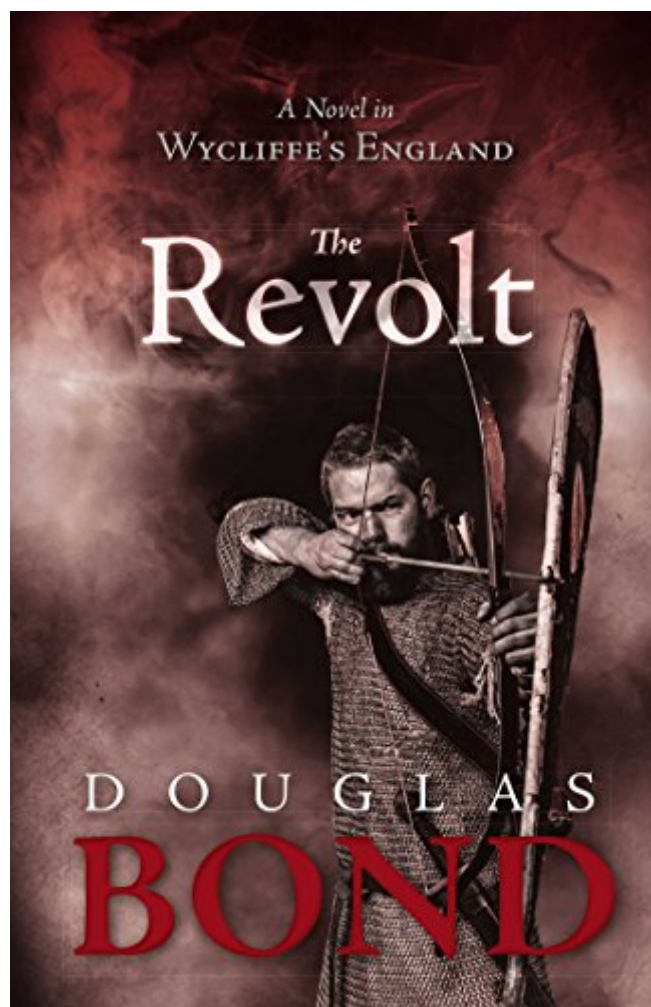


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The Revolt: A Novel In Wycliffe's England



Synopsis

Icy fingers closed around my heart at his words. Wycliffe had said it where all could hear him. In public, he had blasphemed. He had declared the "Vicar of Christ" to be the antichrist. There could be but one result from such a declaration. In his short career as a battle secretary, Hugh Westall has come close to death many times. But when he leaves the war behind to enter the hallowed halls of Oxford, he meets John of Wycliffe and soon embarks on a mission even more exciting and perhaps just as dangerous. Using his scribe's quill to translate the Bible into English, the language of the common people, Hugh begins to understand the beauty of the gospel as never before. But he and his friends are up against the corrupt monolith of the medieval church, and it will stop at nothing to crush Wycliffe's work. Douglas Bond uses his unique writing style to produce a highly readable imagining of the travails of John Wycliffe, the 14th century heretic who dared to make the eternal truths of the Bible accessible to the marginalized people group of his day: English peasants. This vivid and exciting narrative reminds us of the very real challenges to Bible translation over the centuries and of the importance in carrying out the work he started. "Bob Creson, President and CEO, Wycliffe Bible Translators "The gilded histories often fail to note how extraordinary times invade ordinary lives. Douglas Bond paints the days of John Wycliffe in full color, showing that the Morningstar rose over filthy streets and jaded lives and brought real hope to hearts in bondage. "Jeremiah W. Montgomery, Author, The Dark Harvest Trilogy "The Revolt is a feast for the senses filled with accounts of battles, deception, heartache, integrity, and devotion. "Chuck Bentley, CEO, Crown Financial Ministries

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Customer Reviews

The RevoltThe author introduces us to Hugh West'all, the narrator, a young man who is recording the battle of Crecy for Englands' supremacy in the year 1346.The English were outnumbered by the French and they were not expected to win - but they did win, because the longbow men kept their bowstrings dry in the rain and the French did not! Hugh records the events of the battle, and we meet Willard and his father, who will be killed by a Frenchman.After the battle, Hugh West'all is allowed to go to Oxford College by the Earl of Oxford. Oxford is a medieval college, it is an era of walking through refuse-filled streets, living in unheated, straw strewn buildings, and studying by candlelight!Oxford trains men how to be priests and scholars, they are the only ones with access to reading and writing - the rest of the populace is illiterate and chained to a lifetime of grueling poverty!Willard lives with his mother and sister and Willard takes his father's' place as head of the family. Willard is sick of heart when he hears priests ask poor people for money to get to purgatory or to support the Pope!Willard becomes disillusioned with the Catholic Church and its vices. Hugh and his friends Alfred and John are led by God to translate the Bible into English.Enter the world of medieval England, learn about the people and events that turned the world upside down!

This was not the usual romanticized story of the nobility in medieval times, but rather, the author paints a realistic picture of peasants and students, giving us the ability to feel the grittiness of their everyday lives. You can almost smell the stench of the streets, feel the coarseness of their clothes, and the cold of England's winter blowing through their meager homes. Through the eyes of a student and a peasant, we see the dullness and hopelessness of an era where your birth determines your life, but with the introduction of John of Wycliffe, hope, the hope of the gospel, changes everything.Wycliffe's revolutionary ideas did change the world forever, but these ideas were not his originally. He merely preached what he read in the Bible, and held the church to account. He was one of the first to "speak truth to power." Of course, we know how power reacted to him, but they couldn't stop the truth.I enjoyed how the author drew us in to the story of 2 young men and how Wycliffe helped them to understand the grace of God. The story drew you in so that

you don't even realize you are learning history and Bible truths. I would highly recommend it!

** I reviewed this book thinking it was middle grade fiction (as noted here on). However, the author has let me know THE REVOLT is indeed Young Adult YA or adult fiction, appropriate for 15 and up.

**The Revolt by Douglas Bond is a theologically rich and thoroughly engaging look at the life John Wycliffe – the Morning star of the Reformation. His story is told from the perspective of his young Oxford classmate Hugh Westall, and Willard, a peasant farmer. Due to their vastly different social standings, young readers will glimpse all aspects of life in Wycliffe's England. Every sentence and paragraph is richly descriptive and complex. Bond's vernacular may be challenging for some. He expertly selected language which accommodates modern readers while still maintaining the essence of the time period. Despite never being taught church history, it is an essential element of our Christian faith and heritage I'd like to pass down to my own children. For this reason, I greatly admire the author's exacting effort to fill this story with facts. I know the kids will be entertained by the battle of Cr cy, Alfred's witty humor, and the tournament games. Even more they will be learning through story, and Douglas Bond has proven to be a skilled teacher. I received a complimentary copy of this book from P&R Publishing in exchange for my honest review.

In the book The Revolt, author Douglas Bond follows the life of Hugh Westall. Hugh faced death on the battlefield at the battle of Crecy as a secretary of the war. Not liking the war life, he enters Oxford to study for the ministry. This is where Hugh meets John of Wycliffe and together they begin a dangerous journey of breaking the law – translating the Bible into the common man's English. While Hugh is working on translating the Bible he comes to grips with his own need of salvation by faith and not by works. I would highly recommend this book for any reader. While the book is full of historical facts, it is written in a fast paced novel style which keeps it very interesting. I received a copy of this e-book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I've always enjoyed reading historical fiction, and this book by Douglas Bond is superb. I really enjoyed the way he told two stories at once, weaving the lives of two young men together into one story. Hugh, a young secretary, and Willard, a serf, though they live very different lives, find themselves drawn to a young student named John of Wycliffe. I greatly enjoyed the vivid picture of life in different levels of society in 14th century England, as well as the glimpses into the life of John Wycliffe. I received a free ecopy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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