Contents

Foreword xi
Acknowledgement xv
Preface xvii
Sources Frequently Cited xix
Abbreviations xxi
Theological Prolegomena xxiii

1. The Story and Message of the Bible 1
The Two Covenants or Testaments 2
The Hebrew Scriptures and the Old Testament 4
The Septuagint 4
Themes and Theology 5
Major Figures of the Old Testament 6
Historical Context 7
Summary 8
The New Testament 9
Themes and Theology 10
Major Figures of the New Testament 12
Historical Context 12
Summary 13
Transmission of the Old Testament 15
Transmission of the New Testament 16
Canonicity Test of the Old Testament 17
Canonicity Test of the New Testament 17
Canonicity and the Church Councils 17

Early Translation 18
Translations into English 18
Recent Translations 19
The Birth of Jesus Christ 20
In the "Fullness of Time" (Gal 4:4; Mk 1:15) 20
Political Contributions of Romans 21
Intellectual Contributions of the Greeks 21
Religious Contributions of the Jews 22
Summary 25
Additional Readings 26

2. Development of Basic Theology 27
Definition of Theology 27
The Cruciality of the First 3 Steps of Theology: *What, How, and Why*? 28
Who Does 'Theology'? 29
Importance of Theologians 31
Key Concepts of Negative Theology 32
Implications of Negative Theology 33
The Process of Theological Reflections 34
The Purpose and Position of Theology 35
The Sources of Theology 36
The Significance & Scope of Theology 37
The Formations of Theology 39
The Branches or Divisions of Theology 41
Theology and Its Relations with Other Disciplines 43
Critiques and Challenges 52
Summary 53
Additional Readings 53

3. Historical Development of Christian Doctrines 55
The Distinction between Doctrines & Dogmas 55
The History of Thought in Theology 57

Definition and Scope 58
Historical Background: The Early Church (1st–3rd Centuries) 58
History of the Papacy 61
The Origins and Role of Creeds and Confessions 62
Controversies and the Councils 62
The Trinitarian and Christological Controversies 63
The Role of the Church Fathers 65
The Development of Doctrine (4th–5th Centuries) 66
Patristic Theologians 67
Theological Themes in Patristic Theology 69
Summary 77
Additional Readings 78
The Middle Ages: An In-Depth Exploration 79
Early Medieval Theology (5th-9th Centuries) 79
Monasticism and Theology 80
Theological Response to the Barbarian Invasions 80
The Carolingian Renaissance (8th-9th Centuries) 81
Theological Education and Scriptural Study 81
High Medieval Theology (10th-13th Centuries) 82
The Rise of the Universities 83
Theological Debates and Heresies 83
Late Medieval Theology (14th-15th Centuries) 84
The Decline of Scholasticism 85
Late Scholasticism and its Contemporaries 86
Legacy of Medieval Theology 86
Renaissance and Reformation 87
Summary 87
Additional Readings 88
Reformation Theology: An In-Depth Exploration 89
Historical Context: The Late Medieval Church 89
Key Events Leading to the Reformation 90

Reformation Theologians' Contributions 91
Other Influential Reformers 93
Major Theological Themes 94
Theological Developments and Debates 95
The Nature of the Church 96
Types of Reformations 96
Political and Social Implications 98
Legacy of the Reformation 98
Post-Reformation 99
Contemporary Relevance 100
Challenges and Critiques 101
Summary 101
Additional Readings 102
Modern Theology: An In-Depth Exploration 103
The Enlightenment (17th-18th Centuries) 103
Major Themes of the Enlightenment 104
The Enlightenment's Challenge to Authority 107
Historical Criticism and Biblical Scholarship 108
The 19th Century Developments of Theology 109
Theological Responses to Modernity 110
Progressive Responses 111
Impact of Modern Science 111
Legacy of the Enlightenment and Modernity 112
The 20th Century and Beyond 113
Liberation Theology 113
Feminist Theology 114
Process Theology 115
Emerging Church Movement 116
Key Themes in Modern Theology 117
Influential Figures in Modern Theology 119
Ecumenical Movements 120
Hermeneutics of Religion 121

Emerging Church 121
Challenges and Critiques 122
Summary 123
Additional Readings 123
Multidisciplinary Approaches in Theology 125
The Methodology of Theology 129
Integration Models 136
Biblical/Exegetical Method 137
Historical/Traditional Method 138
Systematic/Dogmatic Method 138
Experiential/Existential Method 139
Contextual/Praxis-Oriented Method 139
Philosophical/Apologetic Method 140
Narrative/Communicative Method 141
Summary 141
Additional Readings 142

4. Basic Questions for the Christian Doctrines 143
Theology Proper (The Doctrine of God) 143
Bibliology (The Doctrine of the Bible) 145
The Inspiration of the Scriptures 145
The Proof of Biblical Inspiration 145
The Clarity, Necessity, and Sufficiency of Scripture 147
Doctrine of Creation 149
God's Plan is Universal: It Comprehends all Things 150
Our Responsibility or Human Role 150
Angelology (The Doctrine of Angels) 151
Anthropology (The Doctrine of Mankind) 152
Hamartiology (The Doctrine of Sin) 154
The Nature and Effect of the Original Sin 154
Christology (The Doctrine of Person & Work of Christ) 155
Soteriology (The Doctrine of Salvation) 157
Pneumatology (The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit) 158

Ecclesiology (The Doctrine of the Church) 159
Eschatology (The Doctrine of the End Times) 160
Additional Readings 161

5. Survey of the Bible 163
The Old Testament Books 163
The New Testament Books 166
The Bible in a Theological Framework 168
Creation: God's Kingdom Established 168
Fall & Rebellion: The Kingdom's Spiritual Crisis 169
Theological Reflection: Rebellion and Redemption 169
Redemption Initiated: The King Chooses Israel 170
The Second Temple Period: A Kingdom Story 170
Redemption Accomplished: The Coming of the King 171
The Kingdom of God: From Eden to New Creation 171
The Role of the Temple and Divine Presence 172
Cultural Mandate and Human Vocation in God's Kingdom 172
Living in the Unity and Diversity of God's Kingdom 173

Epilogue 175
Appendixes 177
Modernist to Post-Modern Epistemology 177
Christian Epistemology 178

Theological Glossary 181