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June 7, 2008: Michael Hampson: God Without God

Bruce Ledewitz

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Title: Michael Hampson: God Without God

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6/7/2008-- Just out and excerpted in May/June Tikkun magazine is Michael Hampson's book, God Without God: Western Spirituality Without the Wrathful King. I have not read the book yet, but it seems to follow the path begun by John Shelby Spong. Hampson is himself a former Anglican Priest. Hampson seems to be taking progressive Christianity as far as it can go, and maybe further, without leaving Christianity altogether. He writes that he accepts the atheist case against the God of presumptive monotheism. Oddly, Hampson does not give Christianity enough credit and yet still seems to want to remain a part of it. The atheist case is not just against this wrathful King, but any King, or any creator, or any organizing intelligence. Christianity does not worship a wrathful King and never did. The atheist case is more serious than doing away with Hampson's straw man God. On the other hand, if there is no supernatural realm, why continue in the specifically Christian tradition? That is to say, why isn't Hampson another Hallowed Secularist? I hope to have the chance to ask him that some time.