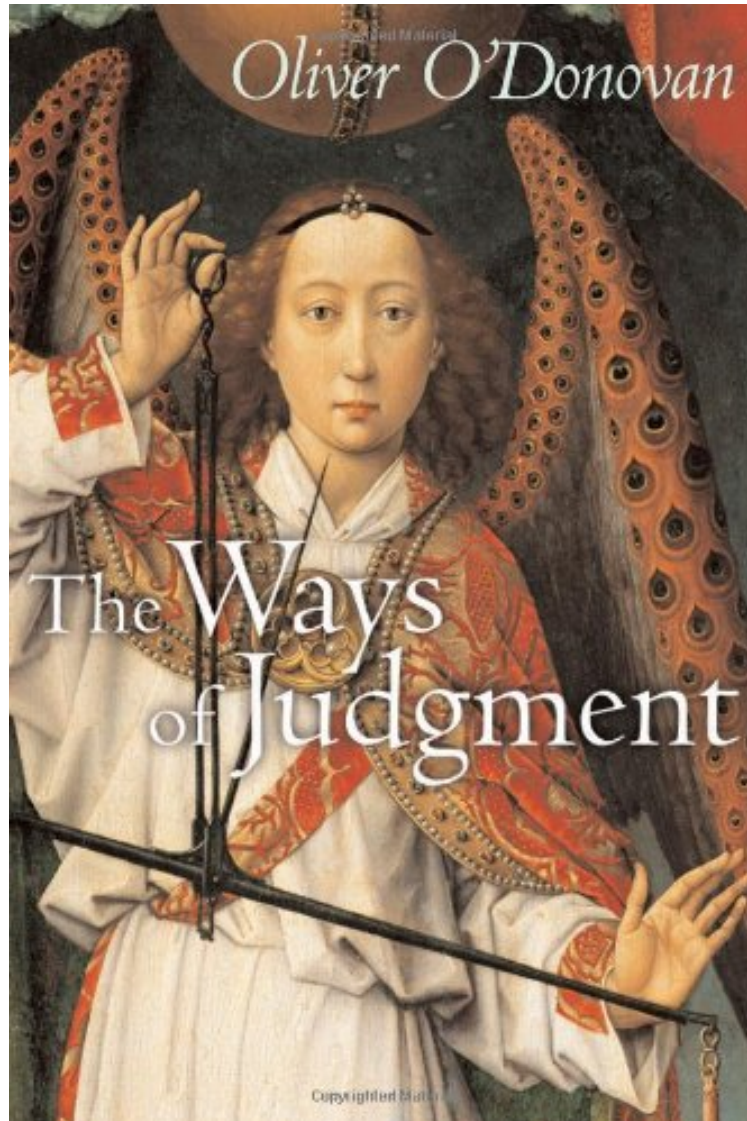


[Download] The Ways of Judgement (Bampton Lectures)

The Ways of Judgement (Bampton Lectures)

Oliver O'Donovan

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Oliver O'Donovan : The Ways of Judgement (Bampton Lectures) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ways of Judgement (Bampton Lectures):

1 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The Ways of Judgment By Customer An exploration of the foundations of governmental responsibilities. Its not an easy read. Its a worth while effort. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Clear and Balanced Thinking on Hard Issues By Jacob Overview: Oliver O'Donovan (hereafter OO) argues that the authority of government resides in the act of judgment (3-4). The thrones of the world

are subordinated to the task of witnessing to the New Jerusalem. This is commonly, if sometimes misleadingly, called "Christendom." Judgment is an act of moral discrimination that establishes a new public context. Furthermore, judgment must be public in character. Private individuals (e.g., vigilantes) can never speak for the whole. Given the above definition of judgment, we can define punishment as "judgment enacted on the person, property, or liberty of the condemned party" (107). OO's discussions of judgment and punishment, always in a communal context, necessarily lead to discussions of international judgment. OO ultimately challenges our idols of democracy and the "liberal rights" tradition. We eventually see that all political orders are failing (and fading) and in their dimming light we see the rise of a more lasting--eternal--order of international judgment: the kingdom of God. Conclusion: Pros: As always, OO is judicious and balanced, writing from the mountaintops and not troubled with petty disputes. His use of Scripture, while sparse at times, is always timely and refreshing. Cons: Much of this book will not make sense unless the reader is familiar with OO's other two works, **Desire of the Nations** and **Resurrection and Moral Order**, both of them demanding (but rewarding!) reads. OO can be dense and the reader is tempted to shout, "Just get to the point!" Perhaps. Either way, it does make for slow reading. I had to read this book twice. Here is another qualm I have with the book. In the chapter on International Government, OO gives a sane discussion on the UN and EU. Contra end-times fundamentalists, the Christian narrative easily allows for the usefulness of international governing bodies. Contra secular liberals, these bodies of international government are often weak, arbitrary, and rest on a shaky foundation of authority if divorced from the Christian narrative. That's good reasoning on Prof O'Donovan's part. He then makes a startling faux pax on the application of International government (and to his credit, I think he realized this argument couldn't stick). On page 222 OO quotes international authorities saying that intervention in the Balkans violated UN resolutions, but that we might have had to make an exception anyway. Fair enough. The problem is, as he realizes, if you start making exceptions, it's hard to stop. But still, an intelligent discussion, nonetheless.

The trial, conviction, and death of an innocent man 2,000 years ago have particular resonance today. Atrocities from around the world shake us nearly every day, and we all experience trials in our own lives too. In this book the former Archbishop of Canterbury looks in depth at the trial of Jesus, using it to teach readers how to face the challenges of life in today's trying times. Bringing the biblical accounts of Jesus' trial vividly to life, Rowan Williams highlights what can be learned about Jesus from each of the four Gospel portraits. Mark shows a mysterious figure revealed as the Son of God. Matthew describes the Wisdom of God tried by foolish men. Luke presents a divine stranger. John speaks of the paradox of divinity submitting to judgement. These illuminating discussions are followed by a reflection on Christian martyrdom and a meditation on tyranny, freedom, and truth. A set of discussion questions and a thought-provoking prayer after each chapter make *Christ on Trial* an ideal book for study groups. Throughout the book Williams draws not only from the Bible but also from fiction, drama, and current events, pointing up ways in which society today continues to put Christ on trial. Even more, he argues that all Christians stand with Jesus before a watching world. Though we may not be directly confronted with death, we are nevertheless called daily to respond to the falsehood of such lures as power, influence, and prestige. Several words aptly describe this book by Rowan Williams: Profound. Incisive. Literary. Contemporary. Relevant. Prophetic. *Christ on Trial* will move and change those who read it.

Anglican Theological "If you are searching for a piece of writing by Rowan Williams that is accessible to a wide audience, look no farther. In *Christ on Trial*, Williams pays his reader the great compliment of presenting a rigorous and penetrating theological argument that will challenge the thinking of laypeople and professional theologians alike."