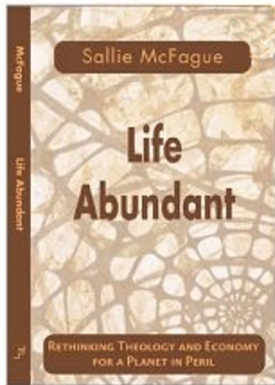


BOOK REVIEW

McFague, Sallie ed. *Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril (Searching for a New Framework)*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.



In this work, McFague outlines a life-centred world view and theology in response to a strong critique of the classical economic and human-centred world view. She proposes a framework for abundant living for all, not simply the privileged few. She quotes Dorothy Day's words: 'I wanted life and I wanted the abundant life. I wanted it for others to' (xiii).

The book is targeted at North American readers, and the North American lifestyle, but is equally relevant to all first world countries.

In this book McFague goes further than she did in her previous book, *Supernatural Christians*, where she presented the case for loving earth in the same way that we love God and one another. She admits that this earlier work ignored the role of economics and she redresses this in the current book where she describes a Christian theology of the good life, and her own personal theology.

In a section entitled 'The Practice of Planetary Theology', McFague outlines her own spiritual journey, explains why theology matters and how she does theology.

As a Christian theologian, she argues strongly for the relevance of theology, believing that Christianity and Christian theology have a role to play in calling people to question their assumptions and face the results of consumer-oriented economic theory. Similarly, they have a role to play in presenting an alternative framework around key questions of meaning and belief which are the basis for spiritual practice and ethical behaviour.

The book covers some of the central Christian doctrines, offering the outlines of a mini systematic theology. McFague discusses God and the world, Christ and salvation, and life in the Spirit.

In the section entitled 'The Context of Planetary Theology', she critiques the contemporary western economic worldview, and provides an assessment of the consumer society. She then explores an ecological economic worldview and offers an assessment of the ecological society.

This is a book that can assist Christians assess their own religious story in the light of the larger Christian tradition and the felt needs of the planet. It is both an apology for an ecologically driven theology and a model of how theology itself might be expressed.