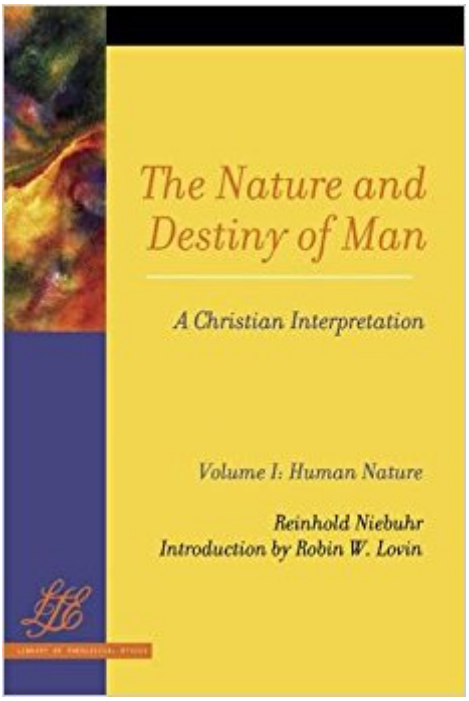
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The Nature And Destiny Of Man: A Christian Interpretation (2 Volume Set)



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Synopsis

The Nature and Destiny of Man issues a vigorous challenge to Western civilization to understand its roots in the faith of the Bible, particularly the Hebraic tradition. The growth, corruption, and purification of the important Western emphases on individuality are insightfully chronicled here. This book is arguably Reinhold Niebuhr's most important work. It offers a sustained articulation of Niebuhr's theological ethics and is considered a landmark in twentieth-century thought.The Library of Theological Ethics series focuses on what it means to think theologically and ethically. It presents a selection of important and otherwise unavailable texts in easily accessible form. Volumes in this series will enable sustained dialogue with predecessors though reflection on classic works in the field.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reinhold Niebuhr (1892 - 1971) was an ethicist, theologian, and political philosopher who taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York City from 1928 to 1960. Before that, for thirteen years, he was minister of Detroit's Bethel Evangelical Church.

Even for a religious agnostic like myself, this work by the Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971) is a wonderful read. 'The Nature and Destiny of Man' (two volumes, 1943), was ranked by Modern Library (an American publishing company which later morphed into Random House) as one of the top 20 nonfiction books of the twentieth century. Niebuhr received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964. Another excellent read from Niebuhr is his earlier book 'Moral Man and

Immoral Society: Study in Ethics and Politics’ (1932) .

While this book is very interesting, do not buy this version. It is a slap in the face. Considering it’s published by a Christian publisher, it’s a shocking display of parsimony. All they did was Xerox the original book into this new binding. They charge $49 and did not bother to reset it. I’m amazed. As a result, except for the front matter, the whole book looks like it was published in the ’40s. Broken type, uneven lines, archaic typeface.Really really shoddy. Buy a used copy of the original.

An excellent book for any religion! I am Jewish, and am finding it quite fascinating!

In the Nature and Destiny of Man, Reinhold Niebuhr, the influential "Christian realist" theologian, deals with big issues: the nature of man, history, and the end of the history. He offers deep - I would say profound - support for his views, but not proof. He offers one interpretation of the meaning of life’s mysteries but not the only possible interpretation.Niebuhr begins by arguing that the Christian view of man’s nature, compared with alternative views, is more complete and offers more explanatory power. According to the Christian view, man is made in the image of God. Unlike alternative views that establish a good/bad duality between mind and body, in the Christian view, both mind and body are good because both are created by God. Man is made to live in harmony with others and God’s will but violates this harmony when he - inevitably - makes himself the center and source of meaning for his life.Man has tremendous creative and imaginative powers, and his mind can transcend both itself (since he can make his own thoughts the object of contemplation) and the natural world (since he can manipulate natural forces to create new possibilities and vitalities of nature). Because man cannot find ultimate meaning in what he can transcend, he cannot find ultimate meaning within himself or in the natural world. This is why we turn to religion.Christianity is a religion of revelation, meaning that Christians believe that God must speak to us in order for us to arrive at a correct understanding of his nature and will. If the Bible is to be believed, God spoke to man throughout history but his message was not clearly understood. Because of our misunderstanding, and because God’s law is so radically different from man’s law, Jesus’ message was highly offensive to his listeners. What Jesus told us is that God overcomes evil not by destroying evildoers but by taking their evil upon himself. God’s love is suffering love.To live in accordance with the law of love seems to require that we accept the reality of an existence beyond this life. If the reality of this other existence is denied, then Jesus’ statement that "whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" makes no sense.Yet, we are not to despise this life. To be

righteous, to a Christian, means to serve others, and we need to strive after intermediate and partial arrangements that help point the way toward ultimate resolutions and revelations. God provides ultimate meaning. Just as the human mind can provide meaning to a sequence of chronological events by comprehending them all in an instant, so God provides meaning by comprehending all events both prospectively and retrospectively.This poor summary of what Niebuhr has to say on the largest subjects makes it sound as if this is a very otherworldly book. It is not. The book contains a great deal of keen observation of human behavior and current events at the outset of World War II, and Niebuhr later became extremely influential in the U.S. State Department. Niebuhr's observations on politics and social justice still speak to us with great immediacy.

My review of "The Nature and Destiny of Man."This is one of the most insightful books I have ever read. The way the bookarticulates the Human Nature of man, and why we think the way we do is secondto none. Also expressed in this book is man's finite mind set, and how we foolourselves into thinking we are at one point, when we really are not. This is a mustread for anyone who wants to elevate their mind set to another level.

excellent text and service

Reinhold Neither is a great gift to serious people.

It was with great humility that I added this timeless work to my little library after stumbling my way through the graceful and ardent work. Niebuhr's message is certainly a source of great healing for the political polarization and the cultural abyss separating citizens of the United States today. Anyone who approaches this work will be touched and enlightened.

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