

Turning Points

By Vaughan Roberts

Review by Ken Sanderson



Is history going somewhere? Vaughan Roberts talks about turning points in history (8 in all – 1st is Creation, 4th is coming of Jesus, 7th is the last days) and in life, and the modern condition, with many people doing their own thing, but not to any great satisfaction. “Turning Points” deals with ultimate questions. Did God make the world? Yes, say both the Bible and scientific examination of conditions that were necessary to create a place where we could live. What is the purpose of life? To relate to God.

“Turning Points” deals with some recent (& age-old) challenges to belief, including a tendency to select one’s own god and claim that all ways of spirituality are OK (since they disagree on major points, they cannot all be true, and in fact no more than one could be correct on all points). Who is Jesus? Can we believe what the Bible says? What is said in “Turning Points” is not new, but it reaffirms what many other writers have said, that Jesus is who he said he was (the Son of God), the Bible is reliable (with an abundance of manuscripts close in time to events described in the gospels, gospel authors with eye-witness testimony) contrasted with the preposterous writings of those who claim millennia afterwards to know better than the original eye witnesses.

How can the claims of the gospel be presented to people who are often uncomfortable with church? Vaughan Roberts reports on a “church in a pub”. (not unlike a church in a cinema at Aldgate?) What are the main obstacles to Christianity? They are not intellectual (we don’t check our brains by the door as we enter church) but mainly moral (I might have to give up something sinful that I enjoy) or because I’m too busy (I’ll consider Christ’s claims when I’m not so busy). “Turning Points” also reminds us that most 20th century competitors of Christianity failed so awfully (humanism, Marxism) that not much is left – escapism, and Biblical realism which recognises flawed, sinful human nature and prescribes God’s plan of salvation.

In summary everyone should read a book like this one (and be able to consult it when necessary) – for those who are not yet Christians it presents some of the really important points in history and is realistic about the human condition and God’s solution for it. For all people it also provides a defence against claims that Christianity is a bunch of fairy tales.