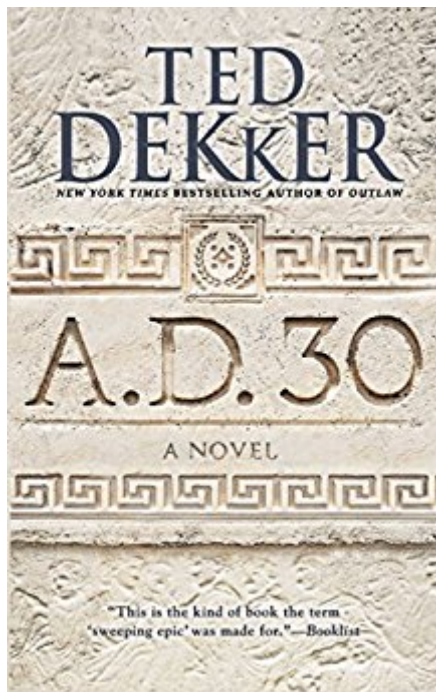


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A.D. 30: A Novel (AD)



Synopsis

A sweeping epic set in the harsh deserts of Arabia and ancient Palestine. A war that rages between kingdoms on the earth and in the heart. The harrowing journey of the woman at the center of it all. Step back in time to the year of our Lord... A.D. 30. The outcast daughter of one of the most powerful Bedouin sheikhs in Arabia, Maviah is called on to protect the very people who rejected her. When their enemies launch a sudden attack with devastating consequences, Maviah escapes with the help of two of her father's warriors--Saba who speaks more with his sword than his voice and Judah, a Jew who comes from a tribe that can read the stars. Their journey will be fraught with terrible danger. If they can survive the vast forbidding sands of a desert that is deadly to most, they will reach a brutal world subjugated by kings and emperors. There Maviah must secure an unlikely alliance with King Herod of the Jews. But Maviah's path leads her unexpectedly to another man. An enigmatic teacher who speaks of a way in this life which offers greater power than any kingdom. His name is Yeshua, and his words turn everything known on its head. Though following him may present even greater danger, his may be the only way for Maviah to save her people--and herself.

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Customer Reviews

Gene Edwards "Chronicles of the Door" & "First-Century Diaries" have been among my favorite Christian historical fiction books of this type... until now. Ted Dekker's A.D. Novels have brought me to my knees - literally - with this presentation of the Person & Ministry of Yeshua! Read them in sequence, as the second (33) is built on the first (30). I've followed Yeshua for decades, couldn't begin to count the number of times I've read scripture cover-to-cover, meditated on His Word or the number of fiction & nonfiction works I've read in almost 5 decades... and these novels still brought tears of blessing & challenged me on fundamental levels. HIGHLY recommend them both. These are not my first Ted Dekker works. He is a consistently worthy author whether the work is obviously Christian or otherwise. If you make the time to read A.D. 30 - & I strongly suggest you do - please do not deny yourself the pleasure & blessing of continuing with A.D. 33! Together, they a complete & powerful message!

Ted Dekker is my favorite author, so my review comes with a certain bias. Reading this book comes with a certain expectation, as well. I do not often read historical fiction. Perhaps this comes from the painful memory of history classes. While this story definitely has Dekker's fingerprints all over it, I found that I was not blown away as I expected to be. There are long sections of narrative that I would get bogged down - not a characteristic found in his past work. However, the writing contained his signature flow that keeps me reading, but large segments felt like they would lend themselves more to a non fiction book about the teaching of Jesus rather than a novel. If I rated the book solely for the story, I would give it three stars. The reason Dekker is my favorite author is that he challenges me to think with his stories. He has a way of describing what I have at times experienced as a heart and mind experience. Once again, he hit that mark. Dekker paints a picture of what it is like to trust in God as a loving father. He shows how really grasping the reality of God's love changes a person in mind and soul. He also shows how the experience can fade and how one can wonder if the experience and knowledge is real. I found this to be encouraging as I find myself in that position again and again. This is a five star message, although there are some details that I see differently. In the end, this story is sticking with me and is challenging my thinking even though I struggled through this book at times. It has me looking talking with God intimately about the details and looking for more understanding in trusting him and following him. That is what I want most in a book.

Very interesting story line - I'm not sure I've ever heard of a book written in this manner before.

Takes place 30 years after the birth of Jesus and follows the story of Mavia and a few of her acquaintances during the time that Jesus was alive, but through the eyes of the people who lived at that time. Captivating to say the least. I'm used to Ted Dekker writing creepy allegories and freaky novels. This is completely different - a 180 degree flip in the other direction. He uses a lot of historical facts which makes the story even more compelling. I would certainly recommend this book. I'm an avid reader. I'd say on an average I read a book a month - from various authors and areas of interest.

Ted Dekker, hands down, is definitely one of the most unique, gifted, and profound storyteller of this era. He was born to write. I've read a number of his books and I truly love his storytelling. He is a genius in his field and he has definitely grown from the time of his earlier works. As for A.D. 30, I was blown away with this book. First of all, I'm not a fan of first-person narration when it comes to fiction (I'm probably missing out on quite a number of books because of it), and I've only read a few books by other authors that are in the first person POV. But for Dekker, though I had wished it was in a third-person POV when I picked up the book, I knew nevertheless that I wasn't going to be disappointed and I didn't hesitate to read on. People have thrown around "the 'it' factor" phrase for many different fields of work--like if singers, performers, etc, has "it". Dekker definitely has that "it" factor as an author and storyteller. He definitely has his own "voice" and his descriptions (the first time I got a dose of a Dekker book, I was transported into the world he was weaving) are masterful! All these awesome Dekker elements can be found in A.D. 30. What I particularly love, and it has impacted me so profoundly, are the deep insights that Mavia has, and how poetic they are written. The best way that I can describe it is like how a particular song can pulsate all throughout your soul, and even long after it ends--that was the impact that I get from several of Mavia's thoughts. It causes me to mull them, pick them apart, analyze them, and of course, even receive them. Mavia's soul is very complex; some layers are heartbreaking, some inspiring, some even frightening. You want to root for her. You want her to succeed. Which leads me to this point--Ted Dekker did an excellent job, not just to paint into words a part of him, but also a part of us, the readers, in his characters (I also love Judah and Saba!). That is the mark of a beautiful and transcending work of art to me. Having said all that, there are certain scriptural aspects (the "Father judges no one" verse) of the book that I hope gets explored further into A.D. 33, especially because it's a historical and Biblical fiction. I'm hoping that the interpretation and context of what that verse says in the Bible gets translated onto the next book because we can't mess with the identity of Jesus being the Judge of the living and the dead, which was ordained by God the Father (See Acts 10:42). One of the

deciding factors for me to discern if a book is good, is how holistic the book is, even though it is part of a series. I just want to say to readers and potential readers, that with any material and resource (whether a book, music, sermon, etc.), please make sure that you receive them through the filter of the Word of God. I pray that this book encourages you to go straight to the Bible and read the Gospels, like it did with me--to discover for yourself the Words of Jesus! Not just through Mavia (which is essentially through Dekker)--which I thank God and Dekker that we can hear it through Mavia's perspective--but to discover the Words of Jesus STRAIGHT to you. In the end, it was JESUS WHO CHANGED MAVIA. Let Him encounter and touch you too! There are awesome books and there are bad books--why? The content. A.D. 30 is an awesome book but it was still written by man. But the Bible, written by God and "penned" by man remains the greatest of them all. It is second to none. Thank you, Ted Dekker for writing a book that unapologetically points straight to the Word of God! We truly need more works like this nowadays, where the Word of God is being distorted by men, just like how it was in the Garden of Eden when the serpent distorted what God had spoken to deceive mankind. May the Kingdom of God advances even further through your writing! I'm praying and rooting for you. Write on!

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