

ENDORSEMENTS



Wisdom from Babylon

Leadership for the Church in a Secular Age

Available October 13, 2020 | \$25, 200 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5326-7

What does it mean to provide leadership for the church in an increasingly secular context? Analyzing the phenomenon of secularization in the West and charting common Christian responses, this indispensable resource from Gordon Smith discusses the competencies and capacities essential for cultivating distinctively Christian leadership today.

Leadership in a Changing Society

“To be in but not of the world. Drawing on a lifetime of careful study, Gordon T. Smith brings together spiritual theology, sociological analysis, church history, and cultural critique in his new book, *Wisdom from Babylon*. Having apprenticed himself to the church’s most trusted teachers whose wisdom still shapes the life and labor of faithful people centuries later, he is at the same time attentive to the contemporary complexity of this task, thoughtfully engaging the tensions of being the church in the globalizing, pluralizing, and secularizing world that is ours. A master teacher whose thinking is marked by unusual clarity and depth, this book is for all who long to make sense of honest faith in the twenty-first century.”

—**Steven Garber**, professor of marketplace theology at Regent College and author of *The Seamless Life: A Tapestry of Love and Learning, Worship and Work*

“*Wisdom from Babylon* is a masterful guide for Christian leadership amid the upheavals of our secular age. Global in reach, thick with scholarship, Gordon Smith’s work gives us the wherewithal to gain a footing for the journey that besets us. He offers not retreat but presence. This book is hope for anyone asking, ‘How can we sing the LORD’s song in a foreign land?’ (Psalm 137:4).”

—**David Fitch**, B. R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology at Northern Seminary, Chicago, author of *Faithful Presence*

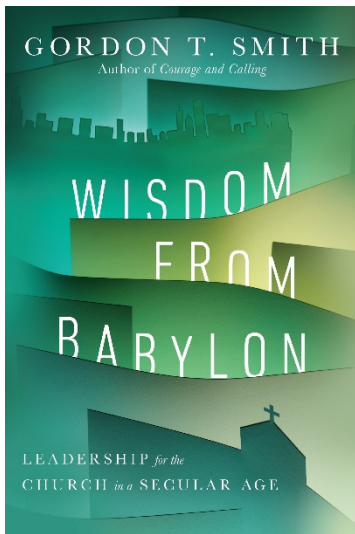
“God is calling the church to a new reality. Of course, the reality of a spiritual community that cuts against the grain of secular liturgy has always existed. We just need to draw upon this ancient wisdom that speaks to us with new intensity. Gordon Smith proposes that we are not merely the church gathered but the church dispersed and present in the world, in particular as lived out in business, education, and the arts. *Wisdom from Babylon* reminds us that we can and should lead from the margins, even as we live as a nonanxious presence in a world full of anxiety. Don’t look to this book for techniques and prescriptions. Whether in Babylon or our twenty-first-century world, it’s always been about encountering Christ in real time—a reality that is at once deeply profound and highly practical.”

—**Stan Jantz**, president and CEO of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association

“*Wisdom from Babylon* is the book of wisdom that is needed for every leader in a Western context. In a moment when people listen to comedians and laugh at politicians, when they are unwavering in their commitment to political ideologies but skeptical of their faith, leaders need a radical reframing of what it means to lead the people of God. Gordon Smith



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com



ENDORSEMENTS



Wisdom from Babylon

Leadership for the Church in a Secular Age

Available October 13, 2020 | \$25, 200 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5326-7

What does it mean to provide leadership for the church in an increasingly secular context? Analyzing the phenomenon of secularization in the West and charting common Christian responses, this indispensable resource from Gordon Smith discusses the competencies and capacities essential for cultivating distinctively Christian leadership today.

gives us just that: a framework of ancient wisdom translated through practices that every leader can adopt for the present moment. If you're a leader who is feeling lost and reactive, this book serves as a compass pointing us toward the King and the kingdom."

—**Rick McKinley**, lead pastor of Imago Dei Community in Portland, Oregon, and author of *Faith for This Moment*

"This is a timely book for an age increasing in information yet lacking in wisdom. By exploring diverse streams of Christian thinking, Gordon Smith reveals a deep need to revisit our emerging secular age with fresh eyes. In addition to historical insights, Smith's underlining emphasis reveals that all future leaders will require wisdom shaped by the Scriptures, awakening our courage to lovingly engage with a changing world."

—**Domenic Ruso**, founding church planter of The180 Church in Québec and a faculty member at diverse theological schools across Canada

"I just love how Gordon Smith does theology. His views are evangelical, ecumenical, catholic, orthodox, and justice-hungry, with that wild concoction all put in service to a small but scrappy university in Alberta. We need more leadership like his, informed by theology like his, expressed as lovingly and wisely as this."

—**Jason Byassee**, Butler Chair in Homiletics and Biblical Hermeneutics at Vancouver School of Theology, author of *Surprised by Jesus Again*



Karin DeHaven, academic publicist
800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or kdehaven@ivpress.com