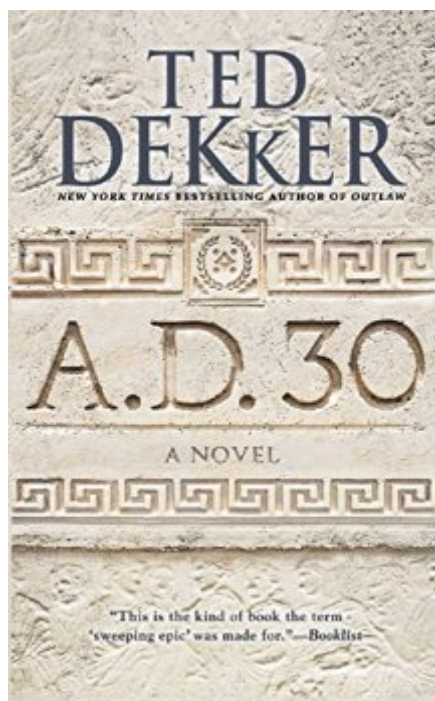


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A.D. 30: A Novel (AD)



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've never accepted a request to review a fiction book before as I find Christian nonfiction to be more my forte. But I was asked to review Ted Dekker's novel, A.D. 30, because of its discussion of women's issues that might be of interest to me and my blog followers. So, this is my first Christian fiction review and the first time I've read any of Ted Dekker's books at all. He takes what seems to me to be quite a unique perspective on Jesus' ministry. Instead of setting the book in Galilee or Jerusalem or focusing the book on any of the people closest to Jesus, such as a disciple or Jesus' family, Dekker writes from the perspective of Maviah, an Arabic woman. She seems in every way to offer an outsider's perspective on Yeshua and sometimes it's that view from the outside-looking-in that offers the freshest voice. She and other characters in the novel struggle to make sense of Jesus' teachings, such as turning the other cheek and that the Kingdom of Heaven is here, now, within us. As long-term Christians, sometimes we grow blase to the truly dynamic and revolutionary way that Jesus taught. It was wonderful to grapple again with what Jesus really meant by His teachings and remember how He overturned expectations. Maviah's story itself is that of an outcast. She has been a slave. She is a single mother. She is, simply put, a woman in a culture where she should have no power and no voice. And yet, her journey takes her to the courts of King Herod and to the shores of Bethsaida where she hears the teachings of Yeshua and meets others familiar to us, such as Nicodemus, the disciples, and the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. I liked the freshness of the perspective.

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