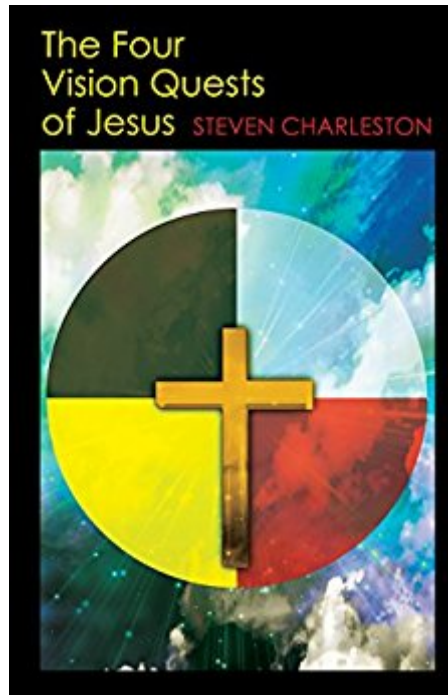




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The Four Vision Quests Of Jesus



Synopsis

A Choctaw Indian Christian bishop explores the teachings of the Bible through the lens of Native American tradition. "Steven Charleston" an Episcopal bishop and Choctaw native "takes a unique and provocative look into the "vision quests" of Jesus, and considers Christian biblical interpretation from the perspective of Native American theology. In these inspiring parallels he finds an enlightening spiritual harmony between North American indigenous communities and four specific experiences of Jesus as portrayed in the synoptic gospels. From Jesus' time in the wilderness, to the Transfiguration, to Gethsemane, and finally, to Golgotha, these quests offer insight into such topics as the need to enter the "we" rather than the "I" and the pursuit of freedom through discipline and concern for justice, compassion, and human dignity. The Four Vision Quests of Jesus reveals the values that are primary to the foundation of Native tradition and integral to Christian thought "the principles that lie at the very heart of what unites us all."

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Customer Reviews

This book and this author are amazing. I found it powerful to hear from a Native American Christian bishop the way to see Jesus' experiences as vision quests. My reaction was, "Of course! Why didn't somebody see this before?!" I recommend this book to anyone who is open to insights on the interspiritual journey. As an interfaith-interspiritual minister, I will utilize these insights and teaching in my ministry.

stunning book- opened my eyes and heart- to the journey of Jesus, the wisdom of the Native American peoples- and the integrity of the author. I have given this book to quite a few people- practitioners of Christianity and Native American spirituality- and it has been a source of extraordinary conversations and reflections. Highly recommended- the discussion of the vision quest in the first chapters itself worth the price of the book- and the unfolding and opening of the Jesus story priceless!

Covers the interaction of Christian and Native American traditions and readings in a unique way. Opens the history of the Native American tradition and its relationship to Christian history. It needs to be read with a very open mind as it ties two seemingly disparate styles of worship that truly dovetail. Lots of notes and wonderful quotes. It can be easily read and yet deserves taking time to absorb the intricacies.

I was not familiar with the author when my book group selected it. I was surprised to learn that the Episcopal church had a Native American bishop, and I knew nothing of their mission to the Lakotas. The spiritual comparisons of Native American traditional worship to Christian tradition were interesting, but I have to admit that I enjoyed it more for the history of the (mis)treatment of Native Americans by the US Government from the Trail of Tears to recent times.

This book offers an original theological translation of the life of Jesus in relation to four events in his life (four vision quests) that adds to the depth of soteriology and atonement theology. This book adds to the library of marginalized persons a view from the Native American perspective and challenges the traditional ways of understanding his life and mission. Christ is still Christ but seen in a new (yet ancient) light. This volume shows the kinship of humanity in a surprising way.

Being both Lakota and Irish, this offering by Choctaw Brother Steven Charleston resonates with me. If your faith in Christ is sure, this book will expand understanding. If you are not a Christian or even

an atheist, you may still find solace and encouragement here. Mitakuye oyasin, beannacht De ort.

Beautifully written. A clear and logically presented view that Native theology is not incompatible with Christianity at all, and in fact the two traditions hold a number of things in common. In addition, the book presents the history of the Choctaw Nation vis a vis the early white settlers and, eventually the US government, clearly and without rancor. Steven Charleston is Choctaw and an Episcopal bishop.

This book challenges me to look at my faith in a different way. I am using it with a study group. It has provided information that has helped us examine God in new ways and have deep discussions.

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