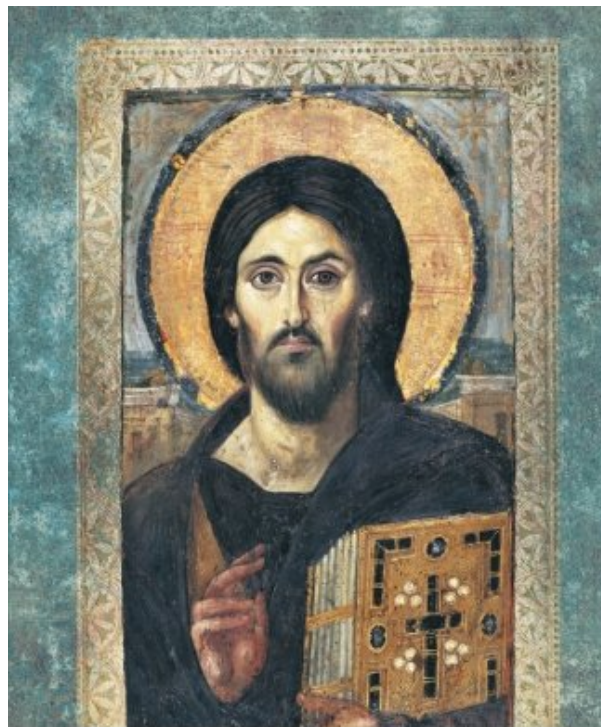


**WINDOWS TO HEAVEN: INTRODUCING
ICONS TO PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS
BY ELIZABETH ZELENSKY, LELA GILBERT**



WINDOWS to HEAVEN

Introducing Icons to Protestants and Catholics

ELIZABETH ZELENSKY & LELA GILBERT

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From Publishers Weekly

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About the Author

Elizabeth Zelensky, a Russian Orthodox believer, lectures in history at Georgetown University.

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Windows To Heaven: Introducing Icons To Protestants And Catholics By Elizabeth Zelensky, Lela Gilbert. In undergoing this life, lots of people constantly attempt to do and also get the most effective. New expertise, experience, driving lesson, and everything that can enhance the life will be done. Nonetheless, many individuals often feel confused to get those things. Feeling the minimal of experience as well as sources to be far better is among the lacks to own. Nevertheless, there is a very straightforward thing that can be done. This is exactly what your instructor consistently manoeuvres you to do this one. Yeah, reading is the response. Checking out a publication as this *Windows To Heaven: Introducing Icons To Protestants And Catholics By Elizabeth Zelensky, Lela Gilbert* as well as other referrals can enrich your life top quality. Exactly how can it be?

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WINDOWS TO HEAVEN: INTRODUCING ICONS TO PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS BY ELIZABETH ZELENSKY, LELA GILBERT PDF

Evangelicals often feel uneasy when they encounter the haunting images of Orthodox icons. From the theological to the practical, questions flood in: Why are the facial expressions so fixed? Why the colorful robes? What do the images symbolize? Do Orthodox Christians worship icons? Doesn't that make them idols?

In this useful guidebook, Elizabeth Zelensky and Lela Gilbert debunk common misconceptions about Orthodox icons and explain how they might enrich the devotional lives of non-Orthodox Christians. Each chapter opens with biblical passages and engaging anecdotes and closes with excerpts from personal journals. The authors offer a detailed look at five specific icons, discussing the importance of the incarnation, the Trinity, and Christ's transfiguration to the Orthodox faith.

This approachable and engaging guide is perfect for those seeking to deepen or refresh their devotional lives.

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From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Not just an introductory book - a real resource

By Michael D. Fraley

Excellent little book, a real treasure trove of information, offering more details about the creation of an icon like the Christ Pantocrator at Sinai than one would usually find in even some scholarly sources.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Good introduction to Iconography

By dthueson

Read this book for a class dealing with Greek Orthodoxy. As a protestant, this book helped me understand the meaning and detail of Iconography.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

A Protestant is Introduced to Icons

By Gina M. Bacon

I know next to nothing about Orthodox Christianity, much less icons. I knew enough not to consider them idols (a major pitfall of Protestants when approaching this issue) but other than that, I had no idea what they meant, why they're done in their particular inverted style, and how they're used by Orthodox Christians.

Windows to Heaven: Introducing Icons to Protestants and Catholics is, as far as I know, a great book on the issue. Written by Eastern Orthodox university professor Elizabeth Zelensky and Episcopalian author Lela Gilbert, the book is an accessible, quick read full of information and inspiration.

The introduction begins by recounting various reactions to icons. "They look creepy." "People bow before them and treat them as idols." "I'm inspired when I walk into an Orthodox Shrine." "They give me a sense of peace and in a sea of sin and chaos."

Instead of dealing with each Protestant contention with icons at the beginning of the book, Zelensky and Gilbert work their way slowly through the issue, dedicating each chapter to explaining the history, artistic style, and theological meaning of particular icons, and their place in Orthodoxy. This is not a work of modernist apologetics, a naked appeal to a people consumed only with respect for rational thinking stripped of beauty; and it is not a post-modern work, a naked appeal to people who consider condemnation of anything the only sin. It is a perfect blend of reasonable presentation, beautiful language, awe at the power of God, commitment to not hiding or apologizing for their beliefs, and biblical support. Each section is bookended with testimonies from the authors and quotes from Orthodox and Protestant hymns, adding a personal and poetic dimension to the beauty presented.

The work is not a defense of all of Orthodox theology; issues where I may differ with them, such as the process of salvation and sanctification, and original sin, are explained in part but only in relation to understanding the icons. This is not a pitfall of the book, as the book is meant to help others understand icons, a particular part of their theology, not the whole of Orthodox theology.

This brings me to another noteworthy aspect of the book: detailed footnotes with titles the reader can peruse if they seek a deeper understanding of Orthodoxy.

If you're interested in a preliminary understanding of icons, this is a great book with which to start.

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