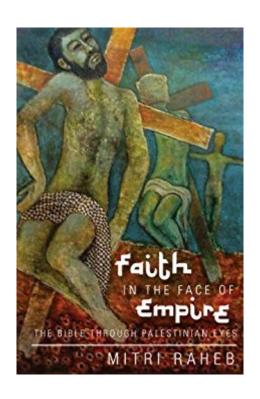
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Faith In The Face Of Empire: The Bible Through Palestinian Eyes





Synopsis

A Palestinian Christian theologian shows how the reality of empire shapes the context of the biblical story, and the ongoing experience of Middle East conflict.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is courageous and essential reading for anyone wishing to place Israelâ ™s 47-year occupation of the Palestinian territories into its proper historical, humanitarian, Christological and Biblical context. Dr Mitri Raheb is a Lutheran pastor from Bethlehem. He notes that for most of its long history, â 'Occupied Palestine has unfortunately been the normâ ™. Raheb makes some striking parallels between the Roman occupation and the present time. Emphasising the Palestinian identity of Jesus, without of course denying his Jewishness, he draws on Christâ ™s teachings to construct a theology of non-violent resistance to oppression and injustice (Raheb prefers the term â `creative resistanceâ ™, since non-violence is a â `negation of a negativeâ ™). It is an invigorating and challenging read.It is all too easy to get depressed about the prospects for peace in Israel and Palestine. But Raheb strikes a surprisingly positive note. In what is perhaps the most striking part of his book, based on his detailed exegesis of Matthew 5:5 (â œBlessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth⠕), he sees the plight of Palestine through the prism of longue durée, an historical continuum. He writes:â œThere isnâ ™t a single regional empire that at some point did not occupy Palestine. The first empire to occupy Palestine was that of the Assyrians, in 722 BC; it stayed for over two hundred years. The Assyrians were replaced by the Babylonians in 587 BC, who didnâ ™t last because they were pushed out by the Persians in 538 BC. The Persians didnâ ™t stay long either, because they were forced to leave by Alexander the Great. Then there were the Romans.

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