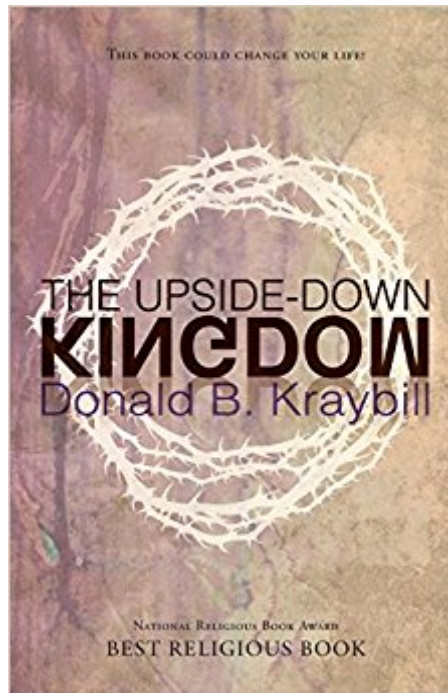




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The Upside-Down Kingdom



Synopsis

Completely revised in 2003, *The Upside-Down Kingdom* continues to change people's lives. In it, Donald B. Kraybill shows how the kingdom of God announced by Jesus appeared upside-down in first-century Palestine. Jesus wins by serving and triumphs by losing. Today, God's way still looks upside-down as it breaks into diverse cultures around the world. Translated into six languages, and with 100,000 sold, this book continues to call many to radical discipleship.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

During my studies at Fresno Pacific University, a Mennonite university, *The Upside Down Kingdom* by Donald Kraybill was required reading for the completion of a degree in social work. Through a move across country the book was lost, and I was so pleased to discover a copy for my Kindle. I had been very impressed by the content of the book and reflected often upon the radical view of the social application of Jesus's teachings. It was a joy to be able to again have the book in my possession. Mr. Kraybill is Mennonite and the theme of passive non-violent resistance is elucidated through his setting forth the Kingdom of God as being a dynamic presence for good now and not at some future time. The Jesus of this writing is not some absolutist figure concerned with just the hereafter destiny of humanity; he represents a God of justice, compassion, and strength who is intimately involved in the revelation of the whole of creation made in His image and likeness, as set forth in the first chapter of Genesis. Kraybill sees salvation as including the very practical and tangible expression of divinity made manifest in humanity and in the establishment of an equitable

and just society. A thought provoking and ideal changing read for any individual passionate for equanimity and social justice and reform.

I read this book when it first came out. Then, someone borrowed it and did not return it. I bought for a project I am working on. If you wish to understand why so many are fleeing the church, why spirituality and religion are being separated and how the church can recover it's authentic good news story this book is a must read. Grounded in research but told in very clear language one discovers a Kingdom we moderns may have never heard of or certainly not experienced.

Kierkegaard once wrote, "The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minuet we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly." This book is dangerous and a threat to Christianity as we know it. Thank God.

I think some of the chapters are great and very insightful. I like the chapter on nonviolence and nonresistance and the observations about women. I agree with much of what Kraybill says about being more careful of what we do with the wealth that God has entrusted to us. Jesus commanded us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to those without, visit the sick; these are things that Christians need to get better at doing (myself included). These are needs that if not met will result in death. However in my understanding of his text (specifically Ch 6), Kraybill seems to suggest that Christians ought to redistribute their wealth to the poor (even if the basic needs mentioned above have been met). I don't think Jesus intended us to take 40% of our salary and give it to someone who has these needs met, but is just not as comfortable as the middle class. Jesus chided the rich man for not helping poor Lazarus find a home to live in and food to eat. I agree with Kraybill that the gospel is not just about thoughts and agreements, but about doing; however, his text has some sections which seem to be too heavily influenced by secular sociology.

great book must read

Anyone interested in following Jesus should read this book. Anyone who wonders why institutional churches have not been a greater force for good in the world should read this book. Anyone who wants to transcend the current political climate around the world should read this book.

A very worthwhile interpretation of application of New Testament and its roots all the way back to the

origins of the Old Testament. One can come to better understand the New Commandment of "Love One Another" is inclusive of all peoples and has been the underpinning since Genesis. It was good in the 70's and now revised and refreshingly clearer in the 21st Century

One of the best portraits of the context in which Jesus ministered and how disruptive his words really are when not pulled out of the significant cultural layers behind the words.

As a growing leader this book is amazing in its ancient, yet innovative teachings. Lessons about how we are to live an abundant life like Jesus. If we can open our minds to paradoxical ideas about servitude and its relationship to leading people... We can find ourselves on new horizons for the development of mankind.

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