



Inventing Hell: Dante, the Bible and Eternal Torment

By Sweeney, Jon M.

Jericho Books. 1 Paperback(s), 2014. soft. Book Condition: New. Hellthe very word conjures up terror, darkness, and eternal separation from God. Some people think that the Bible is clear about hell, but what if they're mistaken? Jon Sweeney charts hell's "evolution" from the Old Testament underworld Sheol, through history and literature, to the most influential depiction of all, Dante's Inferno. He reveals how the modern idea of hell is based mostly on Dante's imaginative geniusbut in the process, he offers a constructive new understanding of the afterlife. "Sweeney becomes our Virgil, ably and cannily leading readers through the circles that culminate in the picture of Hell invented by Dante and that Christianity, and western culture, has long embraced."Publishers Weekly"An inquisitive and theologically relevant conversation starter about the difficulty of tracking myths' migrations across cultures and about their ability to spawn new myths for pondering the unknowable."The Christian Century 193.

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