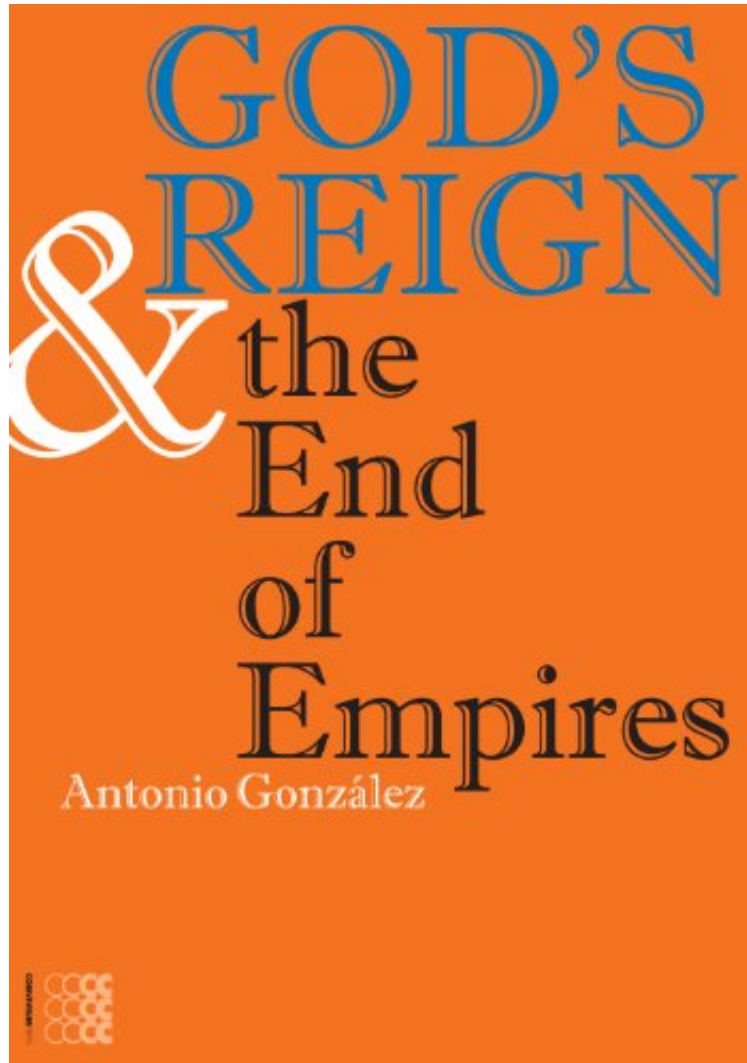


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## God s Reign and the End of Empires (Theology) (Series Kyrios)

*Antonio Gonzalez*

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**Antonio Gonzalez : God s Reign and the End of Empires (Theology) (Series Kyrios)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God s Reign and the End of Empires (Theology) (Series Kyrios):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EXcellente By yanira novoavery accurate and well informed, Since I am from El Salvador i was able to up date my knowledge. thank you

In this profound and enlightening book, theologian Antonio Gonzalez analyzes the nature of global empires since the time of Babylon. His premise is that empires maintain power by any means necessary, including exploitation, injustice

and idolatry. It is in this context of empire, specifically the Roman empire, that Jesus proclaimed the reign of God as opposed to the reign of Caesar. Within God's reign, God alone rules, with mercy, love, justice, and special concern for the oppressed. Imbued with this faith, a new community of believers developed, particularly among the poor, who lived what Jesus proclaimed, sharing resources and practicing equality and forgiveness rather than retribution. The author documents how, during the first centuries A.D., post resurrection communities continued to practice living in the reign of God. With the rise of Emperor Constantine, however, this vibrant countercultural movement of believers became coterminous with, and was institutionalized within, the Roman Empire. When that empire fell, over time the institutional church became the dominant power with all the trappings of empire. The author shows how the evils inherent in empire are still prevalent today throughout the world, with the church often blessing and sharing in the power. *God's Reign and the End of Empires* concludes by focusing on how Christian counterforces throughout the centuries have attempted to reclaim the spirit and praxis of the reign of God as modeled by Jesus, and it examines in depth both secular and faith based contemporary movements that reflect this praxis by working to counteract the detrimental effects of empire. The author sees these movements as reason for hope.

Gonzalez masters a vast variety of economic, political, sociological and theological issues with a high degree of scholarly command, clarity, and elegance. He offers a meaningful way forward and the courage not to lose hope for those of us who have theoretically and academically struggled for quite some time with the structural, cultural, psychological, and overt violence of imperial capitalism... and for those of us who simply feel in our hearts that something is basically going wrong in our society, culture and world and are looking for meaningful alternatives. This is social theology at its best. (Prof. Ulrich Duchrow, Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Heidelberg. He is cofounder and moderator of Kairos Europa, an ecumenical grassroots network committed to economic and ecological justice, and he has published numerous books and articles devoted to these issues). --Ulrich Duchrow, University of Heidelberg.

About the Author Antonio Gonzalez, a leading Spanish theologian, was born in Oviedo (Asturias) in 1961. He has worked in El Salvador and in Guatemala at the Jesuit University, as well as in various centers of higher education in Europe. He shares with social and political theologies the perspective of God's option for the poor and the centrality of praxis in the Christian message and life. He is the General Secretary of the Fundacion Xavier Zubiri in Madrid, Spain. Gonzalez is a prolific author whose works include *Structures in Praxis* (1997), *Trinity and Liberation* (1993), and more recently, *Theology of the Evangelical Praxis*.