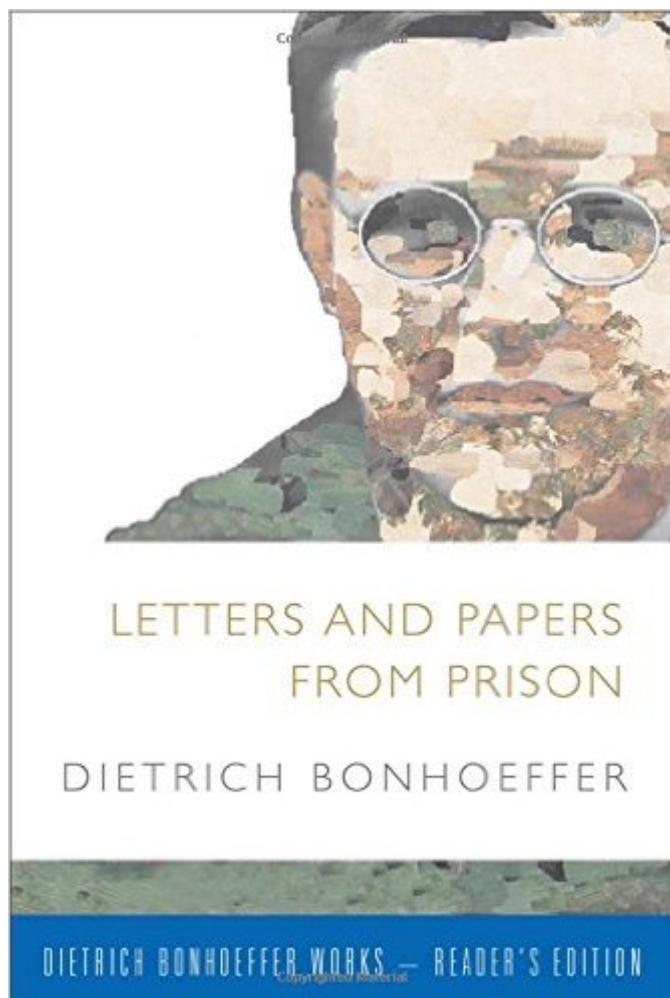


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# Letters And Papers From Prison (Dietrich Bonhoeffer-Reader's Edition)



## **Synopsis**

Despite Dietrich Bonhoeffer's earlier theological achievements and writings, it was his correspondence and notes from prison that electrified the postwar world six years after his death in 1945. The materials gathered and selected by his friend Eberhard Bethge in Letters and Papers from Prison not only brought Bonhoeffer to a wide and appreciative readership, especially in North America, they also introduced to a broad readership his novel and exciting ideas of religionless Christianity, his open and honest theological appraisal of Christian doctrines, and his sturdy, if sorely tried, faith in face of uncertainty and doubt. This splendid volume, in some ways the capstone of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, presents the full array of Bonhoeffer's 1943-1945 prison letters and theological writings. Using the acclaimed DBWE translation, adapted to a more accessible format, this new edition features supplemental material from Victoria J. Barnett and an insightful introduction by John W. de Gruchy to clarify the theological meaning and social importance of Bonhoeffer's prison writings.

## **Book Information**

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Woe be to the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture....I will raise unto David a righteous branch and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell safely in confidence. And his name shall be called: the Lord our Righteousness. Jeremiah 23.1-6One of the most haunting and

traumatic passages in modern literature is to be found in a slim autobiography - Night - by the Nobel prize winner Elie Wiesel. It is an account of an incident that occurred in his childhood, a childhood spent in the concentration camps. For Elie Wiesel was a Jewish boy born in Nazi Germany. In one of them, Buna, three Jews who had attempted to escape, two men and a boy, were hanged. The other prisoners were forced to watch. The men died quickly. The boy, being lighter, was strangled more slowly, 'Where is God? Where is he' someone behind me asked ... For more than half an hour the boy stayed there, struggling between life and death, dying in slow agony under our eyes. And we had to look him full in the face. He was still alive when I passed in front of him. His tongue was still red, his eyes were not yet glazed. Behind me I heard the same man asking: 'Where is God now?'. And I heard a voice within me answer him: "Where is He? Here he is - He is hanging here on the gallows..." That was it. For the Jewish boy hanged and for the Jewish boy watching, God died on those gallows and hope was buried for good. In another concentration camp, Flossenber, a Christian pastor, theologian and would-be assassin, was waiting for his own execution at the hands of the Nazis. He asked a similar question: 'Who is God?' and gave the answer, 'A crucified Jew'.

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