



God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time

Desmond Tutu

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Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu has long been admired throughout the world for the heroism and grace he exhibited while encouraging countless South Africans in their struggle for human rights. In *God Has a Dream*, his most soul-searching book, he shares the spiritual message that guided him through those troubled times. Drawing on personal and historical examples, Archbishop Tutu reaches out to readers of all religious backgrounds, showing how individual and global suffering can be transformed into joy and redemption. With his characteristic humor, Tutu offers an extremely personal and liberating message. He helps us to “see with the eyes of the heart” and to cultivate the qualities of love, forgiveness, humility, generosity, and courage that we need to change ourselves and our world.

Echoing the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., he writes, “God says to you, ‘I have a dream. Please help me to realize it. It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious counterparts. When there will be more laughter, joy, and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing. I have a dream that my children will know that they are members of one family, the human family, God’s family, my family.’”

Addressing the timeless and universal concerns all people share, *God Has a Dream* envisions a world transformed through hope and compassion, humility and kindness, understanding and forgiveness.

God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time Details

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Arleen Lindstedt says

I would have given this a 5 ---- but it's not exceptional literature --- it's a warm, heartfelt, genuine account of our common humanity: that struggles and suffering aren't options; and that we must learn to live and see with the eyes of the heart....Live Ubuntu!

Sue says

I was disappointed with this, largely because it wasn't what I'd expected. The library catalog description spoke of it as a book in which Tutu shares the spiritual message that guided him as he helped guide the nation out of apartheid. From that, I expected it to be an account of what the nation was going through (and his role with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission) and how his faith supported him in those activities. Instead, I found it to be broad spiritual statements, designed to appeal to people of any faith, with occasional examples from South Africa's history to support his statements. I also had some problems with some of his faith statements. As an Anglican bishop, he's writing from a Christian perspective. Yet he speaks at times as if all faiths are part of one universal faith. I disagree.

Emily says

This was a great book - one I didn't expect to enjoy as much as I did. It's a beautiful read, and I could feel the love of the author coming through the pages.

This excerpt of the summary really expresses how I felt about it: "Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu has long been admired throughout the world for the heroism and grace he exhibited while encouraging countless South Africans in their struggle for human rights. In God Has a Dream, his most soul-searching book, he shares the spiritual message that guided him through those troubled times. Drawing on personal and historical examples, Archbishop Tutu reaches out to readers of all religious backgrounds, showing how individual and global suffering can be transformed into joy and redemption."

Definitely recommended!

JM says

Archbishop Tutu presents a radical way of viewing the relationship between God and Man. It was very soothing to listen to his voice as he expressed the goodness of God and God's dream of humans loving each other. If I were not a Baptist clergyman, I would be an Anglican priest, just so I could study under him!

Jim says

What a fantastic book! God has a dream - and that dream is is that we are His arms and legs that bring about transformation in this world. That without experiencing life with others, we are not fully human. The importance of how our Christianity is intended to change everything and everyone around us.

Plus, he used the word "wonky". I love that word.

Michelle Anderson says

This was an easy book to read with a very life changing message. Getting to sit down with this book and read it was like getting to sit down with you grandpa and listen to a lifetime of stories. I highly recommend this.

Anna-karin says

Wow. Tutu basically describes "pure religion and undefiled" (James 1:27) in this book in the sweetest and simplest way. I do not necessarily agree with every doctrine and social opinion that he puts forth, but definitely most of them! It is not often that someone can cut through all the complexity and excess of life and pare it down to some lovely basics that definitely point us to God, by way of our sisters and brothers all around the world.

Martin says

Arch-Bishop Tutu has been one of the world's premier voices for peace, hope, and reconciliation in the midst of some of the most intransigent strife and injustice.

"God Has a Dream" captures a life time of theology, both learned and experienced. With gentle wisdom, he shares what he has learned and what he still sees as hope for our world.

I would highly recommend this.

Linda says

A rather liberalk but uplifting book about God's work in our lives today. Tutu takes life experience from South Africa and explains God and his love for us. Perhaps the line of writing that people will be startled with is that statement that "God loves our enemies as much as he loves us". We must believe this if we cling to a loving all powerful God. God is so good and you will agree after reading this book.

blmagn says

A "light bulb" moment when reading this book...Our EFM group has struggled with the question as to whether or not God has a master plan. The author states it's not whether or not God has a plan, it's how fully humans choose to participate in the plan. Tutu radiates his spirit of love on every page!

Inder says

What a lovely little book, truly a vision of hope. It choked me up a bunch. Just the way he starts every chapter with "Dear Child of God," was enough to get me going. I'm not sure why I had such an emotional response - just the fact that someone who has lived through so much could be so compassionate, so hopeful?

It's not evenly written, and there are some less amazing parts, but overall, really beautiful. Also, he's surprisingly liberal. At least, it surprised me a little. But very pleasantly so.

In a valiant effort to clean out my "currently-reading" list, which is clogged with a couple big books I've put down (Vietnam and Karamazov) and others I barely started ages ago (like this one), I'm back to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who makes me cry, but it's not a bad thing.

More light reading for Inder!

Joanne says

This book moved me personally more than any of his others, maybe it was because I had just finished his biography so it was infinitely clear just how miraculous his gentle words are about allowing suffering to build all that is compassionate in us. Not a book for Christians, or Anglicans but a book for anyone who has hope for mankind, or just wants to have hope for mankind.

Joseph says

A slender read, Bishop Tutu has had an enormous impact on my perception of life, and deepened my connection to a God that is personal, not to make a pun but he has deepened my understanding of... A God that has a Dream, and not just for me. For all of us.

Michelle DeFields-Gambrel says

If I could only read one book besides the Bible, this would be it!!! God's message to us didn't end with Revelation and when I read this book about God's love for us and how God wants us to love each other in the same way, it just rings with Truth. Truly the most important book I've read in a long time!

Katie says

This isn't the kind of book I'd normally pick up. I initially bought it after hearing a lecture by Laura Van Dernoot Lipsky, who wrote a great book on secondary trauma. She quoted the Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hahn, and Desmond Tutu extensively and afterwards, in addition to her book, I bought a few by Thich Nhat Hahn and Desmond Tutu. It's taken me awhile to read this one, although it's a pretty short book.

I found it really comforting. As I've written about before, my relationship with God is often shaky and my relationship with the Christian church is basically severed. But ... I don't think you have to even have to believe in God (which I do) to appreciate this book, although Archbishop Tutu is religious, is Christian, and, obviously, is talking about God. However, the central message of the book is that God wants us to be good to each other – through our work, our choices, our lives. Reading the book was reaffirming in lots of ways – particularly about my work. I also appreciated the simplicity of the book - I think part of my problem with God/spirituality is that I over think it. Reading the book, I am reminded that I always feel closer to God when I'm not thinking so much – when I'm trying not to figure out the answer to everything.

All in all, I really liked the book. I think my favorite line was when Archbishop Tutu points out that people do good so much more frequently than people do evil and also that people in general just want to be good to each other. Archbishop Tutu isn't trying to deny that evil exists (obviously – he's stared it in the face), but reminds us that good can only exist because of evil and that good usually will out (which, if you think back over history, is true ... sometimes it just takes a long while).

Anyway, I'd recommend the book regardless of your religious or spiritual persuasion. It made me feel better about the world. Really.
