

# The Framework

DISCOVERING YOUR PLACE  
IN GOD'S GREAT PURPOSE

David Boan

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## Preface

**T**HIS BOOK has been many years in the making. It owes much to many people and to the Lord's work through them.

First, to the audiences around Melbourne, Australia, where I made my initial attempt to teach an overview of the Old Testament in five nights during 1972. They encouraged me by their response to the teaching and the use of a simple diagram developed as a shorthand way of presenting the 'large themes' of the Old Testament. It was the embryonic form of the diagram used in this book.

Second, to the students whom I taught ethics at Ridley College in Melbourne. It was there that the need for a swift overview of the whole Bible which expressed the 'eschatological' framework for ethics refined the diagram further.

Third, to my friend and partner Kevin Smith, who, together with our respective wives at the Montrose House in 1972, as we taught and discussed these issues, encouraged me in my endeavours to get ideas onto paper. It was at the Montrose House that the magazine *On Being* was first produced by Kevin.

Fourth, to my friend Peter Corney, who leant me his 'miner's hut' so that I could get away during a cold winter to write the first draft of this book.

Fifth, to the former editor of *On Being*, Owen Salter, for his help in making certain that the various chapters of the book came to be edited for their first publication in the magazine. It was in monthly chapter-by-chapter segments between March 1980 and June 1981 that the substance of *The Framework* first saw print in Australia. Owen's editing and craftsmanship in expression have preserved present readers from many clichés in this new revised work.

Sixth, to my friend of precise mind and generous spirit, Graeme McLean, who shares my appreciation for the work of the late Helmut Thielicke. He has encouraged me in the teaching of Thielicke's *Theological Ethics* volumes 1 and 2, and has discussed the early chapters of this book in detail.

Needless to say, anyone who has read Thielicke's books will find the mark of his thinking and style on my work. I have found his writings helpful, and thank the Lord for the faithful care in his thinking and the labour of his English translator.

Last, there stands behind every endeavour of a husband and father the generosity and interest of his wife and children. To my wife, Jan, my fellow traveller and good friend—thanks.

All mistakes which remain in the book, despite the care of others, are most certainly mine.

May the Lord Christ get glory through what is written here—not least in the fact that the lives of men and women may come more into submission to Him through the Spirit's use of this book.

*David Boan*