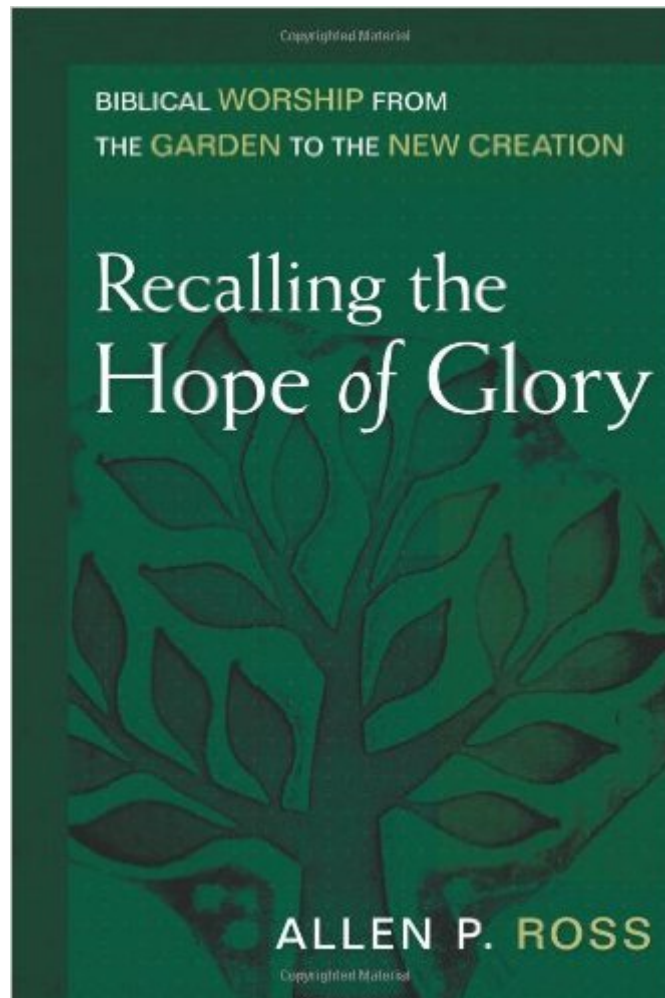


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Recalling The Hope Of Glory



Synopsis

Moving beyond worship wars over style and denominational proclivities, this book considers all the major biblical passages about worship. Regardless of their denomination, pastors, worship leaders, and laypeople interested in the biblical themes of worship will benefit from this definitive resource.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Many local churches have been torn apart by what has called the "worship wars". Battles between "oldtimers" with their set way of doing things as Baptists (or Methodists or Presbyterians or ...) have always done them against the "young turks" with their marketing surveys and praise choruses over the format of worship with each side determined to have its way. Often the solution is to have different style services that imposes a congregational split along generational and socio-economic lines. Unfortunately, there seems to have been an assumption that the Holy Scriptures have little to say on the issue and it is merely one of style and not substance. Allen P. Ross, a professor at Beeson Divinity School, goes a long way in demonstrating the fallacies of this line of thinking in his important survey of Biblical worship *Recalling the Hope of Glory*. Working his way from Genesis to Revelation, Ross sheds light on just how much the Holy Scriptures tell us about worshipping the Lord God. Dividing the book into ten parts, each dealing with a phase of development, Ross outlines how God's plan for worship was progressively revealed just as His plan for our salvation was revealed. From the creation to the last trump, we are being led to our true end in the communion with the living God. It is absurd to think that there has not been revealed some level of

understanding that is to assist us in moving us toward that final destination. Ross begins by discussing the purpose of worship. We cannot understand the purpose of worship, the author contends, until we see its link with the nature and attributes of God. The knowledge we have of God from the revelation of Him in Holy Scripture (i.e., God is holy, God is omnipresent, God is righteous, etc.

...This is the one you should buy. I have to admit that I was excited when I saw that Allen P. Ross' book on worship was going to be a text for this class. Having worked through his Hebrew grammar and his commentary on Leviticus, I was thoroughly interested as to what a Biblical scholar had to say about Biblical worship, since almost every "worship" book I've ever been punished with reading was written by people who weren't "theologians" or "exegetes" by any stretch of the word. Having read many modern 'worship' books (like "The Unquenchable Worshiper" by Matt Redman... *shiver*), I have been generally turned off the whole genre due to the sheer volume of horrible theology and selective 'biblical' defense for the personal convictions of many authors. Anytime a person recommends me a worship book that 'changed my life', I usually roll my eyes and expect the worst. Sadly, I usually get the worst. Ross, on the other hand, takes a thoroughly biblical look at worship. Starting with Genesis and ending in Revelation (and missing little in between), he spends considerable time simply working through the scriptures. His strength as an exegete and biblical scholar come out in his treatment of many texts, making *Recalling the Hope of Glory* bordering on a commentary in several places. Where other worship books often have me skimming several hundred pages for a few morsels of warm gristle, Ross had me reading several sections several times in an effort to consume the steak he'd presented me. Much of what Ross wrote about worship wasn't shocking, but it was very comprehensive with a few especially good observations thrown in.

The Worship Wars of the '80s and '90s left many people confused about biblical worship. A shift in culture had been taking place, some Christians felt the need to follow that shift and others considered such things idolatrous, at worst, or immature, at best. People on both sides of the debate sought to find justification in Scripture. It quickly became obvious that you could not find guitars, drums or jeans in the Bible. Neither could you find suits, organs or orchestras. But, we tried. Into the fray steps Allen Ross. He is currently serving as Professor of Divinity, Old Testament, at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama. Ross has built upon his years of Old Testament and Biblical Studies to produce a thorough work exploring what the Bible has to teach us about true

worship. Recalling the Hope of Glory is a one-of-a-kind treatment of the entire Bible on this subject. He follows the entire storyline of the Bible - from Eden to New Jerusalem - and traces the work of God, the people of God and their response to Yahweh. Ross builds his case that worship transcends space, time, style and convention. Worship began in the garden and will continue in the new Jerusalem. It can transcend all of these things and also be present into eternity because it is always focused on God - his character and his work. This means that worship is also bigger than music. Worship includes the preaching and teaching of God's Word. It involves joyful giving and willing service. It is found in the offering of service through the gifts of the Spirit. Ross makes a strong, helpful and clarifying case that true, Biblical worship is not limited to 17th century musical styles. Nor can it be anything.

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