

hope

The following books provide a range of material on the subject of human hope. CASE welcomes reviews and comments on these books. They are presented for reflection, education and critical analysis—not as a canon of must-reads. Please read with your eyes open and brain engaged!

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important biblical texts

Genesis 12-15. The account of God's promises to Abram and his descendants, a key to understanding biblical hope.

Job and Ecclesiastes (Old Testament)

Two poignant literary expressions of hope in God amidst the troubles and injustices of life.

Luke 22-24. The account of Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and resurrection, and his post-resurrection appearances to many to explain the basis of hope.

1 Corinthians 15.

The Apostle Paul's explanation of hope's basis: the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 21-22.

The last chapters of the Bible provide images and narrative pertaining to the 'new heavens and new earth'.

christian views of hope

Alec Motyer, *After Death: a sure and certain hope*, Christian Focus Publications, Fearn, 1995. A readable conservative and informed treatment of the traditional questions about the after-life: death, judgement, heaven and hell.

Robert Doyle, *Eschatology and the Shape of Christian Belief*. Historical and theological overview of Christian thinking on the future, in particular how hope in God's promises shapes the Christian mind.

Jurgen Moltmann, *Theology of Hope*. Key work by the 'theologian of hope'. Brought eschatology to the forefront of 20th century theology.

David Aikman. *Hope: the heart's great quest*, Zondervan, Ann Arbor, 1995. Compares and contrasts Christian hope with hope in other religions and philosophies. Written by a foreign affairs correspondent with a doctorate in Russian and Chinese history.

Richard Bauckham & Trevor Hart, *Hope against Hope: Christian eschatology in Contemporary Context*, DLT, London, 1999. Survey of the Christian imagery of the future and how it answers contemporary questions.

hope and culture

Paul Fiddes, *The Promised End: eschatology in theology and literature*, Blackwell, Oxford, 2000. A watershed critical work on the importance of eschatology for understanding literature. Fiddes is Professor of Theology at Oxford.

Glenn Tinder, *The Fabric of Hope*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2000. A social, political and theological essay on the failure of secular hopes and the possibility of Christian hope when the future 'breaks in' on the present.

Ernst Bloch, *Principle of Hope*, MIT Press, Boston, 1995. A monumental three-volume work analysing hope as a basic human desire evidenced in a vast range of cultural expressions. Bloch was a 'warm-stream Marxist', but his ideas have been appropriated by Moltmann and others to express Christian hope.

David Bruce Hegeman, *Ploughing in Hope*, Canon Press, Moscow, Idaho. A postmillennial view of culture which sees the hope of the gospel lived out in the ongoing renovation of human culture.

Oliver O'Donovan, *The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the roots of political theology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1996. A full-blown political theology which sees the hope of society in a gospel-based understanding of the structures of human community. A profound book.

hope and the sciences

John Polkinghorne and Michael Welker, *The End of the World and the Ends of God*, Trinity Press International, Harrisburg, 2000. Collection of essays on the relationship between scientific knowledge and the Christian view of the world's future. A wide range of contributors from varying theological backgrounds, covering aspects of cosmology, neuroscience, psychology and ethics.

John Polkinghorne, *The God of Hope and the End of the World*, Yale Uni Press, New Haven, 2002. A summary volume of *The End of the World and the Ends of God*, offering a readable perspective on where discussion is up to on the relationship between science and eschatology.

Ted Peters, Robert John Russell and Michael Welker (eds). *Resurrection: Theological and Scientific Assessments*, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, 2002. Another collection of essays specifically on the impact of the resurrection of Jesus on various scientific fields.

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