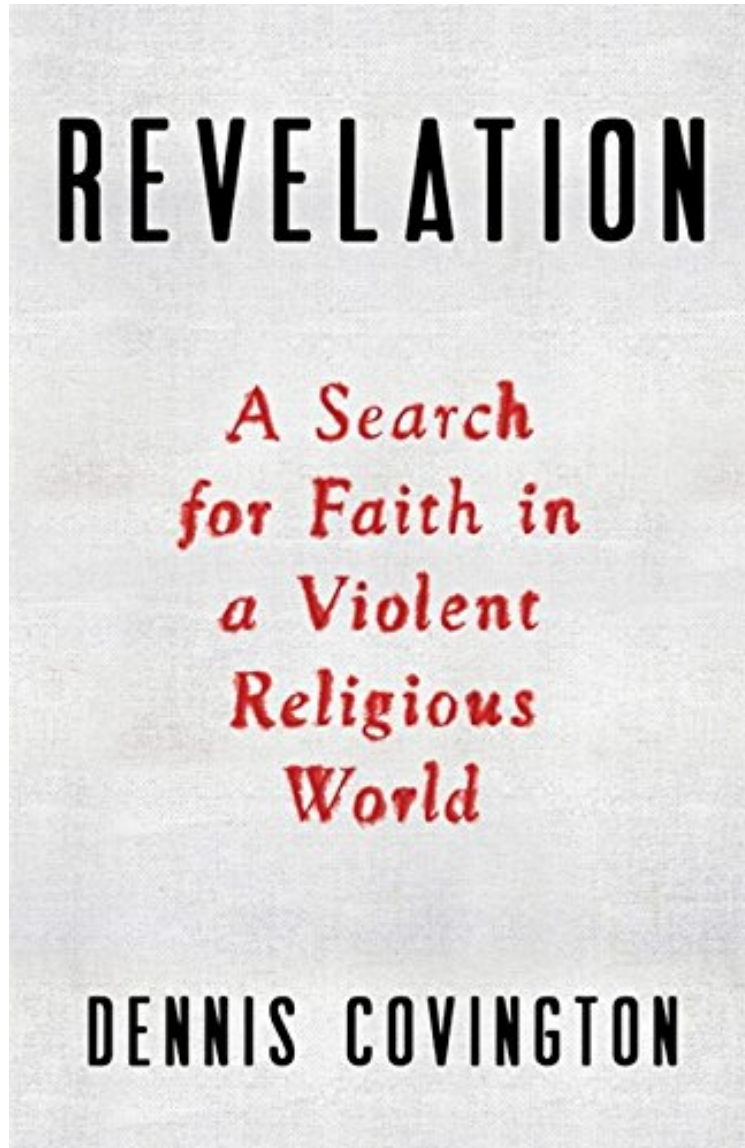


(Free download) Revelation: A Search for Faith in a Violent Religious World

Revelation: A Search for Faith in a Violent Religious World

Dennis Covington

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Dennis Covington : Revelation: A Search for Faith in a Violent Religious World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Revelation: A Search for Faith in a Violent Religious World:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Robert J. SteckertThe book was more about the author's adventure as a journalist, rather than a quest for faith.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ...
Covington's new book basically explores the age-old question of good and evilBy Joanne R. CageDennis Covington's

new book basically explores the age-old question of good and evil, in one of the world's most troubled and conflicted areas. His writing is excellent, and his search for faith in a world gone mad will challenge the reader's own search for faith and understanding. Revelation, as well as Covington's earlier book *Salvation on Sand Mountain*, is some of the best, most honest writing you will ever read.³ of 4 people found the following review helpful. It was more like he was looking to see how close he could ...By K. SteckerThe subtitle, "a search for faith ..." I found to be quite misleading. I give this two stars instead of one because he does well writing stories. But the only "revelation" I got from this book is that Dennis Covington is obsessed/addicted to danger. I have the impression he may welcome being kidnapped; perhaps suffer a little, but not too much, so he could see the torment first hand of what is happening in violent parts of the world; in this book that being primarily Syria, although the first couple chapters are in the murder capital of the world, Juarez, Mexico. Dennis writes that he is looking for the faith described in Hebrews in the Bible, "the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" in Juarez and Syria. But I do not come away with the impression he was looking for people who had this faith. It was more like he was looking to see how close he could see the horrors that were happening, while my expectation was he would be looking for those living in these conditions and holding onto faith in God, whether it be that of Christians, Jews, or Muslims. I am also not sure what "violent religious world" has to do with this so much either. In Juarez, while there is some religious undertones there, such as the cartels giving money to charity in hopes these "good deeds" will avoid hell, it did not come across to me that the violence in Juarez has anything to do with religion. In Syria, clearly there are stories where some say their religion (Islam) approves of some of the killing; overall, I do not come away with the impression from this book that the conflict is religion-driven as much as power-driven.

Acclaimed journalist Dennis Covington examines how faith and violence shape our world. In war zones witnessing widespread conflict, what makes life at all worth living? When chaos becomes a way of life in places where religion and violence intersect, what do people hold on to? If religious belief is, as Christopher Hitchens argues, the cause of wars and genocide, then is faith the cure? Dennis Covington pursued answers to these questions for years, traveling deep into places like Syria, Mexico, and the American South. Looking not for rigid doctrines, creeds, or beliefs-- which, he says, can be contradictory, even dangerous--he sought something bigger and more fundamental: faith. It's faith in goodness, kindness, and the humanity of the smallest moments that makes the most difficult times bearable. The young bomb victim who offers a smile from his hospital bed, the grieving parent who shares a photograph, the joined hands of men who were previously mortal enemies, and Covington's own family turmoil. These are some of the moments that leave him touching the beating heart of what it truly is to live. Like Covington's widely celebrated *Salvation on Sand Mountain*, *Revelation* is an intensely personal journey that goes to the edges of a world filled with violence and religious strife to find the enduring worth of living.

One of Spirituality Health's Best Books of 2016 "Covington interweaves his personal stories into his accounts of travels to violent places, where he searches for signs of faith and hope. What he mostly finds, and describes vividly, is religious strife and brutality, with small moments of grace. Sam Mowe, *Spirituality and Health*"Once again, Dennis Covington, author of the astonishing *Salvation on Sand Mountain*, rushes headlong into abysses that the rest of us flee, from the most brutal spots on earth to the rawest truths in the mirror. His obsessed, haunted quest scours the depths of madness--his, ours, this century's--yet somehow salvages faith from the most fearful despair. This brave book is a Revelation, indeed." Alan Weisman, author of *Countdown* and *The World Without Us*"In his newest book, Dennis Covington addresses questions of doubt, faith, and belief with the same uncondescending and unflinching manner as in *Salvation on Sand Mountain*, but his scope is larger now, venturing into some of the world's most brutal places in a search for faith, and hope. *Revelation* is a marvel." Ron Rash, author of *Above the Waterfall*"Deftly interweaving personal tragedy with reporting forays into brutal conflicts, Covington...delivers a superb, fast-paced memoir...[*Revelation*] is an essential, human account of the violent reactions to religious plurality in an increasingly polarized world." Publishers Weekly (starred review)"Twenty years ago, Dennis Covington wrote a classic book about the intersection of faith and violence in America. *Revelation* is an equally riveting exploration on a global scale of the dangers and the possibilities of belief. With searing insight and powerful prose, this fearless and deeply personal examination of religion's dark side dares also to look for its light." Peter Manseau, author of *One Nation, Under Gods*"Dennis Covington goes to unimaginable lengths to answer a defining question of our time: Why is religious faith so often associated with horrendous violence? His search, chronicled in *Revelation*, is at once global in scope, painfully personal and revealing." Alan Huffman, author of *Here I Am: The Story of Tim Hetherington, War Photographer*"Dennis Covington empathetically inhabits the victims of violence he meets, and in a fleeting instant, finds the grace that sustains them and the despair that transcends them beyond our reckoning. Touched by his epistles, we are somehow encouraged, even when all we have is God." Mark Richard, author of *House of Prayer No. 2*"A deeply disturbing story about a deeply disturbed world, told with urgency and a disarming, self-effacing sense of gallows humor. Covington is a fearless writer who speaks to you as if he knows you, because in his heart he truly does. This is a fascinating journey, a riveting book, a harrowing pleasure. Here is one of our very best writers, one of

the most honest and interesting human beings writing today."Brad Watson, author of *The Heaven of Mercury and Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives*"From the first sentence on, you understand that what Dennis Covington brings to the page is something raw, terrifying, brilliant, and necessary. Vivid, tense, and compelling, Covington's story bears brave and unflinching witness to one of the most threatening conflicts of our time."Kim Barnes, author of *In the Kingdom of Men*"My claim, as brassy as it is meet, is that *Revelation* by Dennis Covington is both the perfect complement to and the necessary antidote for Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. While the latter asks us to acknowledge the horror in and around us, the former invites us, even in the midst of the morally horrifying, to embrace the "substance of things hoped for" (Hebrews 11:1). Mr. Covington has seen the horrific up close and first hand: from the racial violence of his hometown, to the political violence of America's "dirty" war in El Salvador, to the religious violence consuming the middle east to the domestic violence peculiar to families rent by lost love to--well, his has been a life often out of round and wobbling out groove, a life not frequently in league with what President Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature." Still, I deeply admire his clarity and fearlessness. This is a volume, as much an argument as a memoir in his willingness to risk much for the much he hopes for, delivered to us in prose noteworthy for its muscle, its unexpected lyricism, and its relentless honesty."Lee K. Abbott, author of *All Things, All at Once*"Profoundly felt... collection of eloquent, harrowing dispatches...."Pamela Miller, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*"What comes through here and elsewhere in the book is the dark side of 'witnessing' people in extremity, a frisson that becomes addictive and that confers on the writer a sense of belonging to an elite: those who are willing to look at the dark heart of things."John Wilson, *Chicago Tribune*"This moving and riveting first-person account will appeal to those interested in the Syrian conflict as well as readers who enjoy faith journeys such as those by Anne Lamott and Nadia Bolz-Weber."Library Journal (starred review)"The faith [Covington] finds is not steady, historical, or some kind of inner light. It is a mode of life occurring at the front lines, where people suffer most--haunted, tormented, but always intensely alive."Brook Wilensky-Lanford, *New York Times Book* "These stories do not make for easy reading. They confirm that life's sacredness, whether expressed through organized religion or nonbelief, requires acts of tender mercy."Christopher McConnell, *Booklist*About the AuthorDennis Covington is the author of two novels and three nonfiction books. His book *Salvation on Sand Mountain* was a National Book Award finalist, and his articles have been published in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, *Vogue*, and many other periodicals. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and earned a BA from the University of Virginia and an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he studied under Raymond Carver. He currently teaches creative writing at Texas Tech University.