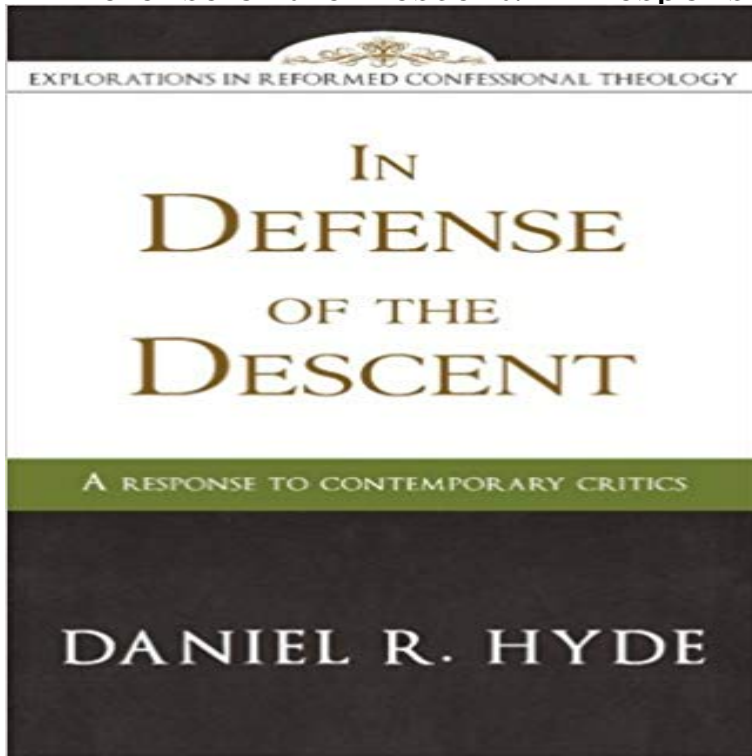


## In Defense of the Descent: A Response to Contemporary Critics



The Apostles Creed claims that Christ descended into hell, but do we really believe that? Should we believe that? In this book, Daniel R. Hyde analyzes this controversial claim, bringing valuable light to this long confessed doctrine. He presents the arguments raised against the descent clause, discusses the various understanding of it throughout church history, explains how the Reformed churches have adopted it, and demonstrated the benefits of retaining it as a point of our Christian confession today. For those who question why Christians would believe in the descent of Christ, *In Defense of the Descent* is an informative and helpful guide.

**Series Description** Explorations in Reformed Confessional Theology (editors: Daniel R. Hyde and Mark Jones) This series provides introductory volumes on statements in the Reformed confessions that tend to trouble modern readers. Each book examines confessional issues in four ways: exploring such things as variants, textual development, and the development of language within the documents themselves as well as within the context in which these documents were written. historically exploring social history and the history of ideas that shed light upon these issues. theologically exploring the issues of intra- and inter-confessional theology both in the days these documents were written as well as our day. pastorally exploring the pressing pastoral needs of certain doctrines and the implications of any issues that cause difficulty in the confessions. The series is intended for educated lay people in Reformed congregations as well as ministers who must repeatedly teach and preach the doctrines in the confessions. Author Daniel Hyde is the pastor of the Oceanside United Reformed Church (URCNA) in Carlsbad/Oceanside, California. Endorsements For creedal and confessional Christians, the clause in the

Apostles Creed he descended into hell is important, but sometimes puzzling. Even as intelligent lay folk often struggle to articulate a brief, cogent, accurate reply as to its precise meaning, they may not fully appreciate the history of discussion behind the phrase, or the origins and function of its inclusion in what is probably still, liturgically, the most widely used Creed in the Reformation churches. Daniel Hyde has come to the rescue with a brief, helpful, historical, biblical, and pastoral treatment of this clause, and the crucial theological truth it is designed to propound and protect. I warmly commend it to the Christian reader. - J Ligon Duncan Every pastor knows that sinking feeling when the congregation recites the descent into hell clause of the Creed. What do we say to them? Written for laypeople and pastors alike, this slim volume not only gives us a good answer; it offers a terrific summary of broader Christian reflection. Danny Hyde convincingly argues that, far from an idle question, our Lords descent into hell is a precious facet of the gospel. - Michael S. Horton

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