



GUIDE TO READERS OF 'WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?'

THE CHRIST STORY IN THE COSMIC CONTEXT'

This Guide is intended to assist readers to become more aware of a contemporary appreciation of the Christian faith in the light of modern science, especially cosmology and understanding people's role and responsibilities in creation.

The book is for general readers. The book is really divided into two sections:

Chapters 1 to 3 set the scene by considering some of the challenges for Christianity today especially in Western orientated countries. Examples of such challenges are: the decline in those affiliated to the church, the lack of flexibility of church structures to creatively respond to a growing atheism, materialism, refugees, poverty and ecological vandalism. In these chapters there is also a brief summary of some significant happenings in modern science which hold real promise for reframing the Christian story. Chapter Three offers a critique of the Traditional Christian Story, the Fall/Redemption understanding of the Incarnation, the Story which is best known by all Christians throughout the ages.

A key question underpins this book: *What was (is) the impulse for the coming of Jesus as the Christ?*

Was it a RESTORATION of a breakdown of humanity's relations with God through the sin of Adam and Eve

Or

A REGENERATION OF LIFE through the Jesus as the Christ in the magnificent unfolding evolutionary story of the universe? (see page 86).

Chapters 4 to 6 describe the Cosmic Christian story where the Christ story is told and celebrated within the context of modern science, especially evolution and cosmology. For those who feel that this approach is all too theoretical for everyday Christian life, Chapter Six: 'Daily living the Cosmic Christian Story', describes very practical features for Christian life each day. The warning for Christianity is that unless Christianity integrates its core teachings with positive features of the emerging modern world in which we live, Christianity will be further marginalised to the fringes of society and lose its influence for the betterment of people and the earth community.

Wherever possible the book includes references to other great traditions of religion and proposes a spirituality for everyone in the ordinary happenings of life.

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