



Book Review Guidelines

FAITH • CIVILIZATION • THEOLOGY

Editorial guidance for commissioned scholarly reviewers

Purpose and scope

Faith • Civilization • Theology (FCT) welcomes scholarly book reviews addressing biblical studies, theology, church history, religious life, ecclesiology, interfaith relations, and the intersections of faith, civilisation, and culture. Reviews should help readers understand a book's argument, evaluate its scholarly contribution, and decide its relevance to their work. A review is an independent critical assessment, not promotional copy or a chapter-by-chapter synopsis.

Eligibility, commissioning and conflicts

Reviews should normally be commissioned or approved by the Book Reviews Editor before drafting. Reviewers must disclose any personal, professional, financial, institutional, or collaborative relationship with the author or publisher that could reasonably affect impartiality. Do not accept an assignment where a substantial conflict cannot be managed. The editorial team may reassign or decline a review.

Length and format

Target 1,000–1,500 words, excluding the bibliographic heading; a different length may be agreed with the editor. Submit an editable DOCX through the designated FCT submission process. Use clear academic English, coherent paragraphs, descriptive subheadings only when useful, and a respectful scholarly tone. British or Australian spelling is acceptable if applied consistently. Avoid excessive jargon and unexplained technical terminology.

Recommended structure

Opening (approximately 15–20%): give complete bibliographic details, identify the central thesis, intended audience, scope and main questions. Context (approximately 15–20%): situate the book within relevant research and identify its distinctive contribution. Critical assessment (approximately 50–60%): evaluate evidence, primary and secondary sources, methodology, argument, organisation, theological and historical precision, strengths and limitations. Closing (approximately 10%): offer a balanced overall judgment and identify readers who would benefit.

Questions reviewers should answer

What is the book's principal claim? Does its evidence substantiate that claim? Are key terms and methods explained? Are relevant scholarly perspectives fairly represented? Are historical and biblical claims supported by appropriate sources? Does the book distinguish description, interpretation, and confessional conviction? What is genuinely new or useful? Which omissions or weaknesses materially affect its conclusions?

Scripture, theology and interreligious scholarship

Where biblical texts matter, distinguish textual claims from later theological inference and cite passages accurately. Where traditions differ, describe positions fairly in their own terms; avoid caricature or polemics. FCT has a Christian scholarly orientation, but reviewers must assess each book on its argument and evidence, not simply on agreement with a reviewer's denomination or convictions. Respectful disagreement and substantive critique are welcome.

References, quotations and integrity

Supply full bibliographic details for the reviewed book: author/editor, title, publisher, place if available, year, pages and ISBN when available. For references to the book under review, use brief parenthetical page citations such as (p. 42) or (pp. 42–44). Use direct quotations sparingly and reproduce them exactly. Cite external works only when necessary, using a consistent Chicago-style author–date or notes system agreed with the editor. Never invent quotations, page numbers, sources, or bibliographic details. Verify all factual assertions against the book and relevant sources.

Originality, confidentiality and responsible use of AI

The review must represent the reviewer's own reading, evaluation and scholarly judgment. Disclose substantive generative-AI assistance to the editor; AI-generated claims, citations and quotations must be independently checked. Do not upload confidential editorial correspondence, unpublished material, or restricted book files into external systems without permission. Reviews must not be plagiarised, recycled without disclosure, or simultaneously submitted elsewhere without editorial consent.

Submission and editorial process

Confirm the commission, edition, delivery address, agreed length and deadline with the editor. Notify the editor promptly if the book is delayed or the deadline becomes impracticable. Submit the manuscript and complete book metadata through the designated FCT process. The editor may request substantive revision and copyediting; acceptance and publication remain editorial decisions. Reviewers should check proofs promptly when requested. No review is guaranteed publication merely because it was commissioned.

Reviewer checklist

Before submission confirm: (1) the book has been read sufficiently and fairly; (2) its thesis is accurately presented; (3) the review contains substantive evaluation rather than summary alone; (4) every quotation and page reference has been checked; (5) external sources are genuine and correctly cited; (6) any conflicts and AI assistance have been disclosed; (7) tone is respectful; and (8) the document meets the editor's agreed requirements.

Editorial contact and policy status

Website: <https://faithcivilizationtheology.org/> . Contact the Book Reviews Editor through the journal's official contact or submission channels. These guidelines were approved for editorial use on 12 October 2026. Version 1.0 • October 2026.