

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADVANCE PRAISE FOR
THE GREAT AWAKENING
By Jim Wallis

“I had always been a skeptic of the church of personal peace and prosperity . . . of righteous people standing in a holy huddle while the world rages outside the stained glass. But I’ve learned that there are many people of the cloth who are also in the world - from debt cancellation to the fight against AIDS and for human rights they are on the march. Jim Wallis isn’t just part of this movement—he’s out front carrying a bullhorn.”

- Bono

“No one has done more than Jim Wallis to transform, advance and enrich our country’s conversation about faith and politics, and no voice as been as powerful or prophetic as Jim’s in advancing the cause of justice for the poor and the marginalized. *The Great Awakening* is the perfect successor to *God’s Politics*. If the earlier book helped open our eyes to what had gone wrong, *The Great Awakening* is a passionate and resolutely hopeful guide to how we can put things right. Wallis provides an historical and theological foundation for a transformative public religion, and he will persuade even the most hardened cynic that it is young people, with their bold dreams and refreshing energy, who will shepherd in a rejuvenation of faith and the transformation of politics.”

- E. J. Dionne Jr.

Syndicated *Washington Post* columnist, and author of *Souled Out* and *Why Americans Hate Politics*

“Jim Wallis is the most influential and visionary religious leader of our time. His broad appeal and impact are reminiscent of Reinhold Niebuhr and Martin Luther King, Jr. Not only has he provided clear intellectual direction for our political, cultural and spiritual renaissance, he has launched a movement to renew the church and our democracy. America, indeed, the world owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Wallis for demonstrating best practices in diplomatic engagement at a time when ideological disengagement and cultural wars characterize our public relationships. Wallis’ model will lead the way to restore America’s moral authority and rekindle a healthy dialogue among people of all faiths and political persuasions. *The Great Awakening* is a well-conceived roadmap for a more hopeful future.”

- Robert M. Franklin, Ph.D.

President Morehouse College and author of *Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities*

“Progressive and centrist evangelicals are one stirring away from a real awakening. We are interested in the poor, in racial reconciliation, in global poverty and AIDS, in the plight of women in the developing world.... What Jim Wallis has been talking about is coming to fruition.”

- Bill Hybels

**Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church
from *The New York Times Magazine***

“Jim Wallis is one of the great moral voices of our time. In *The Great Awakening*, he offers not only clear theology and practical approaches to the divisiveness that so easily besets us, but also issues a clarion call. In this book is a path to our spiritual maturity and our country’s moral progress. It points a future that is much like the first era of Christianity, when Christians loved like Jesus and people were reminded of God’s compassion. Politics is not about power, but about how we treat people. And Jim Wallis reminds us that the evasive solutions to chronically polarizing issues will not come from mere human efforts, but only by the grace of God. *The Great Awakening* will stir our efforts to service and open our eyes to Him.”

- Joel C. Hunter, D. Min.

Senior Pastor, Northland – *A Church Distributed*

“For over 30 years Jim Wallis has pointed the way to a road less traveled - a way of integrating faith and public life in the spirit of the Biblical prophets. Now, having tried the alternatives and found them disastrous, more and more people are realizing that Jim’s chosen path is the right way forward to higher ground. At once inspiring and substantial, *The Great Awakening* invites us to become part of a new spiritual and social movement and make a difference.”

- Brian McLaren

Author/Speaker

“Jim Wallis doesn't only believe that a Great Awakening is coming, he knows that it has already begun. This optimistic book describes the cutting edges of faith and politics to create a new common good based in spiritual renewal. In these surprisingly personal pages, Wallis gives of himself as never before as he pours out mature passion for social justice. Read this, find hope, and welcome to the revival.”

- Diana Butler Bass

Author, *Christianity for the Rest of Us*

“I don’t know any better development for the church, and the nation, than a new evangelicalism with a broad social consciousness. We need Jim Wallis’s strong, faithful, and human voice leading believers beyond divisive wedge issues to true common ground. Wallis’s new book is a refreshing reminder that people of faith can help right and renew the body politic, at a moment in our history when nothing could be more urgent.”

-John Buchanan

Pastor, the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, and Editor/Publisher of *The Christian Century*

“Jim Wallis is a modern American prophet. His incisive biblical message cuts through the weary political rhetoric of the day with unfettered moral truthfulness. *The Great Awakening* challenges the smug secular slumber of some, and the myopic religious self-righteousness of others, with the transforming power of authentic faith. Don’t expect more political ideology sprinkled with Bible verses here. Rather, read this book if you suspect that the pathways toward a future shaped by God’s justice will go through your heart.”

- Wesley Granberg-Michaelson

General Secretary, Reformed Church in America and author of *Leadership from Inside Out*

“In this book Jim Wallis, one of the most important voices in Christendom, helps us recover the kind of Biblically based revival that synthesizes spiritual renewal with progressive social change.”

- Tony Campolo

Eastern University

“In *God’s Politics*, Jim Wallis helped us understand the consequences and the responsibilities of biblical faith in today’s roiling political environment. Now with the deep passion and searing insight of a prophet, he brilliantly [skillfully?] reads the signs of our times to explain why America is on the road to a truly spiritual revival that will awaken our love for our every neighbor and pique our outrage at unjust treatment of any of them. With *The Great Reawakening* Jim Wallis has yet again shown himself not only to be one of the most important commentators on the intersection of faith and politics in America, but also a man of profound and fearless faith. This is a book that should be read by everyone longing for a better America.”

- Obery M. Hendricks, Jr.

**Professor of Biblical Interpretation, New York Theological Seminary.
author of *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus’ Teachings and How They Have Been Distorted***

“Jim Wallis is giving voice and leadership to a segment of the evangelical community long ignored by the mainstream media. His insights resonate with evangelicals who have felt unrepresented by the religious right. His advocacy for the entire gospel at times critiques both left and right. This book is for anyone who wishes to understand what is happening in this politically powerful segment of the population. He is a major voice in the realignment of faith and politics in America.”

- Dr. Glenn R. Palmberg

President, Evangelical Covenant Church

“In this searing declaration of progressive evangelical faith, Jim Wallis fans the flames of justice revival in America—a bold and compassionate call for a rising generation of Christians to come to prophetic voice in vital communities of religious and political engagement.”

- Cheryl Sanders

Professor of Christian Ethics at the Howard University School of Divinity, senior pastor of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, D.C. and author of *Ministry at the Margins: The Prophetic Mission of Women, Youth and the Poor*

“In *The Great Awakening*, Jim Wallis continues to fan the flames of the twenty-first century revival within American Christianity. This revival is a reclaiming of the fullness of the gospel - a gospel that invites people into relationship with God through Jesus Christ, transforms them from the inside out, and then calls them to pursue justice, to practice radical compassion and to both pray and work for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. This book is the definitive guide to the next Great Awakening.”

- Adam Hamilton

Author of *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*

“This book couldn't come at a better time. Religion is being blamed for most of the world's ills and we need a sane contrary voice. Jim Wallis understands not only the necessity for a revival of a commitment to the Common Good but also that faith (linking personal with social transformation) must undergird our passion for inclusion and justice. His is a vision of politics not driven by power and the protection of narrowly conceived identities but by the captivating joy of a divine hospitality where everyone, without exception, is welcome at the table. Now, that's a revival worth embracing!”

- Alan Jones

Dean of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, author of several books on spirituality, including *Soul Making*, and *Reimagining Christianity: Reconnect Your Spirit without Disconnecting Your Mind*

“Jim Wallis has done it again with another outstanding and powerful book. Wallis is one of the most respected spiritual progressives on the planet, and *The Great Awakening* shows why. Deeply rooted in Evangelical theology yet accessible to people of all faiths, Wallis' newest book is my best argument for why he should be running for President of the U.S. Wallis' progressive political agenda flows not from some momentary modernist fads, but from the deepest truths of Biblical theology. All of us working for fundamental transformation of American society will rejoice in this new asset for organizing a social change movement that is rooted in God's politics.”

- Rabbi Michael Lerner, editor of Tikkun Magazine and chair of the interfaith Network of Spiritual Progressives www.spiritualprogressives.org and author of *The Left Hand of God: Healing America's Political and Spiritual Crisis*

“I have been a Jim Wallis fan since the mid-1970’s when Jim was publishing a little magazine called *The Post-American*. Jim has walked a lonely road for many years as an evangelical who is passionately committed to social justice. But now, as Jim so cogently writes in his book, there is a spiritual awakening across America and many are joining men like Jim on behalf of the poor and the most marginalized. You will find yourself hugely inspired by stories from America’s past and present regarding how Christian faith has energized and, indeed, led almost every significant progressive social movement in our nation’s history. Building on this rich tradition of Christians reshaping society, Jim Wallis offers a compelling vision of faith today that refuses to be co-opted by any single political party. Like me, you may not agree with all of Jim’s policy prescriptions, but you will be challenged and inspired by Jim’s commitment to justice and his refusal to allow faith to remain silent in the public square. It would be impossible to read this book without rethinking how faith and politics should interact, and without being confronted by God’s desire for justice. I believe that the Spirit of God is using Jim Wallis to stir a new movement toward justice in our country today, with the church leading the way!”

- Rich Nathan

Senior Pastor, Vineyard Church of Columbus

“Despite our significant public-policy differences, I commend Jim Wallis for advocating religious belief as an invaluable resource in addressing the urgent moral and social crises of our time.”

- Dr. Richard Land

**President, Southern Baptist Convention Ethics & Religious Liberty
Commission**

Author of *The Divided States of America?*

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Reviving Faith & Politics in a Post-Religious Right America
By Jim Wallis
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