

## God

### A Very Short Introduction

By John Bowker

#### Questions for Thought and Discussion

- Do you believe or not believe in God? What are your reasons?
- Whether or not you believe in God, can you think of ways in which your beliefs and ideas about God have changed?
- Are there any poems or poets that have helped you to imagine or understand God better?
- Does omnipotence mean that there should be no suffering or evil in the world?
- Stephen Hawking asked (p.26) why the underlying order of the world is as it is and why it exists at all: does belief in God help to answer that question?
- In Judaism:
  - What beliefs and ideas about God have changed?
  - Are there beliefs and ideas that have persisted and been found reliable?
- In Christianity:
  - What beliefs and ideas about God have changed?
  - Are there beliefs and ideas that have persisted and been found reliable?
- In Islam:
  - What beliefs and ideas about God have changed?
  - Are there beliefs and ideas that have persisted and been found reliable?
- How, in India, can so many different practices and beliefs about God coexist?
- Some writings are believed to be Revelation from God: does Revelation give answers to questions about God?
- Given that there are so many different beliefs about God, do people in different religions worship the same God (p.71)?
- If God is Invitation how might people respond?
- Is it possible to practice the presence of God in everyday life? If so how?
- What might the meaning and practice of prayer be?
- Where and in what ways might God be found?

#### Other books by John Bowker

*The Concise Dictionary of World Religions* (ed 2000).

*God: A Brief History* (2002).

*The Sacred Neuron* (2005).

*Beliefs That Changed the World* (2007; new edn 2015).

*The Aerial Atlas of the Holy Land* (2008).

*Knowing the Unknowable: Science and Religions on God and the Universe* (ed 2008).

*Conflict and Reconciliation: The Contribution of World Religions* (ed 2008).

*Before the Ending of the Day: Life and Love, Death and Redemption* (collected poems, 2010).

*The Message and the Book: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions* (2011; Yale 2012).

*Why Religions Matter* (2015).

#### Further reading

Please refer to the further reading section at the back of *God: A Very Short Introduction*.