



news release

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THEOLOGY FROM THE SPRING NEW BOOK CONNECTS LOVERS OF NATURE TO GOD

Theology from the Spring



Reflections of the Creator
Cast in Nature

JACOB A. TAGGART
FOREWORD BY DR. OWEN STRACHAN

RELEASE DATE: June 1, 2018
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For immediate release: In his new book *Theology from the Spring: Reflections of the Creator Cast in Nature*, (Ambassador International: June 2018, \$17.99) Jacob Taggart combines a love for nature, fly fishing, and God to create a book that is truly special in rediscovering a connection with God. Providing fly fishing motifs that converge with rich, theological applications, the reader is able to rediscover what may have been lost: eyes for seeing latent, divine truths that make sense of the beauty and chaos we see within the created order.

Lovers of fly fishing will be compelled to read this book because it is the combination of something they love with something they should love more, God. Taggart is excited to present readers with a book to help them understand God better through the context of something they already know and love so well.

Theology from the Spring contains a foreword by Dr. Owen Strachan.

About the Author: Jacob (Jake) Taggart is a pastor and director of education at Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. He has been married to his wife, Tiffany, since November of 2000. The couple has three children: Abrah, Jonah, and Jobe. Jake is a graduate of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned an MA degree in Theological Studies. Prior to his call to ministry, Jake was a C.P.A., working many years in the banking industry. He is a member of the Capital City Fly Fishers, an organization that provides fly tying, fishing literacy, and stream stewardship. Jake enjoys spending his time getting lost on an Ozark stream fly fishing with family and friends. You can follow him on Twitter at @jacobataggart.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *Theology from the Spring*, please contact publicity director Keli Garrett at media@emeraldhouse.com.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

Endorsements of *Theology from the Spring*:

In *Theology from the Spring*, Jacob Taggart evinces a thick affection for hours of solitude in the outdoors. He is obviously a man of deep passions—chief among them theology, fishing, and the world God has made. This book is—like the mythic fish outdoorsmen talk about years later—one of a kind—a blend of apologetics, doctrine, scientific observation, and reminiscence. I commend it to you, whether you are entirely new to the Christian faith or have been searching the grace-dappled streams of God for a lifetime. Taggart is a sharp-eyed guide, and his thoughtful exploration of the faith once-for-all delivered to the saints enriches, instructs, and creates praise to our all-wise God.

—Dr. Owen Strachan,

Associate Professor of Christian Theology, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Author: *Risky Gospel: Abandon Fear and Build Something Awesome*

There are some very important truths in life that every person, every Christian, should confront: order, unity and diversity, reality and perception, general and specific revelation. These can be dry and dusty unless you discuss them in a common experienced area. This is what Jacob Taggart does in *Theology from the Spring*. He indeed gives reflections of the Creator cast in nature. As Plato perceived shadows in the cave, as Augustine perceived the bending of an oar in water, so Jacob takes the simple experience of fishing and applies it to the realities in life. A relevant and enjoyable read for otherwise stilted and academic subjects. An unlettered person in theology and philosophy can get a head start by reading Jacob's blueprint.

—Tommy Nelson,

Senior Pastor, Denton Bible Church

As objective as I want to be, I own my prejudice about Jacob Taggart's new book. I love Biblical theology, the gospel of grace, the voice of creation, and the sport of fly fishing . . . a lot. As a tapestry of truth and grace, Jacob Taggart has woven all four together in *Theology from the Spring*. Whether or not you ever pick up a fly rod, you will be greatly encouraged by this creative presentation of our calling to know and love, enjoy and serve Jesus.

—Dr. Scotty Ward Smith,

Pastor Emeritus, Christ Community Church, Franklin, TN; Teacher in Residence, West End Community Church, Nashville, TN; Gospel Coalition Contributor

Norman Maclean opened his book *A River Runs Through It* with these words, "In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing." And so it seems to be with most fly fishers. Their proximity to God's glorious creation, and the need to understand the complexities of aquatic ecosystems, bequeaths a nearness to our Creator that few other sports can offer. And, of course, water plays a powerful role on the fly fisher's life, from the fluid that harbors the trout, to the stream's siren song, to the lakes mirroring life. Springs have a special place in the fly fisher's arcane vocabulary, especially when one speaks of "spring creeks." Not seasonal phenomena, but springs large enough to form a trout stream right from their point of emergence. Weave together the fly fisher's reverence for spring creeks, their immediacy with nature, their near awe at the habits and habitats of trout, and the One Who created it all, and you have a good start at Jake's book. His theology is sound, and his stories of fly fishing revealing of the man, and his love of God and the out-of-doors. Even if you don't fly fish, or don't even fish at all, you will enjoy, and benefit, from this unique look at spring creeks as they reveal the truths of the Gospel.

—Dr. Gary Borger,

Best-selling *Fly Fishing* Author; Contributing Editor for *Fly Fisherman* magazine; consultant for the movie, *A River Runs Through It*; *Fly Fusion* magazine's top 7 most influential fly fisherman of the last fifty years.

After reading *Theology from the Spring*, you will never again look at water in the same way. More importantly, you will see water's Creator in a refreshing new light. The One who called the seas into existence also poured Himself out for us by taking on humanity, thus offering us living water. Jacob Taggart has brought together his love of the outdoors, his fascination with science, and his love of Scripture in a way that helps us see the majesty of God revealed in the natural world.

—Rob Phillips,

Strategic Leader for Apologetics, Missouri Baptist Convention

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Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:

1. Where did you get the idea for the profound reach of this book?
2. This book makes a very strong and detailed case for seeing God in nature. You also write about fishing from your childhood. When did you start making these interconnections between God and nature—was it from your childhood?
3. Many books are written by authors with a perceived need for the message they write. What need do you see as the need that this book aims to address?
4. I think many people will relate to your appeal to spending times in the outdoors and feeling alive: coming of age on a river bank or with friends on a float trip; family camp outs, fishing with friends, etc. Your passion is fly fishing—what is it about fly fishing that you find so exhilarating?
5. One concept that comes through very clearly in this book is your emphasis on the biblical doctrine of regeneration, with a number of examples of how regeneration can be seen as a metaphor through something occurring in nature. Tell us about some of those and why you wrote so passionately and methodically on this doctrine.
6. The book sets out in the first three chapters to demonstrate the necessity for the existence of God and does so from a unique but limited perspective: that of a fly fisherman in the water and only what is seen there. Why this angle?
7. In chapter eight you raise the issue of what you creatively label “Hatchery Raised Christians.” Tell us more about that concept and why you felt compelled to write about it.
8. Clearly you have a passion for evangelism, and historically there have been a number of analogies made between fishing and evangelism, but you see how the stream reflects not only sound methods of evangelism, but also how the stream connects evangelism as process that takes people full circle to reproducing disciples. Talk about how that works through such an organic depiction based on some of your stream metaphors.
9. Much of the book takes place on various Ozark mountain streams and rivers—what is your association with the Ozarks?
10. The book touches on a lot of “ologies”: geology, hydrology, entomology, ichthyology, biology, and theology to name a few, but connects them in ways most readers typically would not ever consider. Why did you go to such effort to make all of these connections?



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JACOB A. TAGGART Author of "Theology from the Spring"



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