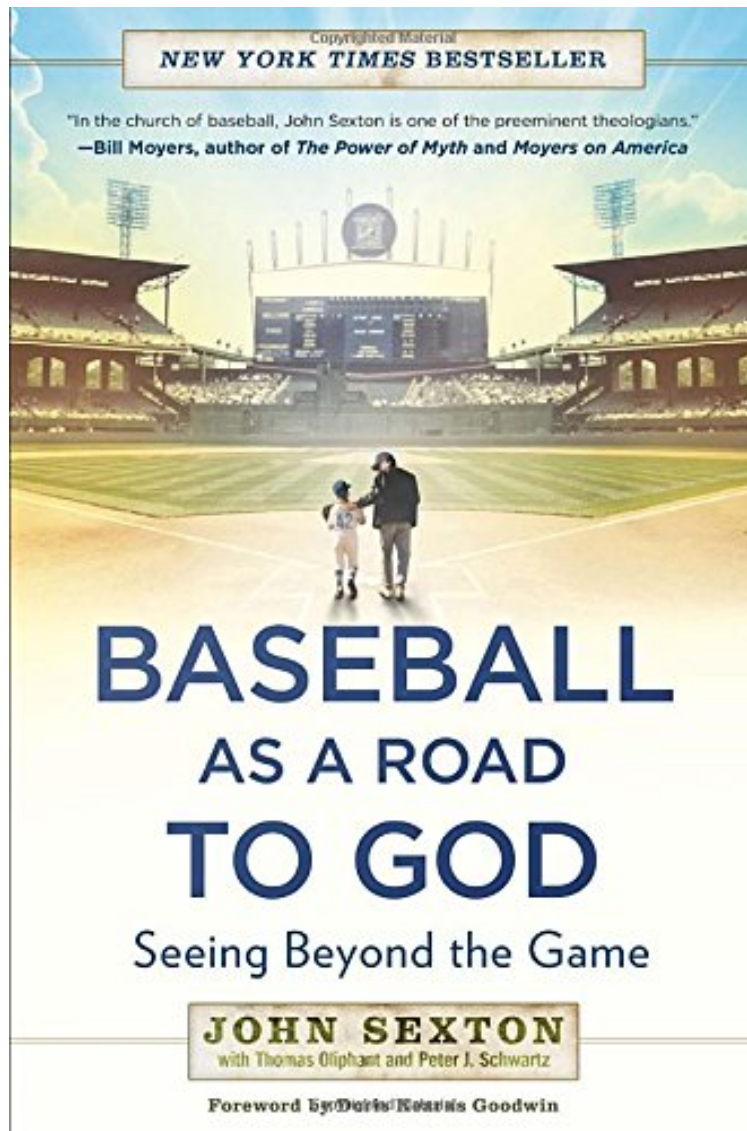


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## Baseball as a Road to God: Seeing Beyond the Game

John Sexton, Thomas Oliphant, Peter J. Schwartz  
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**John Sexton, Thomas Oliphant, Peter J. Schwartz : Baseball as a Road to God: Seeing Beyond the Game** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Baseball as a Road to God: Seeing Beyond the Game*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great on three levels  
By Weekly Reader  
This book was great for me on three levels. First the author(s) has a gift for language that most of the approximately 40 - 50 books I read each year are missing. I didn't want to stop reading but found that I needed to reflect on a chapter (inning) before continuing.

Second, the book captures the essence of baseball better than the other many books I have read over the years. Baseball became my connection to the world when I was bedridden with a heart disease in the late 1940's. Today it is the only sport that I follow. This book explains much of what I have felt for many years. Third, the book speaks to me about my search for meaning in life. I first read the word "ineffable" my first year out of college while reading the last paragraph of Albert Schweitzer's book, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*. This author uses it on almost every page. I have purchased three additional copies of the book, one for my minister, one for my great friend who helped me create a "PhD exam on Baseball" for my coworkers at the aerospace company where I was working in 1967, and one for my younger son who is struggling with his religious faith and also has never understood my love of baseball. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Great Manifesto of Baseball and Spirituality* By Johnathan W. Hill This is an excellent book for anyone who loves baseball or for who has a spiritual bent outlook on life. I found it to be a charming philosophical view into baseball. Forcing me to look at the game I have loved all of my life from a completely different perspective. Sexton approaches the issue though from a ecumenical "spiritual" point of view, rather than a "religious" on invoking only human spirituality in all of its forms in his discussion on "Baseball as A Road to God". This book is highly theological at times and at other times reads as a fascinating collection of baseball myths. In the form of the Greek myth, which Sexton explains as a "truth that is experienced, an awareness that lies beyond words". If you've no interest in either of those subjects, than don't read this book as it will most likely bore you to tears. If, however, you are one who valiantly defends baseball against the hordes of uninformed who complain at the slowness of the sport and how boring it is, all the while trying to explain the intricacies of the game being played behind the scene of the game, then this book is right up your alley. All in all, an excellent little book that has given me a "new pair of glasses" in response to my favorite sport and made my enjoyment of the game that much more sublime. One of the best books on baseball or spirituality that I have read in a long time. Like Stuart Scott meets C.S. Lewis. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Some good stories, but I was expecting more. By Robert Stocking Given the author's academic credentials, and the interest I have in both baseball and religion, I was pretty excited to read this book. My disappointment is not in its lack of stories--there are many, and they are fun to read--nor in the author's love of both subjects. I just was expecting to gain more insights into the reasons why enjoying baseball can shed light into the religious experience. The religious aspects are not mentioned nearly as much--or were they just told with less vigor, so I've forgotten them already?

The president of New York University offers a love letter to Americas most beloved sport and a tribute to its underlying spirituality. For more than a decade, John Sexton has taught a wildly popular New York University course about two seemingly very different things: religion and baseball. Yet Sexton argues that one is actually a pathway to the other. *Baseball as a Road to God* is about touching that something that lies beyond logical understanding. Sexton illuminates the surprisingly large number of mutual concepts shared between baseball and religion: faith, doubt, conversion, miracles, and even sacredness among many others. Structured like a game and filled with riveting accounts of baseballs most historic moments, *Baseball as Road to God* will enthrall baseball fans whatever their religious beliefs may be. In thought-provoking, beautifully rendered prose, Sexton elegantly demonstrates that baseball is more than a game, or even a national pastime: It can be a road to enlightenment.

From Booklist I see great things in baseball, Walt Whitman rhapsodized in 1846. A century and a half later, Sexton and his collaborators see such great things in the game that they look to it for spiritual enlightenment. Readers learn how such enlightenment comes to fans in sacred places such as Wrigley and Forbes Fields, during rituals such as Opening Day and the seventh-inning stretch, through saints such as Christy Mathewson and Roberto Clemente, and by means of miracles such as *The Catch* made by Willie Mays and the perfect game thrown in the World Series by Don Larsen. To be sure, Sexton acknowledges that baseball has had its sinners, including Ty Cobb and Pete Rose. He further concedes that some great baseball stars, including Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax, have actually stayed away from the diamond to honor religious commitments. But because of the way its timeless rhythms foster serious reflection, Sexton still evangelizes for baseball as an underappreciated wellspring of faith. A surprisingly profound new look at Americas national pastime. --Bryce Christensen *Praise for Baseball as a Road to God* In the church of baseball, John Sexton is one of the preeminent theologians. Bill Moyers in an interview with John Sexton on Bill Moyers Journal This book takes the reader on a remarkable spiritual journey, using the secular sport of baseball to explore subjects ordinarily associated with religion: prayers, altars, sacred space, faith, doubt, conversion, miracles, blessings, curses, saints and sinners. There is magic in these pages. Doris Kerns Goodwin, from the foreword . . . a thought-provoking proposition for zealots and skeptics alike. Publishers Weekly An elegant little meditation on life and the afterlife, well worth reading . . . Kirkus s "John Sexton has written beautifully about the magic of baseball: its near irresistible appeal, its legends, its breathtaking moments of drama, its heroes and villains. He has also written with great insight about the intense-felt character of religious perception. And he has dare I say it? woven the two together miraculously." Ronald Dworkin, author of *Law's Empire* and the recipient of philosophy's prestigious Holberg International Memorial Prize "Baseball as a Road to God is both a wonderful collection of delightful baseball stories that allows the reader to

relive the moments of joy, despair, anxiety, and inspiration, and a meditation demonstrating that baseball is rife with the profound and complex elements that constitute religion. The stories reflect a love of baseball and call upon us all to live slow and notice, illustrating the availability of a joyful, spiritual life."Governor Mario Cuomo"Baseball as a Road to God illuminates baseball as you've never experienced or thought about it before. John Sexton has given us nine 'innings' of lively stories and insights that take our national pastime far, far beyond the playing field. He has pitched a perfect game!"Arthur R. Miller, professor of law and resident scholar at Good Morning America for more than two decades"John Sexton's book, Baseball as a Road to God, provides a thoughtful and intriguing examination of the connection between baseball and religion. In this wonderful book, John navigates in clear language the complex questions linking faith and America's favorite pastime. Using his parlance, this book is a home run."Rachel Robinson, founder of the Jackie Robinson FoundationAbout the AuthorJohn Sexton is the fifteenth president of New York University. He lives in New York City.Thomas Oliphant was a columnist for The Boston Globe and is a New York Times bestselling author. He lives in Washington, DC.Peter J. Schwartz is a Bloomberg News contributor and former legal fellow at NYU. He was the first student enrolled in the "Baseball as a Road to God" seminar. He lives in New York City.