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ZUGGX - KENNY ARELLANO

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Based on the text Spinoza's Short treatise on God, man and his well-being, translated by Dr. A. Wolf from the Dutch [version of the author's Tractatus de Deo et homine] You're no idiot, of course. You know who Jesus Christ was and why Christmas and Easter are celebrated, but do you know the story of the spread of the Christian religion in all its forms around the world? Have faith! 'The Pocket Idiot's Guide to Christianity' takes you through the history of one of the world's most popular religions. In this 'Pocket Idiot's Guide', you discover: -Full explanations of Christian rites such as the Eucharist and Baptism. -The struggles and outcomes of the Reformation. -The many branches of worship, including Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox. -How Christianity was spread throughout Africa, Asia, and the Americas and has deeply impacted those peoples. New York Times best selling author Ellen Tanner Marsh: "What is the ultimate truth about life? For centuries, learned minds have struggled to seek the answer. Now, in the groundbreaking and thought-provoking book A Guide to Universal Truths, explores powerful evidence ... that we were created by an infinitely superior and perfect Being who gave us free will so that we might evolve [spiritually]. Fertig's book just might have touched on the ultimate answers to the purpose and meaning of life on earth. ...Boldly stated and beautifully written, A Guide to Universal Truths is clearly a roadmap to our higher purpose." Fertig's book answers most of "The God Delusion" issues. "Faith and reason are not only compatible, but are essential for a fuller, richer spiritual life," the author concludes. A chapter on Islam & Christianity covers theological, cultural, and historical differences, so that one may better appreciate where both sides are coming from. Muslims, after reviewing these differences, might consider what Christianity offers.

In this 6-session, video-based study guide (DVD/streaming video sold separately) some of today's greatest Christian thinkers and apologists explore many of the most important questions about Christianity and what it has to offer the world today. What is Christianity and how is it unique among worldviews? What are some of the ideas that have influenced the way people think about it? Is there any evidence for God? Why does the resurrection matter? Many people in today's culture hold a wide variety of ideas about religion in general and Christianity in particular, some of which stem from distorted views and misunderstandings that the church can respond well to if it's well equipped. The Searching for God Study Guide will draw you and your small group into a close look at the Christian faith and how it makes better sense of the universe and human nature than two of the most common non-Christian theories: naturalism and relativism. It then examines the central event in the Christian story, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and how to make a strong defense of this event. Holly Lazzaro expertly leads participants into deeper reflection on the insights provided in the video study by top scholars such as Lee Strobel, William Lane Craig, Gary Habermas, J. Warner Wallace, Nabeel Qureshi, Paul Copan, and many more. This video-based study is designed to be experienced in a group setting or any small gathering and includes video teaching notes, group discussion questions, personal reflections, and Scripture readings. Searching for God Video Study (025986100711) sold separately.

Should we believe in God? In this brisk introduction to modern atheism, one of the world's greatest science writers tells us why we shouldn't. Richard Dawkins was fifteen when he stopped believing in God. Deeply impressed by the beauty and complexity of living things, he'd felt certain they must have had a designer. Learning about evolution changed his mind. Now one of the world's best and bestselling science communicators, Dawkins has given readers, young and old, the same opportunity to rethink the big questions. In twelve fiercely funny, mind-expanding chapters, Dawkins explains how the natural world arose without a designer—the improbability and beauty of the “bottom-up programming” that engineers an embryo or a flock of starlings—and challenges head-on some of the most basic assumptions made by the world's religions: Do you believe in God? Which one? Is the Bible a “Good Book”? Is adhering to a religion necessary, or even likely, to make people

good to one another? Dissecting everything from Abraham's abuse of Isaac to the construction of a snowflake, Outgrowing God is a concise, provocative guide to thinking for yourself. Praise for Outgrowing God “My son came home from his first day in the sixth grade with arms outstretched plaintively demanding to know: ‘Have you ever heard of Jesus?’ We burst out laughing. Maybe not our finest parenting moment, given that he was genuinely distraught. He felt that he had woken up one day to a world in which his peers were expressing beliefs he found frighteningly unreasonable. He began devouring books like The God Delusion, books that helped him formulate his own arguments and helped him stand his ground. Dawkins's new book is special in the terrain of atheists' pleas for humanism and rationalism precisely since it speaks to those most vulnerable to the coercive tactics of religion. As Dawkins himself says in the dedication, this book is for ‘all young people when they're old enough to decide for themselves.’ It is also, I must add, for their parents.”—Janna Levin, author of Black Hole Blues “When someone is considering atheism I tell them to read the Bible first and then Dawkins. Outgrowing God—second only to the Bible!”—Penn Jillette, author of God, No!

Tim Cawkwell's knowledge and experience of the cinema has been poured into his writings about it. Originally published in 2004, this new edition sees some substantial revisions: some previous material has been dropped and a lot of new material has been added, especially on more recent films.

This is a book about a remarkable man - yet in an important sense it is not about this man at all. Soren Kierkegaard died in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the age of forty-two in 1855. His writings had little influence in his lifetime and after his death, even with the translation of some of his works into German, he was barely known. Yet today, he is internationally accepted as one of the world's greatest thinkers and is often considered the father of existentialism. Here, Peter Vardy makes Kierkegaard's often complex and difficult thinking accessible to a wide audience. He sketches a few of the central themes of Kierkegaard's thought and gives the reader a feeling for the way he approaches problems and some sense of the breadth of his work. This revised and expanded edition is an ideal introduction to Kierkegaard for both students and the general reader.

One day my son asked me, “Mom, how can God be a rock if He is alive?” Figures of speech are often used in our daily language, and they are also found throughout the Bible. Many children who think more literally find these phrases difficult to understand. This is especially common for those on the autism spectrum. Interpreting idioms can be particularly challenging for our literal thinkers. This book will help “shed light” on just a few of those found in the Bible.

This useful guide introduces the reader to the so-called ‘father of modern philosophy’ - Rene Descartes.

Apophatic theology, or negative theology, attempts to describe God, the Divine Good, by negation, to speak only in terms of what may not be said about the perfect goodness that is God. It is a way of coming to an understanding of who God is, which has played a significant role across centuries of Christian tradition but is very often treated with suspicion by those engaging in theological study today. This book seeks to introduce students to this oft-misunderstood form of spirituality. Beginning by placing apophatic spirituality within its biblical roots, the book later considers the key pioneers of apophatic faith and a diverse range of thinkers, including C. S. Lewis and Keats, to inform us in our negative theological journey. A final section explores what difference a negative theological approach might make to our practice and our liturgy.

This book shares what a diverse array of Jewish thinkers have said about the interrelated questions of God, the Book, the Jewish people, and the Land of Israel. Accessible chapters present fascinating insights from ancient times to today, from Philo to Judith Plaskow. An intriguing and provocative book for readers wrestling with big questions.

Continuum's Guides for the Perplexed are clear, concise and accessible introductions to thinkers, writers and subjects that students and readers can find especially challenging. Concentrating spe-

cifically on what it is that makes the subject difficult to fathom, these books explain and explore key themes and ideas, guiding the reader towards a thorough understanding of demanding material. Benedict de Spinoza is a major philosopher of enduring influence and importance, whose work is encountered by all serious students of Western philosophy; his Ethics is one of the seminal works of moral, religious and political thought. Nevertheless, Spinoza is a considerable challenge for the modern student; his language, rooted in the vocabulary of late medieval scholasticism is frequently opaque, while the esoteric themes explored in his work often require elucidation. Spinoza: A Guide for the Perplexed provides that elucidation, offering a thorough account and analysis of Spinoza's key works and overall philosophical project. The text equips the reader with the necessary means to draw full and clear understanding from Spinoza's often inaccessible language and complex philosophical system and method. His Ethics and political treatises are covered in detail; Spinoza's 'geometrical' approach to his subject is opened up, and his obscure terminology fully explained. The book concludes with a valuable assessment of Spinoza's enduring influence and his relevance for contemporary philosophical debates and concerns. It is an excellent support resource for anyone trying to get to grips with this challenging and important philosopher.

A new confirmation program, built on the Baptismal Covenant from The Book of Common Prayer, encourages youth and adults to share their own faith journeys. Adaptable to a variety of approaches, including six- to 12-week programs, Confirmation retreats or conferences. Easy-to-use session plans include many interactive activities for youth and adults that encourage reflection and discussion. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

In his revolutionary book Cross Vision, Gregory A. Boyd proposed his groundbreaking "cruciform hermeneutic," a way for Christians to make sense of the violence of the Old Testament by seeing it through the crucifixion of Jesus. Now Boyd has teamed up with pastor Deacon Godsey to develop this study guide for individuals and groups. Using this guide, readers can work through Cross Vision chapter by chapter, consider various stories from the Bible, and hear from Boyd about questions that have come up since he wrote the book. The Cross Vision Study Guide is an essential aid for anyone wrestling with depictions of a violent God, yet living with faith in a peaceful Christ.

Does God Still Do Miracles Today? A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles will give you confidence in and awareness of the supernatural realm as you learn how to flourish spiritually by experiencing more miraculous interventions in your life and ministry. Internationally renowned philosopher J. P. Moreland looks at the nature of miracles and explains why bearing and receiving credible testimony to God's miraculous acts is a crucial feature of a mature Jesus-follower. He also shows how to distinguish a real miracle from a mere coincidence. Miracles bring comfort to believers, strengthening faith in God and creating boldness in our lives. While miraculous healings have occurred frequently throughout church history, Moreland provides data showing how the last fifty years have seen a massive outbreak of miracles and supernatural activity. Today, he argues, the church should humbly expect to see more of these miraculous works of God than we do. Moreland looks at topics like: The relationship between sickness and suffering, along with two different ways to pray for healing How to discern clearly the difference between a genuine miracle and a mere coincidence How to increase your faith that petitionary prayer really works and what to make of unanswered prayer Six ways God speaks to us and advice for hearing God wisely and biblically The role angels play in our lives, how they appear to us, and how to combat demonic influence The biblical basis for most Near-Death Experiences and what we can learn from them A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles increases your expectation and hope that God can and often does miraculously intervene to bring help and comfort. Moreland shows that it makes rational sense to step out and engage in employing Kingdom power and to strengthen courage to witness and act on behalf of the gospel of Jesus. Filled with inspiring, credible, motivating accounts of miracles, he covers five different kinds of supernatural activities and provides practical wisdom about how to begin practices such as healing prayer and learning to deal with the demonic.

Christianity: An Explorer's Guide offers a comprehensive and compassionate over-view of Christiani-

ty, pointing to a living experience of God's love in Jesus. The book is an ideal survey for the enquirer and will give Christians a deeper understanding of their faith and the fascinating and varied history of the church. The book describes the life-changing experience of meeting Jesus. It tells the Gospel story, describes the history of the Church and outlines its beliefs. The book also describes how in their spiritual and practical life followers of Jesus try to copy his example of loving service of others. 'I am inspired by this brilliant book, which will be invaluable to those who wish to know more about Whilst fascinated, I never once felt I was being proselytised. A tour de force.' Baroness Rabbi Julia Neuberger. Marcus Braybrooke is an Anglican priest, President of the World Congress of Faiths and prolific author

The Christian Church has continually looked to its beginnings to discover new insights and new strength for the present. Today the interest in early Christianity and its leaders is as lively as it ever was. Those who know these early days never tire in calling today's Church back to the Scriptures and the Spirit directed history of the Church. In this book, Dr. Williams has given the preacher, teacher, and concerned layman a very readable, concise, and helpful guide to the teachings of the early Church leaders. He communicates the exciting quality of Christian theology as it came to expression in the thought and life of men to whom the Christian Church today is greatly in debt, and from whom, with humility, it can continue to learn and find inspirations. The early Church Fathers were concerned, in the words of the Apostle Peter, to make a defense to anyone who called them to account for the hope that was in them. They were concerned, as the Church is today, to understand the faith for themselves and to explain it to those outside the Church. Their answers to the following problems are still relevant: the relationship of God to all the world, redemption, the Trinity, the person of Christ, the relationship between God's will and man's, and the problem of church and state. Today the Church still possesses the faith that overcomes the world and seeks to practice that faith in all of life. Twentieth century Christians can be strengthened in that possession and practice through an acquaintance with the teachings of the early Church Fathers. This book will guide them.

The Cambridge Guide to Jewish History, Religion, and Culture is a comprehensive and engaging overview of Jewish life, from its origins in the ancient Near East to its impact on contemporary popular culture. The twenty-one essays, arranged historically and thematically, and written specially for this volume by leading scholars, examine the development of Judaism and the evolution of Jewish history and culture over many centuries and in a range of locales. They emphasize the ongoing diversity and creativity of the Jewish experience. Unlike previous anthologies, which concentrate on elite groups and expressions of a male-oriented rabbinic culture, this volume also includes the range of experiences of ordinary people and looks at the lives and achievements of women in every place and era. The many illustrations, maps, timeline, and glossary of important terms enhance this book's accessibility to students and general readers.

Do you describe yourself as spiritual but not religious? Whether young or old, church connected or not, are you spiritually restless for an authentic faith life but do not find conventional religious teachings pertinent to you? This accessible guide to a meaningful spiritual life is a salve for your soul. It reinterprets traditional religious teachings central to the Christian faith - God, Jesus, faith, prayer, morality and more - in ways that connect with people who have outgrown the beliefs and devotional practices that once made sense to them.

An Introduction to Kierkegaard is an accessible introduction to one of the most influential philosophers of the nineteenth century. Peter Vardy is an internationally known scholar with several best-selling titles. Søren Kierkegaard died in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the age of forty-two in 1855. His writings had little influence in his lifetime and after his death; even with the translation of some of his works into German, he was barely known. Yet today, he is internationally accepted as one of the world's greatest thinkers and is often considered the father of existentialism. The purposes of this book are very similar to Kierkegaard's own purposes, namely: • to help you think through the meaning and purpose of your life and what Christianity means today • to reintroduce Christianity

into a world that has largely forgotten what the word means • to show the limitation of reason and modern philosophy Here, Peter Vardy makes Kierkegaard's often complex and difficult thinking accessible to a wide audience. He sketches a few of the central themes of Kierkegaard's thought and gives the reader a feeling for the way he approaches problems and some sense of the breadth of his work. This revised and expanded edition is an ideal introduction to Kierkegaard for both students and the general reader.

Use what you have! Alice Mathews reminds you to look at what you have and make good use of it to spread the Good News. In this insightful book you'll examine the lives of Dorcas, Lydia, Phoebe, and other women in the New Testament to see how God's Spirit directs lives based on individual gifts and abilities. Find inspiration to reflect on God's will for your life, as you consider what you have the passion, ability, and opportunity to do. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit's leading and see how He can help you make wise choices in using your gifts for the Lord.

Providing an excellent overview of the latest thinking in Maimonides studies, this book uses a novel philosophical approach to examine whether Maimonides' Guide for the Perplexed contains a naturalistic doctrine of salvation after death. The author examines the apparent tensions and contradictions in the Guide and explains them in terms of a modern philosophical interpretation rather than as evidence of some esoteric meaning hidden in the text.

Abigail is a curious young lady who attends church for the first time. She has lots of questions, but her mom doesn't know how to respond. Luckily, Doctor Dude and his sidekick dog Dawnie come to the rescue!

In a pluralistic culture with competing beliefs and values, there is a desire to get back to basics-the classic expressions of the Christian faith. This 365-day devotional introduces readers to the minds and hearts of many of the most influential thinkers in church history. Each reading, modernized for today's audience, takes readers through two millennium of riches-from the early church fathers through the Medieval thinkers and the great councils, and on into the Reformation, the Renaissance, and the birth of the modern mind. An elegant edition for the nightstand, the desk, or the coffee table, How Great Is Our God is one part historical tour, one part devotional, one part guide for living, and one part gift book. It will appeal to every Christian who wants to hear the hearts and discover the classic voices of Christianity through the ages.

The attempt to define what we mean by God, and indeed goodness, has been the central preoccupation of Western religion and philosophy.

This beginner's guide provides readers with the information they need to make informed decisions about frequently asked questions surrounding the existence of God - such as who is God and what do we mean when we say God? Key themes and ideas are presented clearly in jargon-free language.

This volume creatively explores the history of Christian thought by imagining a series of twenty-nine dialogues and debates among key figures throughout church history. It traces the history of theology via such conversation partners as Augustine and Pelagius, Calvin and Arminius, Barth and Brunner, and Bultmann and Pannenberg. Each imagined dialogue includes a brief summary that introduces the figures under consideration, a more detailed assessment of the thinkers and theological issues presented, and a guide for further reading. This approach offers readers an entertaining, informative, and concise history of Christian thought.

The reader is about to embark on a journey of discovery and perhaps even reckoning. Religion and science have been understood as inherently at odds and inimical toward each other. However, both employ metaphor: religion when it calls the spirit descending upon Jesus a dove, science when it describes electrons as a current flowing through a wire, for only fluids flow and electrons are not a fluid. Both use myths: some religions in the sense that there was a Golden Age of humans in a garden, science when it promises unlimited progress. Both enlist hypothetical entities: some religions when a storm heralds that the gods are angry, science with the existence of a vacu-

um and a frictionless surface. And each bears its fundamentalist contingent: just observe a debate between creationists and evolutionists and the zeal and fervor with which the Bible and Darwin must be defended at any cost, no matter what. Given all this, it becomes readily apparent that religion and science display more in common than was once expected. And that is precisely what is in peril in the following pages--our expectations. May the intrepid traveler benefit from the voyage.

Wrong- unprofessional - violent - unsustainable - pollutant - unjust exclusive - sexist - unhealthy - unfair - abusive - greedy Are these the new words for sin? Will they replace the older models of sin that many people find so unbelievable or repugnant? Talking about sin or wrongdoing is a way of naming the boundaries we want to set in our lives. It helps us name the places which - in our better moments- we do not want to go and do not want the society we live in to take us. "The 24 contributors from a variety of contexts challenge the reader to confront some deeply held attitudes and motivations that are present in our lives, and they attempt to articulate as clearly as possible the varied contemporary understandings of sin."

Provides a clear introduction to the difficult topic of existentialism and offers suggestions for its relevance today

From its humble beginnings as a minor Jewish sect in a remote part of the Roman empire, Christianity has grown to become a major world religion with more than two billion adherents worldwide. But what does it mean to be Christian' in the increasingly multi-religious setting of the 21st century? Featuring a warm and open-minded approach, this is an informative introduction to the fundamental tenets of Christianity, helping the reader to understand what Christians believe and giving special attention to questions that are raised about Christian beliefs in our multicultural and post-modern setting. Addressing topics such as Global Christianity, The Identity of God, Christ and Salvation, The Holy Spirit and the Church, and The Meaning and End of History, and comparing Christianity's teachings with those of other religions along the way, A Pocket Guide to Christian Belief provides an accessible and contemporary introduction to the major Christian doctrines, unpacking their meaning for today's world.

Hailed as a "classic reference book" by The Right Reverend James Jones, former Bishop of Liverpool, The New Testament Guide provides readers with a complete all-in-one journey through the books of the New Testament. Easy to read and navigate, this volume explores, explains, and brings to life the history, stories, cultures, and messages of each book. The accessibility of Andrew Knowles' writing demystifies many aspects of the scriptures, and deepens our understanding of their principles, doctrine, and messages for us today. Interspersed with boxed features that highlight key events, places, people and biblical passages, The New Testament Guide is an ideal introduction for new scholars and interested readers alike who have little or no grounding in the subject.

This book answers some of the questions like, How do we recognize evil today?

Why does God feel so far away? The reason--and the solution--is in your attachment style. We all experience moments when God's love and presence are tangible. But we also experience feeling utterly abandoned by God. Why? The answer is found when you take a deep look at the other important relationships in your life and understand your attachment style. Through his years working in trauma recovery programs, extensive research into attachment science, and personal experiences with spiritual striving and abuse, licensed therapist Krispin Mayfield has learned to answer the question: Why do I feel so far from God? When you understand your attachment style you gain a whole new paradigm for a secure and loving relationship with God. You'll gain insights about: How you relate to others--both your strengths and weaknesses The practical exercises you can use to grow a secure spiritual attachment to God How to move forward on the spirituality spectrum and experience the Divine connection we all were created for You'll learn to identify and remove mixed messages about closeness with God that you may have heard in church or from well-meaning Christians. With freedom from the past, you can then chart a new path toward intimate connection with the God of the universe.