



## God: A Guide for the Perplexed

By Keith Ward

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In God: A Guide for the Perplexed, bestselling author Keith Ward has crafted a unique, perceptive, witty, and informative introduction to the mysteries of the divine.

From the essential truths presented in ancient Greek mythology via the stories about Olympian gods, through the key ideas of major philosophers such as Nietzsche and Marx, to the surprise insights offered by such diverse elements of our experience as Romantic poetry and the film 'Alien', Ward draws on everything that has either directly or remotely influenced our knowledge of a higher force. His book therefore provides not only a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive account of the different manifestations of God, but, most importantly, offers a humorous and engaging encounter with both humanity's belief in God and our exploration of that belief. Mixing the eclectic with the sublime, this illustrated and profound volume will be a compulsive page-turner for anyone interested in the real core of the philosophical and spiritual quest for meaning.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Keith Ward is an eminent Oxford theologian, and such a title might make many ordinary people run for cover. Don't run. *God: A Guide for the Perplexed* is a wonderful book. Ward is a philosopher as well as a theologian and he succeeds in presenting the sweep of mankind's religious and philosophical thought with style, reverence, and a wry humour. He is to be congratulated in producing a book that avoids churchy clap trap, academic jargon, religious cliché, and mushy spirituality. He writes in a crisp, entertaining way that is never flippant and he wears his immense learning lightly, sharing a genuine enthusiasm for his subject with a clear desire to communicate with ordinary people. In seven chapters Ward takes us through the history of mankind's religious thought. He shows how philosophical questions have always been linked with religious questions, and how religion has never been merely a set of rules or doctrines, but a quest for meaning and a search for the blazing darkness that is God. In other words, Ward has written a feast for the mind and the heart. While the academic ground is covered lightly, the mystical, poetic, and mysterious side of religion is also given due weight. If you can only buy one book which explains the heart and mind of mankind's spiritual quest, buy this book. --Dwight Longenecker, *Amazon.co.uk*

#### From Library Journal

"Believing in God," states Oxford divinity professor Ward, "is just a bit more complicated than you might think." For a quarter century, Ward (*God, Chance and Necessity*) has been a reliable guide to spirituality and religion. Here he provides a whirlwind tour of how God has been conceived in Western thought, beginning with Homer and Descartes and progressing through thinkers like Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, and Kant and poets like Blake and Wordsworth. Along the way, he discusses the prophets, the Ten Commandments, the idea of evil, and more. What makes this work Ward's own is his leitmotif: a belief that the trouble with much of the popular understanding of God is that it is too literal. To help us go beyond such popular conceptions, Ward, with humor and skill, deftly and accurately guides us through the ages of reflection on what can and cannot be known about God. The danger of such an approach is that it will leave readers with caricatures of the great thinkers' positions. The value is that readers will become intrigued and will go directly to the sources listed in Ward's "Find Out More..." bibliographies at the end of each chapter. In the end, this book inspires considerable thought and thus belongs in every library. Steve Young, McHenry Cty. Coll. Lib., Crystal Lake, IL

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#### From *Booklist*

Any book that can help readers discover "why nineteenth century Germans became more and more depressed," tell them something useful about flavors in Oxford ice cream parlors, quote Marx in context, and deliver a meaningful introduction to a long philosophical conversation about God in an engaging narrative is well worth reading. Ward covers a remarkable range of material, from the *Iliad* to Wittgenstein, contemporary compatibilism, and process thought, and he does it with elegance and surprising simplicity--qualities that open this material to readers who otherwise would find it entirely inaccessible. This is an excellent introduction to the philosophy of religion, suitable for students inside and outside of the academy.

Steven Schroeder

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Nowadays reading books become more and more than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading habit give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want get more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want really feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Typically the God: A Guide for the Perplexed is kind of publication which is giving the reader unstable experience.

**Catherine Benavidez:**

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