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The Book Of Revelation: And The Work Of The Priest (CW 346)



Synopsis

Lectures to 57 priests in Dornach Sept 5-22, 1924 (CW 346) John's Book of Revelation, the Apocalypse, has been subjected to countless theological and academic interpretations over the years, usually based on theories and abstract speculations. Rudolf Steiner, however, discussed the Book of Revelation through direct experience and knowledge of the spiritual truths contained in John's mysterious imagery. Rudolf Steiner had already presented his insights on the Apocalypse to various audiences, but in 1924 he presented a completely new perspective. This time, his comments were in response to requests from priests of The Christian Community, the movement for religious renewal, which itself had taken form on the basis of Steiner's insights. This book will be of value to anyone who would like a fresh perspective on the most enigmatic book of the New Testament. Includes eight color plates of blackboard drawings. Read Bobby Matherne's review of this book

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book comes from lectures given by Dr. Rudolf Steiner, the leading Christian initiate of past several hundred years, near the end of his extraordinary life. As usual, he is without peer in his living understanding of the bible and of Christianity. Nowhere else can one find the lucid, reliable, insights that are in this book. Two other excellent books on this topic by Steiner are: "The Apocalypse of St. John" and "Reading the Pictures of the Apocalypse." I have rarely found bible scholarship of this magnitude or excellence anywhere. If I am ever able to learn to be a real Christian, it will be because of books like this.

An excellent set of lectures for anyone wishing to deepen their Anthroposophically oriented insight in the Christian impulse and other forces at work in history. For example, in Lecture 7 (given on Sept. 11, 1924), Steiner says: "His [ie, the author of the Apocalypse] prophetic glance now fell on those teachings which were coming into being around the year 666 and which harked back to those Mysteries that knew nothing of the Son: the Mohammedan teachings. The Mohammedan teachings do not know the structure of the world I have just been speaking about, they do not know the two realms, that of the Father and that of the Spirit; they know only the Father. They know only the rigid doctrine: There is one God, Allah, and none beside him; and Mohammed is his Prophet. From this angle, the teachings of Mohammed are the strongest polarity to Christianity, for in them is the will to do away with all freedom for ever, the will to bring about determinism, for nothing else is possible if you can imagine the world solely in the sense of the Father God." This gave the apocalypticist the feeling: The human being cannot find himself in this; the human being cannot become filled through and through with Christ; if he can comprehend only the old doctrine of the Father, the human being cannot take hold of his own humanness. For such an inwardly rigid and closed-off view of the world the external form of the human being becomes an illusion. The human being only becomes human by taking hold of himself through making Christ alive within himself; he only becomes human when he is adapted to the spiritual order in realms of spirit that are entirely free of nature. He does not become human if he regresses into a view that reckons solely with the Father God."

Rudolph Steiner takes such a different perspective of scripture that you have to read it in small bites, then let it digest before reading on. It is refreshing to hear a Christian analysis of the total human - on every level - and watch Steiner follow it throughout the Bible.

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