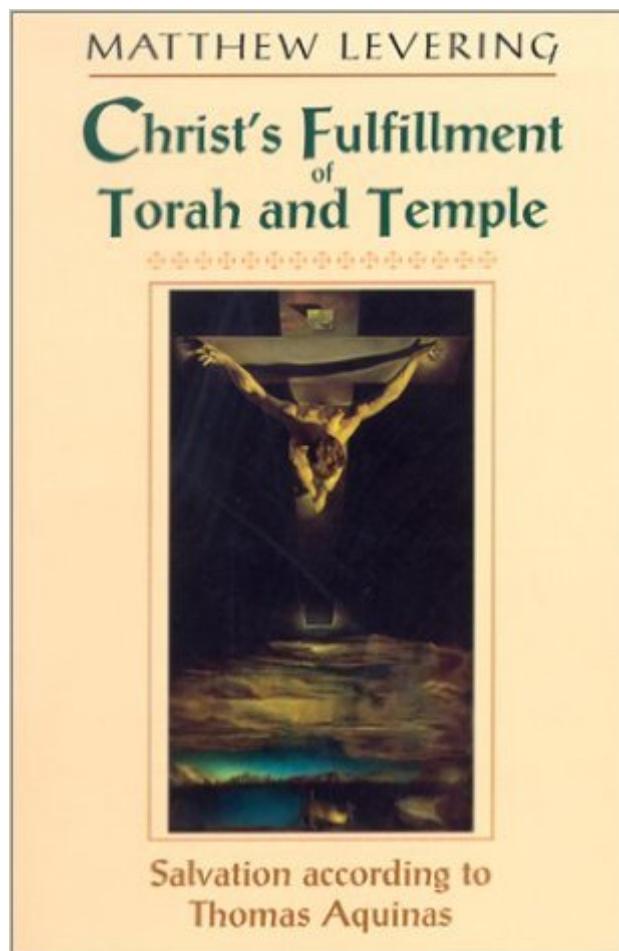


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Christ's Fulfillment Of Torah And Temple: Salvation According To Thomas Aquinas



Synopsis

Christ's Fulfillment of Torah and Temple is a concise introduction to the Christian theology of salvation in light of the contributions of Thomas Aquinas. In this cogent study, Matthew Levering identifies six important aspects of soteriology, each of which corresponds to an individual chapter in the book. Levering focuses on human history understood in light of the divine law and covenants, Jesus the Incarnate Son of God and Messiah of Israel, Jesus' cross, transformation in the image of God, the Mystical Body of Christ into which all human beings are called, and eternal life. Taking the doctrines of faith as his starting point, Levering's objective is to answer the questions of both Christians and non-Christians who desire to learn how and for what end Jesus "saves" humankind. Levering's work also speaks directly to contemporary systematic theologians. In contrast to widespread assumptions that Aquinas's theology of salvation is overly abstract or juridical, Levering demonstrates that Aquinas's theology of salvation flows from his reading of Scripture and deserves a central place in contemporary discussions. As a Thomistic contribution to contemporary theology, this fruitful study develops a theology of salvation in accord with contemporary canonical readings of Scripture and with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council on the fulfillment and permanence of God's covenants.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

How is it possible for Christians to affirm that Christ did not abolish the Old Law of Judaism but never practice that old law? How are we to understand the meaning of Christ's bloody

crucifixion? Matthew Levering's "Christ's Fulfillment of Torah and Temple" provides an engaging examination of a few "last things" by way of the insights and writings of St. Thomas Aquinas. Levering's book is extremely educational in providing the basis and framework for thinking about how it was that Christ came to fulfill and complete the two touchstones of Jewish identity, the Torah and the Temple. Along the way, the reader learns a lot of practical philosophy and theology. The book follows through those passages in the Summa Theologica in which Aquinas considers Jesus's relationship to the Torah and in Aquinas's Commentary on the Sentences by Peter Lombard which considers Jesus's relationship to the Torah. Levering's writings are very accessible to the lay reader. By reading Levering's book, the reader can come away with insights not only about the subject of Temple and Torah, but about topics that support and follow from those subjects as well. For anyone interested in the life of Christ, or who wants to know if there are answers to some fairly standard chestnuts posed by skeptics to Christians, this is an excellent resource. Moreover, Levering also deals with some surprising subjects and offers some surprising answers to some issues that the reader may not have considered, many of which I found to elicit a "gosh-wow" response in me as I was reading the book. Levering starts with the question posed by Michael Wyschogrod's question about why, if the Old Law was not superseded, convert Jews are not permitted to practice the Jewish mitzvoths? (p. 16).

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