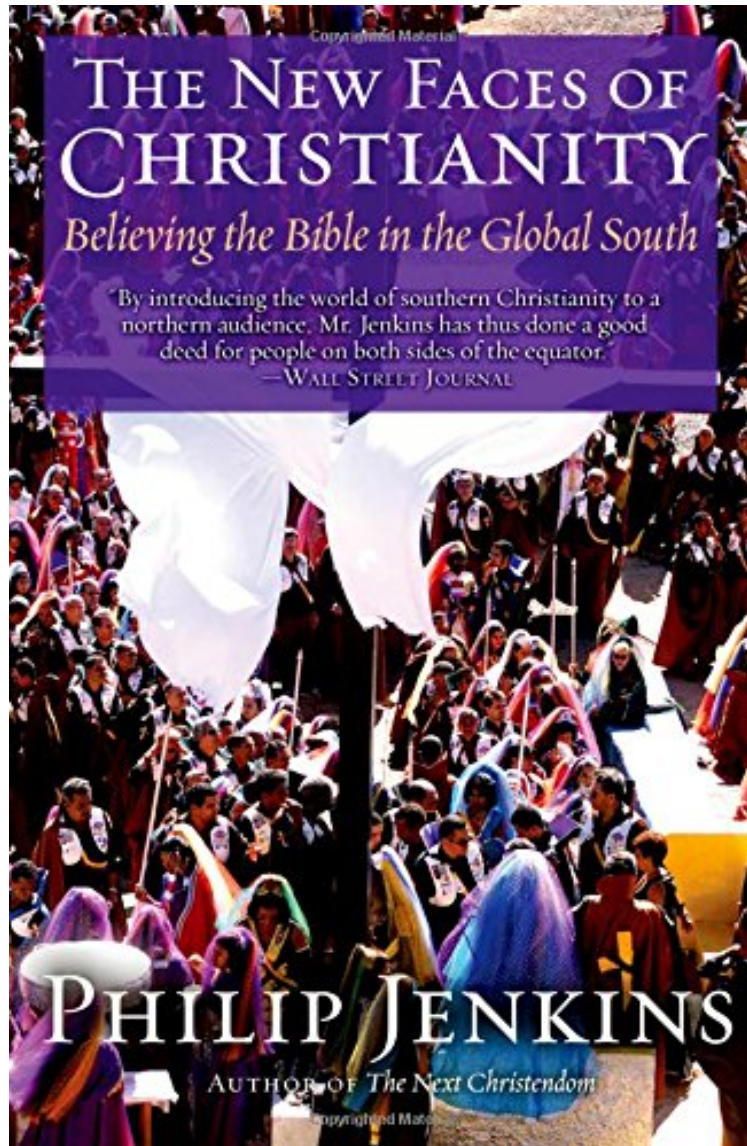


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The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South

Philip Jenkins

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Philip Jenkins : The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Faces of Christianity: Believing the Bible in the Global South:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fresh Perspective on a Wider Christianity By Steve An eye-opening look at the explosive growth of the church in Central-South America, Africa, and Asia (the Pacific Rim). Tectonic shifts in numbers, influence, doctrine and practice are virtually inevitable. Jenkins gives the Western church (Europe and North America) a heads-up on the coming wave of change. If you are interested in international missions this is a "must read."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Compelling Description of Global Christianity By N. Smith The New Faces of Christianity does a wonderful job of portraying the diversity - in faithfulness, maturity, and traditions - within global Christianity. There are many weaknesses, many deep and troubling problems in the churches in Asia and Africa. (Though, as Jenkins is quick to point out, there are plenty of problems in the Western church as well.) At the same time, there are large and growing expressions of historic Christian orthodoxy - often as a result of many of these cultures not suffering the effects of the Enlightenment. The global church never thinks to doubt the supernatural, communal, and public aspects of the Christian faith. Jenkins paints compelling pictures of the churches in Africa, for example, giving a central place to church community, to the public reading of Scripture, and to the implications of the Christian faith for all of life.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. New Knowledge on a Critical Topic By D. Muller Jenkins' treatment of the emerging shape of Christianity in Africa and Asia (not much on Latin America) is a major contribution in several respects:- Following on his previous book, *The Next Christendom*, it's an eye-opener on the astonishing growth of Christianity in the global South. Many think that Christianity is nearly unique to the Americas and Europe: there is much more happening, and it is encouraging.- Theologically, the book provides insights on the Bible as it is read in Africa and Asia that provide rich new perspectives for our own Bible study in the West. New insight into the universality of the biblical message.- One must ask what are the implications for Christian missions launched from the West. Do Africa and Asia still need us to teach them the Word? They are well on their way, and indeed are evangelizing in Europe and America themselves. Tremendously thought-provoking and worthwhile. A major contribution to the field.

Named one of the top religion books of 2002 by USA Today, Philip Jenkins' phenomenally successful *The Next Christendom* permanently changed the way people think about Christianity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Now, in this brilliant sequel, Jenkins takes a much closer look at Christianity in the global South, revealing what it is like, and what it means for the future. The faith of the South, Jenkins finds, is first and foremost a Biblical faith. Indeed, many Christians identify powerfully with the world portrayed in the New Testament--an agricultural world very much like their own, marked by famine and plague, poverty and exile. In the global South, as in the biblical world, belief in spirits and witchcraft are commonplace, and in many places--such as Nigeria, Indonesia, and Sudan--Christians are persecuted just as early Christians were. Thus the Bible speaks to them with a vividness and authenticity unavailable to most believers in the industrialized North. More important, Jenkins shows that throughout the global South, believers are reading the Bible with fresh eyes, and coming away with new and sometimes startling interpretations. Some of their conclusions are distinctly fundamentalist, but Jenkins finds an intriguing paradox, for they are also finding ideas in the Bible that are socially liberating, especially with respect to women's rights. Across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, such Christians are social activists in the forefront of a wide range of liberation movements. Anyone interested in the implications of these trends for the major denominations, for Muslim-Christian conflict, and for global politics will find *The New Faces of Christianity* provocative and incisive--and indispensable.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . In his highly acclaimed *The Next Christendom* (2002), Jenkins boldly proclaimed that the center of Christianity was moving slowly out of Europe and North America to Latin America, Africa and Asia. By 2025, he points out, Africa and Latin America will compete over which area is most Christian. In this compelling sequel, Jenkins probes more deeply the differences between northern and southern Christianity, examining various elements that characterize Christian life, especially belief in the Bible. He argues that the mostly agrarian Christian communities in Latin America, Africa and Asia resemble early Christian communities, enabling southern-hemisphere Christians to read the Bible with fresh eyes. Such communities read the Bible communally rather than individually, and they read it less critically and more literally than their North American and European counterparts. Explosive debates over the ordination of women and homosexuals and the authority of the Bible in various global denominations such as the Anglican Communion illustrate not only the stark theological differences between North and South but also the sheer size of the southern communions influencing the debate. As part of a proposed trilogy (his book on Europe's coming religious struggle is scheduled for late 2007), Jenkins's prescient religious histories offer brilliant insights on the state of modern Christianity. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist The Africans and Asians who are the world's newest Christians understand the Bible differently than Europeans and North Americans do, Jenkins argues, although probably not much differently than the earliest Christians did. For this new audience, the Bible possesses enormous authority as a gateway to literacy and the political as well as spiritual power of literacy. It systematizes ideas about, as Jenkins' chapter titles denote, "Old and New," "Poor and Rich," "Good and Evil," "Persecution and Vindication," "Women and Men," and "North and South," and it relays usable stories and practical wisdom to help these new Christians cope with and master

the challenges in their lives (they prefer the wisdom books Proverbs and the Epistle of James above all the others). Indeed, the Bible has for them the liberatory force it had for the peasants and outcasts who overwhelmed Rome with the first Christianity. Gracefully and cogently synthesizing mountains of research, Jenkins illuminates a crucial aspect of the burgeoning "Two-Thirds World" Christianity that he called attention to in *The Next Christendom* (2002). Ray Olson
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "[A] witty, erudite, and provocative reflection on popular (as opposed to academic) biblical interpretation ... *The New Faces* is a most illuminating and inspiring book--a must read." --Catholic Historical