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Anticipating Omega

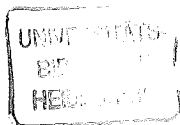
Science, Faith, and Our Uitimate Future

Foreword by Michael Welker

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## Foreword

This book offers eight essays on a new theology of hope. Forty years after Jürgen Moltmann's influential "Theology of Hope," forty years after Wolfhart Pannenberg's programmatic "Revelation as History," Ted Peters reconsiders central topics in eschatology. The innovative German theologians had engaged classical philosophies, biblical studies and theories of history for their enterprises. In his approach, Ted Peters seeks the discourse with scientists, particularly with those involved in the "science-and-theology" dialogue. A creative interaction between Christian theology and the various fields of the natural sciences leads to a deeper understanding of God's creativity in this world and of God's shaping of the world to come. Inspired by this dialogue and its many new insights into the nature of reality – earthly, human and divine –, Peters offers provocative news of God's "retroactivity": "God creates from the future, not the past!"

This retroactivity is illuminated with recourse to the resurrection of Christ and its meaning for a realistic hope, a realistic hope which asks for divine agency under the conditions of physical cosmology and biological anthropology. A passion to discover God's saving workings under the condition of this physical world and our biological existence also guides the following chapters which ask whether we can identify "Grace in the Genes" and discover an eschatological "Hermeneutics of Evolution." Two further chapters take up the challenges posed by the advances of neuro-biology, the cognitive sciences and the rhetorics and maneuvers of "posthumanism."

Peters does not seek easy answers to complicated questions and issues. He enters into discussion with a broad set of partners and problems, both epistemological and ethical. His goal is to give plausible arguments for the fact that we have to understand ourselves as biological beings and yet can sustain the belief that we are children of God, ennobled in our lives in this world and for the world to come. A polyphonic yet consonant voice resonates in this book – the multidisciplinary academic and the apologetic representative of the Christian tradition, the innovative systematic theologian and the pastorally motivated minister help us to gain fresh insights and to affirm them, not only in truth- and salvation-seeking communities but also in environments skeptical over against eschatology.

*Michael Welker*