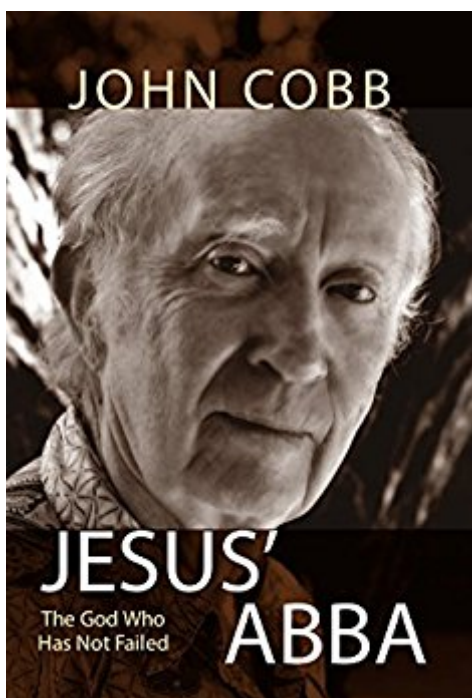


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Jesus' Abba: The God Who Has Not Failed



Synopsis

The church has emphasized ideas about God that have marginalized Jesus's understanding of his spiritual Father, his Abba. We commonly think of God as a demanding lawgiver and judge, an omnipotent ruler, or an ultimate philosophical principle. None of these works well today. In contrast, Jesus's view of God as spiritual Abba still truly works when it is given a chance. Christians should be open to accepting the ideas of the one they call Lord and Savior. In Jesus's Abba, one of the greatest theologians of this generation boldly argues for a new view of God, through the eyes of Jesus. John B. Cobb Jr. interprets the whole of Jesus's life and ministry, and death and resurrection, in light of Jesus's understanding of God. He also shows that Paul shared this understanding and that it played a central role in Paul's churches. Ultimately, Cobb argues that Jesus's view of God fits our actual experience today, that it is supported by the evidence of the sciences, and that it encourages appreciative learning from other wisdom traditions and cooperation with them in redeeming the world. With this book, John B. Cobb Jr. makes his ultimate and most impassioned plea for us to rediscover God through Jesus.

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Customer Reviews

I cannot be as glowing about this book as the other reviewers so far. I do like

Cobb's *Abba*, but I am quite unconvinced that it was also Jesus's *Abba*. I accept that the characteristics Cobb ascribes to God from the Jewish tradition that shaped Jesus were probably part of how Jesus understood God, but I am not convinced that Jesus necessarily rejected some of the characteristics that Cobb rejects. In other words, I think Cobb may be guilty of sifting the evidence so as to find the Jesus he wants to find. I also find Cobb's extended rant against modernity to be off the mark. What he is really ranting against is scientific materialism, which is the pathology of modernity rather than its true achievement. Christianity will only become increasingly irrelevant if it rejects modernity and turns back to premodern belief. I realize that is not what Cobb is advocating, but the book could leave one confused on that point. As I said, I like Cobb's *Abba*. He outlines an understanding and emotional stance toward God that has great merit for progressive Christians. I just think the book has significant weaknesses.

I have read John Cobb's excellent process theology books for years (I'm 82). He integrated in this book his brilliant grasp of the content with his personal faith. I really liked his affirming his own position that for him Jesus is the Way and the Truth and the Life and, yet, with full respect for, and in unconditional dialogue with, those who would disagree. His great wisdom so well articulated in his latter years is a great inspiration for me in my latter years to "keep on keeping on." Thanks John!

Cobb's book inspires us to work hard and consistently to build a deep and joyful relationship with Abba. This relationship can lead to faith and confidence in the love and empowering power of Abba to work through people to build loving, welcoming, embracing, caring communities - uniting all races, religions, and belief systems. Cobb takes us back to the essence of Jesus' teachings, exposes fallacies in many supposedly Christian beliefs that resulted in abominations like the Holocaust, and explores common ground between Abba's message of unfailing love and the key tenets of other major religions and beliefs. Cobb is a brilliant theologian and philosopher. Those of us without his deep grounding in these fields may have trouble following some of his arguments. Nevertheless, his book is worth reading - and perhaps re-reading - just to be reminded that Abba's

deepest desire is to enjoy an intimate parental relationship with each individual on Planet Earth - and the second wish is "like unto it": that we might "love [our] neighbors as ourselves."

I'm not a process person but I found Cobb give language to thoughts and ideas people I serve have. The reason in bought the book was because he would be at a conference I was attending. The book itself was a very loving picture of Abba and a correct critique of credal Christianity. My favorite part of the book was a critique of his own camp and it's failings of creating the atmosphere for Christians to love one God the God of the Bible. Cobb doesn't shy away from his beliefs and because he is able to see the faults in his own tribes thinking gives me the opportunity to really listen. He is as loving in person and his writing and I have a lot of respect for this work. His five points that he considers throughout the book are food for thought and he does a very good job explaining there implications on the church. Thank you Dr Cobb for this book and for signing my copy.

Excellent rethinking of Jesus and his Father (Abba). At a time when simplistic versions of God stack up against militant atheism, Cobb's Abba may be the answer. Thank you, Fortress, for bringing this book to our times.

I give this book 5 stars for the basic theme of finding again Jesus' Abba, the God of love and compassion, the caring, loving father God Jesus knew so intimately and claiming again this God in our lives. This is a theologically and philosophically dense book and also a personal witness of John Cobb's life and search for God.

Fantastic book. Opens our eyes to the real meaning of Jesus' coming and his ministry.

The first chapter on God as 'Jesus' Abba' is the most controversial, the rest of the book serves as a useful introduction to process theology.

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