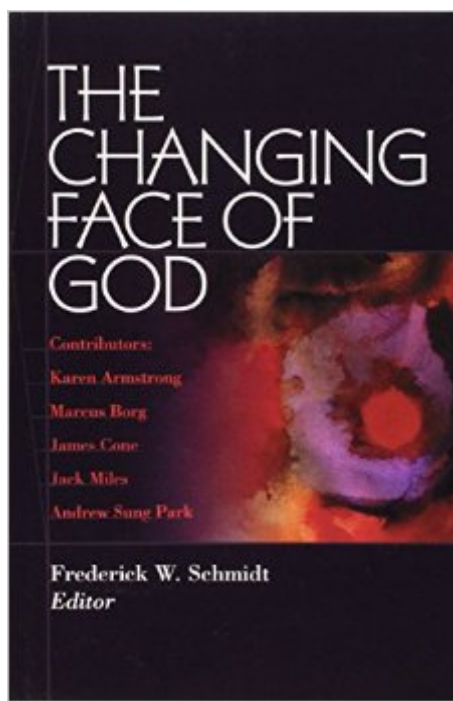


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# The Changing Face Of God



## Synopsis

"Does the face of God change? Years ago I would have said, 'No.' Countless hymns, passage of Scripture and confessions of faith assert or imply the changelessness of God. To take issue with traditions that are centuries, if not millennia old, seemed to be daunting and misguided....But when the great professions of confidence in God harden into philosophical propositions, one is bound to ask: What difference would it make to say that God has only one face? Even if true in some sense, the fact of the matter is that features each of us would count as necessary and changeless would be a matter of considerable debate." - From the Introduction In 1998/99 five scholars presented lectures at Washington National Cathedral about our images of God and what difference they make. This book, and its companion videos, will allow parish study groups and individuals to consider and discuss the viewpoints of Marcus Borg, Karen Armstrong, Jack Miles, James Cone, and Andrew Sung Park.

## Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: MOREHOUSE PUBLISHING; large type edition edition (June 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0819218014

ISBN-13: 978-0819218018

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #999,615 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #227 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Agnosticism](#) #19003 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology](#) #21578 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies > Theology](#)

## Customer Reviews

Dr. Schmidt and the distinguished contributors to The Changing Face of God offer very broad perspective in an easily approachable package. Thanks and admiration to Dr. Schmidt are in order for having the wisdom to share in book form for all to experience an important lecture program at the Washington National Cathedral. I think it serves equally well for group or individual study. My own "Spiritual Journey" consists of picking up pieces along the way from clergy and lay alike, and seeing how they fit into my personal doctrine puzzle. Comparing and contrasting these perspectives to my own about who God is has helped validate some of my feelings, delineate others, and even

dispense with a few. That these learned scholars have some of the same doubts, concepts and questions as I do is compelling; and when presented in so much more eloquent terms than I am capable of thinking in, it is captivating. No doubt there are many theological authors, lecturers and homilists who can strike a chord in each of us. To me, the distinguishing characteristic of *The Changing Face of God* is the broad spectrum presented that might, in other circumstances, pose more questions than it answers. Instead, despite the eclectic backgrounds and experiences of the editor and the contributors, a pattern of new thinking about God emerged that helped me reach a new comfort level with my picture of God.

This collection of relatively short essays on humankind's changing perception of God is readable and very thought provoking. Each of the essayists is a well known author on theological topics and they present their points of view extremely well. Of special note are the essays by Karen Armstrong and Marcus Borg. The study questions at the end of each essay are, however, of limited value. They tend to be a bit simplistic for adult discussions. They would probably be useful if you were using this book with younger people.

*The Changing Face of God*, edited by Frederick Schmidt, gets to the heart of theological assertions that God is unchanging, but our understanding of God is not. We are continually being opened up to new revelation about God and God's nature and attributes. While no revelation is conclusive, each is insightful. Schmidt offers a chapter himself and gathers other amazing theologians and practitioners to share perceptions about metaphors and God, suffering and our struggle to reconcile suffering with a benevolent God, and other essays on the human longing to know and understand the God in whom they have faith. I've used this book in several undergraduate classes on Christian Theology and it works well in that setting.

this is a great book that makes you think and helps a person put things into perspective

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