



To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History)

By Kendrick Oliver

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."

In 1968 the world watched as Earth rose over the moonscape, televised from the orbiting *Apollo 8* mission capsule. Radioing back to Houston on Christmas Eve, astronauts recited the first ten verses from the book of Genesis. In fact, many of the astronauts found space flight to be a religious experience. *To Touch the Face of God* is the first book-length historical study of the relationship between religion and the U.S. space program.

Kendrick Oliver explores the role played by religious motivations in the formation of the space program and discusses the responses of religious thinkers such as Paul Tillich and C. S. Lewis. Examining the attitudes of religious Americans, Oliver finds that the space program was a source of anxiety as well as inspiration. It was not always easy for them to tell whether it was a godly or godless venture.

Grounded in original archival research and the study of participant testimonies, this book also explores one of the largest petition campaigns of the post-war era. Between 1969 and 1975, more than eight million Americans wrote to NASA expressing support for prayer and bible-reading in space. Oliver's study is rigorous and detailed but also contemplative in its approach, examining the larger meanings of mankind's first adventures in "the heavens."

 [Download To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profan ...pdf](#)

To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History)

By Kendrick Oliver

To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."

In 1968 the world watched as Earth rose over the moonscape, televised from the orbiting *Apollo 8* mission capsule. Radioing back to Houston on Christmas Eve, astronauts recited the first ten verses from the book of Genesis. In fact, many of the astronauts found space flight to be a religious experience. *To Touch the Face of God* is the first book-length historical study of the relationship between religion and the U.S. space program.

Kendrick Oliver explores the role played by religious motivations in the formation of the space program and discusses the responses of religious thinkers such as Paul Tillich and C. S. Lewis. Examining the attitudes of religious Americans, Oliver finds that the space program was a source of anxiety as well as inspiration. It was not always easy for them to tell whether it was a godly or godless venture.

Grounded in original archival research and the study of participant testimonies, this book also explores one of the largest petition campaigns of the post-war era. Between 1969 and 1975, more than eight million Americans wrote to NASA expressing support for prayer and bible-reading in space. Oliver's study is rigorous and detailed but also contemplative in its approach, examining the larger meanings of mankind's first adventures in "the heavens."

To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver Bibliography

- Rank: #1906613 in Books
- Brand: Brand: The Johns Hopkins University Press
- Published on: 2012-12-05
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .86" w x 6.00" l, .95 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 248 pages

 [Download To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profan ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver

Editorial Review

Review

"Lively and interesting, this book accurately reflects the disorienting effects of ventures into Heaven by men in space suits."

(James Gilbert, University of Maryland, College Park)

" *To Touch the Face of God*... support[s] the importance of the strength of individual faith, the power of community, and the American need for both heroes and villains of biblical proportions to change the world."

(David Rosman *New York Journal of Books*)

"Oliver analyses spaceflight and religion in a sophisticated manner, well informed by the scholarly literature of 'new aerospace history,' which examines intersections between space history and other disciplines or themes... Oliver engages histories of theology and religious practice in a broad conversation of motivations, implications, transformations and reinforcements of religion in the history of spaceflight."

(Margaret Weitekamp *Times Higher Education*)

"Religious and science collections alike will relish this survey."

(*Midwest Book Review*)

" *To Touch the Face of God* is well-written, with short, precise excursions into what almost amounts to poetry, for example: 'They [the astronauts in space] could not sit for a morning in the manner of Thoreau, slowly incubating epiphany'... It is an important contribution to the study of the complex connections between spaceflight and religion and thus highly recommended."

(Thore Bjørnvig *Quest: History of Spaceflight Quarterly*)

"Oliver's well-research book sparkles with graceful prose and cogent insights... Also refreshing is Oliver's breadth of knowledge, which leads to pregnant thoughts... *To Touch the Face of God* is a stimulating and original examination of the long Sixties. Looking at America through this unique window?actually a spaceship's portal?reveals things I had not seen before."

(Robert Spinney *Fides Et Historia*)

About the Author

Kendrick Oliver is a reader in American history in the Faculty of Humanities, University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frances Hairston:

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or goal; it means that book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They are really reading whatever they get because their hobby is reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, person feel need book when they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will need this *To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975* (New Series in NASA History).

Clorinda Combs:

Here thing why this specific *To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975* (New Series in NASA History) are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good but it depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as tasty as food or not. *To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975* (New Series in NASA History) giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no book that similar with *To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975* (New Series in NASA History). It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your own eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your method home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of *To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975* (New Series in NASA History) in e-book can be your choice.

William Kelley:

The experience that you get from *To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975* (New Series in NASA History) is a more deep you excavating the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but *To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975* (New Series in NASA History) giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood simply by anyone who read that because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This book also makes your vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this particular *To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975* (New Series in NASA History) instantly.

Christopher Wilkerson:

A lot of guide has printed but it is different. You can get it by net on social media. You can choose the very

best book for you, science, witty, novel, or whatever by means of searching from it. It is identified as of book To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History). You'll be able to your knowledge by it. Without departing the printed book, it could possibly add your knowledge and make you happier to read. It is most significant that, you must aware about book. It can bring you from one spot to other place.

Download and Read Online To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver #PL5YN2TG7FW

Read To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History)

By Kendrick Oliver for online ebook

To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver books to read online.

Online To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver ebook PDF download

To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver Doc

To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver MobiPocket

To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver EPub

PL5YN2TG7FW: To Touch the Face of God: The Sacred, the Profane, and the American Space Program, 1957–1975 (New Series in NASA History) By Kendrick Oliver