



The Ramparts of Heaven

Gilbert Morris

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Two families—the Wakefields of nobility and the lower-class Morgans—are the focus of this sweeping generational saga, joined by intriguing personalities such as Elizabeth I, William Tyndale, and John Bunyan. Linking the people and events through the ages is the struggle of men and women who sought God as the answer to their difficulties. #5: "The Ramparts of Heaven" Follow the quest of Andrew Wakefield, a ministerial student at Oxford University, as he joins these shakers and movers in their attempts to advance the Methodist movement—and bring the realities of the gospel of Christ to a needy world.

The Ramparts of Heaven Details

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Author : Gilbert Morris

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From Reader Review The Ramparts of Heaven for online ebook

Rachel says

This is a historical fiction series set in 16th-18th century England. Many of the main characters intersect the lives of royalty of the time. I love English royalty history.

Katy Vendetti says

I began this series as a teenager but never finished, so I'm trying to complete this series by the end of the year.

This book took forever to read. For the first 200 pages of this book, I was ready to give it a two-star rating, and perhaps it's really a two and a half star rating overall, but I went ahead and rounded it up to three.

At the beginning of the book, it skips two generations, which the author hadn't done in the previous books. I felt like this took away from the Wakefield story. Only one of the characters from the previous book makes it into this story. And like the previous book, for a large portion of this book, it was preoccupied with the stories of John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, and the Methodist movement.

But because of the generational jump, I had unanswered questions. All of the sudden, the eldest Wakefield was much more focused on status and wealth, as well as his mother, and his father was dead. So we don't know how it evolved from a family with a strong religious center to this one. The second son, Andrew, is the son that we really follow. The eldest is really just a secondary character, as well as the Wakefield property that has taken a major part in stories past.

That said, the Methodist movement was interesting, especially since it involved some travel to America (or the colonies as it was at this point). There wasn't as much political involvement in this one, but the conflict came from the Church of England.

There is no profanity in the book, which is par for the rest of the series probably. There is some sexual tension in this book between two of the characters who are married. The husband only wants to be married because that's what he is supposed to do, but he doesn't want to be romantic or give in to his "carnal" side which complicates the relationship. He does give in once but it's not graphic or detailed at all. But you know what is going on. There is also kissing as in most of the books. There is also some violence that the preachers experience, but nothing graphic, again.

I am learning some things about the religious legacy coming out of England. It is interesting, but I'm also wanting more about the Wakefield family, more like the last 100 or so pages of this book. Perhaps the next book in the series will be different?

Deanna says

Reread 9/12

Kathy says

It was good, but disjointed by the author's admirable attempts to fit in lots of information about the Wesleys and Whitefield. Took a different direction than the other books, but still seemed somewhat unrealistic at times. However, it was enjoyable and interesting.

Sasha (whispersofthesilentwind) says

Note: this is a re-read

"Ya, he knows the Scripture. But it is better, I tink, to know the God who wrote the Scripture."

This was probably my second least favorite book in the series right in front of A Gathering of Eagles . Once again I found the tying in of fictional characters with non-fictional characters done very well & I think it's pretty genius how he used the family line to connect the Morgans to the Wakefields. I love seeing the lines throughout the ages. It was interesting to see the struggles Wesley went through. George Whitefield is a great side character.

Loraine says

SUMMARY: Two families--the Wakefields of nobility and the lower-class Morgans--are the focus of this sweeping generational saga, joined by intriguing personalities such as Elizabeth I, William Tyndale, John Bunyan, John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield. Linking the people and events through the ages is the struggle of men and women who sought God as the answer to their difficulties. Follow the quest of Andrew Wakefield, a ministerial student at Oxford University, as he joins these shakers and movers in their attempts to advance the Methodist movement--and bring the realities of the gospel of Christ to a needy world.

REVIEW: I found book five of this series particularly interesting since my 4th great grandfather was a circuit riding Methodist preacher in the late 1700's and early 1800's. He became a Methodist during the great revival along the east coast of the US during the time period that George Whitefield was holding his many tent meetings. Morris truly brought to life the struggles that Wesley went through in splitting from the Church of England and developing a more Christ-centered, faith based, personal relationship with God. The author's mix of church history and fictional romance is very well done. I found the characters of Andrew and Dorcas complex and well developed. Each struggled with problems but resolved them through a closer connection to Christ. I do miss the characters from previous books as they age and die; but like how the children of one book become the adults and focus of the next.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "Think of heaven, talk of heaven, all time is lost when we are not talking of heaven.

"Ya, he knows the Scripture. But it is better, I tink, to know the God who wrote the Scripture."

"There are two kinds of storms. One is the physical storm that may lead to death, but the other is the storm inside a man's soul, and that is the worst of all."

"Preach faith till you have it. And then, because you have it, preach faith."

"Christian perfection refers to the work of God in the heart. It is loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. It means your motivation is pure. Your thoughts words, and actions are governed by pure love. Your heart is perfect before God and your life is full of joy."

Emily says

In a nutshell, too much history and not enough fiction. As this series has gone on it has moved further away from the title characters and become more about historical figures. This book did that even more since it skipped a generation. It just seemed more like a collection of people's diaries and excerpts from history books.
