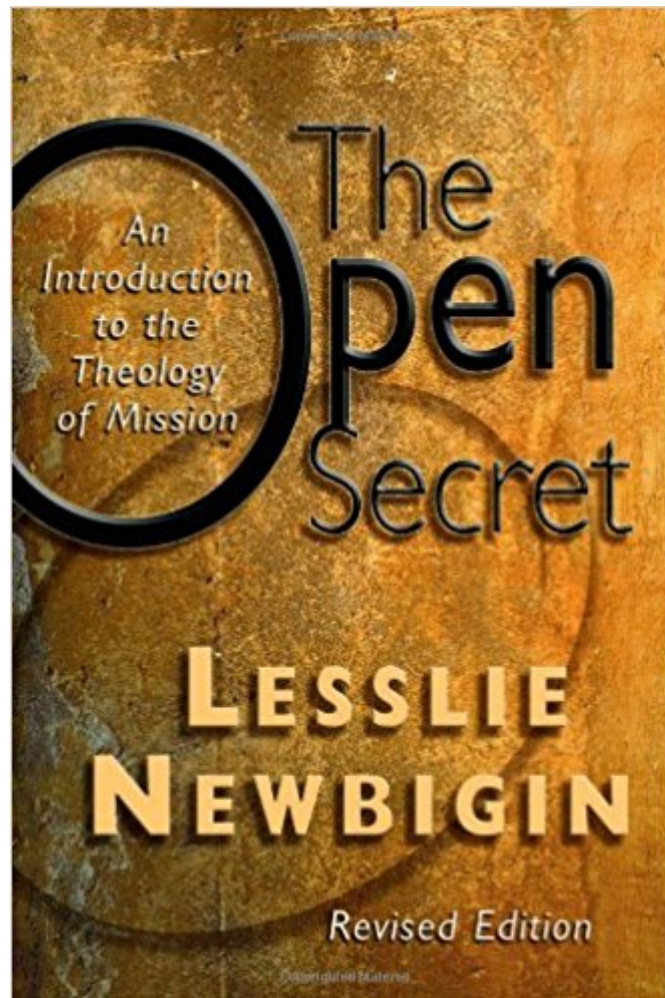


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The Open Secret: An Introduction To The Theology Of Mission



Synopsis

Aimed at bringing contemporary concerns in mission theology to a wide-reading public, this volume flows from Newbigin's extensive experience in the mission field and from lectures developed especially to prepare men and women for missionary service. Newbigin describes the Christian mission as the declaration of an open secret—open in that it is preached to all nations, secret in that it is manifest only to the eyes of faith. The result is a thoroughly biblical attempt to lead the church to embrace its Christ-given task of presenting the gospel in our complex modern world. This revised edition includes a helpful index and a new preface.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

(1909-1998) Lesslie Newbigin was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne, U.K., in 1909. He completed his undergraduate studies in Cambridge and then served as Staff Secretary of the Student Christian Movement in Glasgow, Scotland. He studied theology at Westminster College at Cambridge and was ordained by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Church of Scotland in 1936. That same year Newbigin married Helen Henderson and the two of them left for India where he was to be missionary of the Church of Scotland.

Dr. Lesslie Newbigin mentions and uses the Tamil language multiple times in the book, which is my mother tongue. Dr. Lesslie Newbigin is such a wealth of wisdom and brings deep insights into the often confusing web of confluence of the human psyche, the broader culture and the Word of God.

Having been steeped in Western academic traditions and then spending 4 decades in the murkiness of the Eastern culture which was on the threshold of growing up from under the shackles of the 'underdeveloped world', gave him a vantage point that very few get to have. I think the most powerful point he makes in his book is the elucidation of the idea of the 'elect' and how that translates to missions. Some Christians make the doctrine of Election ALL there is to Christianity (hyper Calvinists), then you have the Pelagian Armenians who will run away from anything smacking of election as a rat runs away from a cat. Dr. Newbigin does not try to tread a middle course, he goes of them both and talks about the doctrine of election from at least 3 perspectives¹. To not violate the relational integrity of the human psyche.² To make a few into a blessing to many³. To make the election not into an elite privilege but as the initiation of the 'suffering community' that witnesses to the world¹) That the doctrine of election is crucial for how human beings come to know the Truth, not as 'spiritual monads' who individualistically pursue a Truth by themselves but as communal beings to who in come to know the Truth through their inter-relatedness to God and fellow man. This idea implies that God has to choose a group of people through which He reaches out to another group of people to expand His Kingdom.²) The corollary to the point 1 is that if Truth of God has to spread through communities, it has to start somewhere and a community has to be chosen, which happens to be Israel in this case. Ironically, the first becomes the last, so chosen Israel gets disinherited to become the last.³) From the human point of view, election is not a claim on God neither is it a privilege of the elite. Election is the means of creating a community of Saints who will witness to the world through their suffering as a partaking of the suffering of Christ. It is thus that they become dispensers of God's blessing to many. Of course, Dr. Newbigin traces through multiple other brilliant threads of thought brilliantly weaved together... It is worth anyone's time whose mission in life is to see God's reign come to fruition in this world.

Newbigin is a real saint and an excellent theologian. Anybody interested in cross-cultural mission and interfaith communications should read this book. Insightful, beautiful and accessible.

pleased with the response

Awesome book

A must read for anyone desiring to openly engage this present world with the eternal good news of God's Son. A faithful and compelling explanation of why the church has a responsibility to be God's

witnesses in and to the world. Newbigin takes the doctrine of election and puts it smack in the middle of mission. God chose a man, not to narrow the scope of salvation but in order to broaden it. He chose Abraham so that all the nations of the world could be blessed. He chose us also and saved us simply so that He could bless others through us. This book will challenge your thinking with regards to pluralism and God's justice in the world, and it seems as though at a time when those things are becoming somewhat overused and ambiguous, a fresh reminder with what God says is necessary.

The first 90% was excellent, offers the student new and exciting understanding of Mission work. Absolutely changes the concept of what could guide the worker. Anyone thinking of entering the ordained ministry would be better prepared if the book was digested prior.

the content itself of the book is great, but the words on the right margin are cut off both in mac and ipad. I have to be constantly looking at my phone, which has all margins complete, to see what word is that that I'm seeing.

A must read for pastors! Everything we do as Christians and leaders is at its best explained in this book. A good book for your reference library!

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