

Liberating The Gospels Reading The Bible With Jew

[#Liberating the Gospels](#) [#Reading the Bible with Jews](#) [#Jewish perspective on Gospels](#) [#Gospels and Judaism](#) [#Biblical interpretation](#)

Explore the Gospels through a Jewish lens, uncovering fresh perspectives and deeper understanding of the text. This approach helps bridge the gap between the Old and New Testaments, providing valuable insights into the historical and cultural context that shaped the Gospels. By engaging with Jewish traditions and interpretations, readers can gain a richer appreciation for the message and meaning of the Gospels, fostering interfaith dialogue and enhancing biblical literacy.

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Liberating the Gospels

In this boldest book since *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, Bishop John Shelby Spong offers a compelling view of the Gospels as thoroughly Jewish texts. Spong powerfully argues that many of the key Gospel accounts of events in the life of Jesus—from the stories of his birth to his physical resurrection—are not literally true. He offers convincing evidence that the Gospels are a collection of Jewish midrashic stories written to convey the significance of Jesus. This remarkable discovery brings us closer to how Jesus was really understood in his day and should be in ours.

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"With a keen eye and years of deliberate investigation, Spong traces the long period of history in which the Gospels were 'cut away from their essential Jewishness' and interpreted as if they were primarily gentile books, distorting their meaning with a deeply prejudiced anti-Jewish bias. To remedy both that bias and the continued misinterpretation of the Gospels' message, Spong believes we must recognize the Gospels as the thoroughly Jewish books they are and learn to read them with a clear understanding of the Jewish context, frame of reference, vocabulary, and history that shaped in informed them." "By

connecting the Gospels to the style of the Jewish midrashic literature of Jesus' era, he shows how the Gospel authors intended their stories to be perceived, not as historic accounts of actual events, but rather as interpretive narratives about the meaning of Jesus, using images and themes from the Hebrew Bible. Some examples of his fascinating arguments and conclusions are the significant events of Jesus' life follow an orderly cycle of Jewish feasts and rites of passage; Judas never existed but was a fictional scapegoat created to shift the blame for Jesus' death from the Romans to the Jews; leading characters of Jewish scripture make cameo appearances in the Gospels; and stories about Jesus, from the infancy narratives to the resurrection, can all be freshly understood as interpretative tales based on key passages in the Old Testament." "Like any good detective story, Liberating the Gospels is a riveting account of facts and theories coming together, piece by piece, to form a brilliant, convincing whole. Spong approaches the Gospels with reverence and a determination to restore their meaning, their vivid historical context, and the respect so long eroded between Christians and Jews. The result is a remarkable revisioning of Jesus and the Gospels that brings us closer to how Jesus was really understood in his day and should be in ours."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

A Modern Jewish Perspective on the Gospel of John

Did Jesus really call the Jews of his day children of the devil? Would he label Jews of today the same way? Did the Jews kill Jesus and then violently expel from the synagogue anyone who accepted him as a promised Messiah? The Christian church has found answers to these and other similar questions in the Gospel of John. But Jewish readers are justifiably offended by many of John's answers. The eleven essays offered here present facts everyone should know. They are written by a modern Jewish scholar responding to troubling questions about John raised over a period of more than forty years by his university students, by congregants in synagogues he has served as spiritual guide (rabbi), and by Christian colleagues with whom he has worked throughout his long career. Designed to engage thoughtful readers from every religious background, these essays encourage questions and suggest plausible answers to the problems in John by illustrating the difference between the answers of John and the facts of history. They also compare John's Jesus with the teachings of the modern church about the treatment of "others," love for all humanity, and the wholeness of body and spirit.

Authenticating the Activities of Jesus

This volume reviews the criteria, assumptions, and methods involved in critical Jesus research. Its purpose is to clarify the procedures necessary to distinguish tradition that stems from Jesus from tradition and interpretation that stem from later traditions and evangelists. This publication has also been published in paperback, please click here for details.

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Authenticating the Activities of Jesus

This collection of studies offers Jesus researchers a gold mine of fresh research and critical appraisal of the assumptions and methods employed in the study of the historical Jesus. This publication has also been published in paperback, please click here for details.

When Christians Were Jews (That Is, Now)

When Christians Were Jews tells the story of identity rediscovered. Narrating recent biblical scholarship as a story of family strife, Berard recounts how early Christians dissociated from their Jewish origins and reflects on the spiritual loss suffered by Christianity because of this division. He calls Christians to explore "with open mind and heart . . . the Jewishness not only of Jesus but of themselves."

Religiöse Intoleranz und Diskriminierung in ausgewählten Ländern Europas

In Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World, bishop and social activist John Shelby Spong argues that 200 years of biblical scholarship has been withheld from lay Christians. In this brilliant follow-up to Spong's previous books *Eternal Life* and *Jesus for the Non-Religious*, Spong not only

reveals the crucial truths that have long been kept hidden from the public eye, but also explores what the history of the Bible can teach us about reading its stories today and living our lives for tomorrow. Sarah Sentilles, author of *Breaking Up With God: A Love Story*, applauds John Shelby Spong's *Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World*, writing that "pulsing beneath his brilliant, thought-provoking, passionate book is this question: can Christianity survive the education of its believers?...A question Bishop Spong answers with a resounding yes."

Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World

Section 1: The Bible and broad political discourses in Africa. "Rewriting" the Bible or de-biblifying the public sphere? Proposals and propositions on the usage of the Bible by public figures in Zimbabwe/ by Masiwa Ragies Gunda. The Bible and the quest for democracy and democratization in Africa: the Zimbabwe experience / by Eliot Tofa. The Bible and the quest for developmental justice: the case of orphans in Namibia / by Jannie Hunter. The Bible in the service of pan-africanism: the case of Dr Tafataona Mahoso's pan-african biblical exegesis / by Obvious Vengeyi. The ANC's deployment of religion in nation building: from Thabo Mbeki, to "the RDP of the soul"

The Bible and Politics in Africa

Judas and Jewish leaders. Continually tried and condemned for Jesus' death. This book exonerates them and ends the longest running witch trial in history. The search for the true circumstances of Jesus' death is an intellectual detective story. The clues are all in words in the texts of the well-known Gospels and they're in the prejudices that blinded us to the obvious answer. This is not a tale about intrigue in the antiquities market. Nor is it about looking for secret documents buried in a cave. This is rather a tale about scholarly self-deception in reading the Gospels, Jewish history, and themselves. If the historical, Jewish Jesus has been buried at all, it is beneath our prejudices and fears. Uncover these and he stands before you, hidden in plain sight. That may not be the usual sort of detective story but it is as genuine a mystery as ever there was. It's worth solving. If you're dying to know the complete solution, it's all there in a nutshell in Chapter 5. If you feel a need to wade into this more slowly, start with Chapter 1. I'll meet up with you again at the end of the book.

The Ghost in the Gospels

By exploring the land, culture, customs, prayers, and feasts, Spangler and Tverberg reveal Jesus through the eyes and ears of first-century Jews.

Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus

The Gospel of Judas: On a Night with Judas Iscariot presents a fresh translation of the Gospel of Judas, with introduction, commentary, and notes. Originally published with considerable international fanfare in 2006, the Gospel of Judas has prompted a vibrant discussion among scholars and other interested readers about the meaning of the text and the place of Judas Iscariot in the story of Jesus and the history of the church. Meyer, a member of the original research team assembled by the National Geographic Society to edit, translate, and publish the Gospel of Judas and the remaining texts in what is now called Codex Tchacos, here offers an up-to-date and thoroughly accessible translation of the Gospel of Judas, expanded with new fragments of the text and informed by the latest scholarship. He adds reminiscences of the work on the Coptic text when it first was coming to light in 2005 and 2006. This book also includes reflections on the extensive literature, beyond the Gospel of Judas, on the figure of Judas Iscariot, with suggestions for a literary interpretation of Judas--an interpretation that may have a dramatic impact upon our understanding of the role of Judas Iscariot in the story of Jesus's passion.

The Gospel of Judas

An in-depth study of the heart-centered teachings of Mary Magdalene • Explains how the Fourth Gospel of the New Testament, specifically the Gospel of Signs, is actually a direct transcription of Mary Magdalene's oral teachings • Reveals Mary Magdalene as a gifted visionary teacher and the best qualified disciple to lead the Jesus movement after his death • Details how the Gospel of Signs outlines 7 key steps for personal transformation and healing The discovery and translation of the Gnostic Gospels have revealed Mary Magdalene to be a gifted visionary teacher and the best qualified disciple to lead the Jesus movement following his death. Yet, according to most scholars, only a few

fragments of her actual teachings have survived. Sharing more than 20 years of research, inspired by a profound experience at the cave in southern France where Mary Magdalene is reputed to have spent her final years, Jack Angelo reveals that the Fourth Gospel of the New Testament, traditionally attributed to John, is actually a direct transcription of Mary Magdalene's oral teachings. He explains how the Fourth Gospel was recast by more conservative members of the Jesus movement, such as Peter and Andrew, to hide Mary's authorship and suppress her role as head disciple. Delving deeply into the many layers of meaning within the "Gospel of Signs"--the first 11 chapters of the Fourth Gospel which describe seven of Jesus' miracles--he shows how Mary's teachings outline seven key steps for personal transformation and profound healing. For example, the sixth sign describes the shamanic healing of a blind man when Jesus spits on clay and smears the paste over the man's eyes. Angelo explains how the deeper meaning of this sign is about perceiving with the "eyes of the heart." Beyond the beauty and simplicity of Mary's wisdom for personal transformation and healing, Angelo also shows how Mary's heart-centered teachings embody the resurgence of feminine energy that is vitally needed to restore balance to the psyche and health of humanity as well as to Earth.

The Healing Wisdom of Mary Magdalene

If the New Testament represents the crown jewels of Christianity, the Gospel of John is its "pearl of great price," the most beloved, most read, most quoted, most distinctive, most memorable, most debated book in its canon. *Truth Revealed* is ideal for individual and group study. It divides the Gospel of John into twelve units, providing helpful introductory features, summaries, learning objectives, and questions for each unit, and concludes by offering perspective on a specific topic that arises as one follows the narrative, always with an eye on the big picture, namely, guidance for daily living. Few sayings attributed to Jesus are better known or more widely quoted than the words "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). At his trial before Pilate, Jesus declared that his purpose in life was to witness to the truth. Pilate responds with the Gospel's most memorable question: "What is truth?" The answer is explored in *Truth Revealed*, a commentary that provides literary, theological, historical, and textual guidelines for understanding the message of this ancient work in a way that is accessible and applicable to twenty-first century readers.

Truth Revealed

The *Gospels of the Marginalized* provides an exciting new study of three of the most maligned figures in the New Testament story of Jesus: Thomas, usually considered the quintessential doubter among the disciples; Mary Magdalene, characterized as a repentant prostitute during much of the history of the church; and Judas Iscariot, presented as the despicable disciple of Jesus who betrayed his master for money. In this book Marvin Meyer, one of the most prominent of the scholars of gnostic texts and other early Christian literature, offers fresh and accurate translations of the Gospels of Thomas, Mary, and Judas, with their proclamation of the good news of the wisdom of Jesus, and he uses these gospels as the occasion to reexamine the place of Thomas, Mary Magdalene, and Judas Iscariot in the Jesus movement. His striking analysis suggests that Thomas was no doubter, that Mary Magdalene was a beloved disciple in the inner circles of disciples around Jesus, and that the tale of Judas Iscariot as betrayer of Jesus is a piece of fiction. Meyer adds a "Gospel of the Redeemed" as a vivid illustration of how the gospel story of Jesus might read with Jesus as a Jewish teacher of wisdom and Thomas, Mary, and Judas restored as loyal followers of the teacher from Nazareth.

The Gospels of the Marginalized

In its portrayal of Judaism as a worldwide conspiracy dedicated to the destruction of Christian civilization, the *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* remains one of the most infamous documents ever written. Despite being proven a crude forgery, the pamphlet managed to pervade twentieth-century thinking, often being twisted to suit its handlers' purposes, and to justify the most extreme persecution of the Jews. In *A Rumor About the Jews*, Stephen Eric Bronner provides a history of this notorious fabrication—one which has renewed salience in a "post truth" society dominated by "fake news"—and explores its influence on right-wing movements throughout the twentieth century and the ongoing appeal of bigotry. This new edition of Bronner's 2000 classic (described by Kirkus as "the best short book on anti-Semitism") expands the arguments of the first edition, bringing the work up to date in a new political context.

A Rumor about the Jews

The previously untold story of Matthew's Gospel—brought to life for today's readers. Matthew's Gospel stands as the first book of the Christian Testament, visible to all the world for almost two thousand years. But there is something hidden in Matthew's Gospel. The document was not written at one time by one person—it is an edited document, bringing together different sources of tradition. The Hidden Gospel of Matthew: Annotated and Explained takes readers deep into the text to find the words and events that have the strongest connection to the historical Jesus. Ron Miller reveals the underlying story of Matthew to readers, giving them a full appreciation of the book's message, uncovering a portrait of Jesus that at times resembles the gnostic Christ and sage teacher of the Gospel of Thomas more than it does traditional Christianity.

The Hidden Gospel of Matthew

Bibliodrama is a process of stepping inside the biblical text and creating midrash as a process of improvisation. Peter Pitzele is the creator of this medium. This is his how to do it, manual, the one used at the Institute for Contemporary Midrash training seminars.

Scripture Windows

As a dominant voice in our society, Western Christianity (including fundamentalism) is dying despite the growing tendency of people to identify as spiritual but not religious. In the face of this reality, churches continue to preach the same message of sin, judgment, guilt, in order to be saved, or in the case of more progressive churches, feel-good messages. No wonder Western Christianity is failing. If it is ever to regain its viability, Christianity must rethink its total devotion to Christ and look again at its roots. A new Christianity must start over with the original vision of God's dream for us as expressed by Moses and Jesus. Jesus was not a Christian. He was a Jewish reformer and he worked within the context of the Jewish Scriptures (the Old Testament). Deuteronomy was one of these books. When this ancient wisdom is paired with post-modern Christianity we see that the teachings of Moses and Jesus are as relevant today as they were two to three thousand years ago, perhaps even more so.

The Book of Deuteronomy and Post-modern Christianity

This book, an examination of Judaism as it evolved over a period of approximately 1,500 years, is an analysis of the Hebrew Bible and other ancient Jewish writings, with special emphasis on theology and morality. By the middle of the first millennium, with the writing of Deuteronomy, the Psalms, and the works of the prophets, Judaism had embraced the idea that God is a compassionate father; that His relationship with His people is based on love rather than fear; and that His response to their commission of sins is based on the assumption that they are capable of repentance and worthy of forgiveness. In the final stage of its development—culminating in the first and second centuries AD—Judaism was understood to require its adherents to enact the will of God—specifically, to establish a community based on political, economic, and social laws that enforce the principles of justice and mercy. And that process came to be seen as inevitably dependent on human agency—the need for human beings to fulfill God's commandments. In Judaism, loving neighbors (and strangers) came to be understood as the principal—and, for many Jews, the only—way of loving God.

The Evolution of Love

An internationally renowned Jesus scholar rethinks our knowledge of the historical Jesus in light of recent progress in the scientific study of memory.

Constructing Jesus

Let's Talk Jewish is nothing more than an attempt to present ideas and teachings that are dear to all Jews and Christians. We feel the greatest blessing will come, if after reading one page, you the reader can sit back and say, "I never really looked at it that way". When that happens our goal will have been accomplished. This book is meant to be used, marked up, studied, not admired.

Let's Talk Jewish

Offers reflections on how the words of a first-century Jew can offer meaning, hope, and wholeness to readers today. Across the Threshold, into the Questions includes new encounters with Jesus and his parables and teachings from the Gospel stories in Mark, Matthew and Luke. This volume continues to

build the strong foundation needed for another volume that uses Goldman and William Dols' method to explore the non-canonical Gospel of Thomas.

Across the Threshold, Into the Questions

In this bold, captivating and controversial book, the author combines his own intensely moving personal accounts with incisive scriptural analysis, and challenges the reader to reassess what they think they know about Judas Iscariot and suicide. Drawing on the memory of his own brother's action in taking his own life, Aaron Saari examines Judas Iscariot as the definitive figure of God's abhorrence for suicide and a powerful symbol of the cultural taboo originating from Christian doctrine. Instead, he argues, this ancient condemnation of Judas' death is unfounded: Judas is instead a literary invention of the Markan community meant to undercut the authority of the Twelve, entering the Christian story c.70 CE through the Gospel of Mark. Written with passion and clarity and consistently relevant to today's moral issues, this book is as much an ideal introduction to biblical studies for the general reader as it is essential reading for students, scholars, and anyone with an interest in Biblical studies, ancient scripture and theology.

The Many Deaths of Judas Iscariot

As we meet Jesus of Nazareth in the Gospel narratives, we come face-to-face with our own deepest selves. Finding Jesus, Discovering Self invites readers to see Jesus with new eyes and then explore, know, experience, and live questions about how 2000-year-old stories and events happen in the world and in our lives today. Each chapter focuses upon a passage from the Gospels. A narrative by one of the authors recalls a personal experience reflecting the ancient text. Questions to which there are no "right" answers offer multi-dimensional opportunities to explore the stories and wonder. Contemporary poetry and prose open new doors to meeting Jesus as a first century Jew and discovering creative, compelling, and challenging possibilities for one's own story, self, and relationship to God. Written by a Jewish author and an Episcopal priest, Finding Jesus, Discovering Self is a perfect volume for personal reflection or group study, and a unique resource for the Lenten season.

Finding Jesus, Discovering Self

Since the Holocaust, a growing consensus of biblical scholars have come to recognize the unfair and misleading anti-Semitic rhetoric in the New Testament—language that has arguably contributed to centuries of violence and persecution against the Jewish people. In *Gathered in One*, Bradley J. Kramer shows how the Book of Mormon counters anti-Semitism in the New Testament by approaching this most Christian of books on its own turf and on its own terms: literarily, by providing numerous pro-Jewish statements, portrayals, settings, and structuring devices in opposition to similar anti-Semitic elements in the New Testament; and scripturally, by connecting with it as a peer, as a divine document of equal value and authority, which can add these elements to the Christian canon (as the Gospel of John can add elements to the Gospel of Matthew) without undermining its authority or dependability. In this way, the Book of Mormon effectively “detoxifies” the New Testament of its anti-Semitic poison without weakening its status as scripture and goes far in encouraging Christians to relate to Jews respectfully, not as enemies or opponents, but as allies, people of equal worth, importance, and value before God.

Gathered in One: How the Book of Mormon Counters Anti-Semitism in the New Testament

Christianity is in crisis. We live in a time when millions of people profoundly misunderstand the message of the Gospel. They believe that being a Christian means little more than being a nice person. They view Jesus as a wise moral teacher who showed us how to live better lives, and they conclude that the love of humanity is our greatest cause and its progress our primary purpose. Whatever else may be said of this view of Christianity, it is certainly not what Jesus taught. It is an attempt to replace the concepts of sin, redemption, and salvation with the more socially acceptable virtues of tolerance, compassion, and social progress. It elevates humanity and the world above God and his kingdom and reduces Jesus to a mere moral philosopher. But who did Jesus say he was? What was the essential message of Christ? The Gospel According to Christ answers those questions by examining the words of Jesus, in their context and in their entirety. The answers will be shocking to many Christians.

The Gospel According to Christ

This innovative book presents a detailed examination of Christian origins through a careful assessment of common features and differences found between the many Christian denominations, such as, the role of Jesus as the Son of God, salvation through the belief in Jesus' death and resurrection, and the interpretation of the Christian scriptures. Readers will trace these issues back to their original first century context by exploring the Scriptures, the history of the period, and the development of the Jesus story found in the New Testament. A different portrait of Jesus emerges that departs from the traditional ideal of Jesus found in mainstream Christianity. Discover just how far Christianity has strayed from the Jesus of history.

How Far Have We Strayed?

An ongoing issue for clergy as well as Christians in general is how to approach New Testament narratives about the crucifixion of Jesus in relation to Jews, Judaism, and the horrific events of the Holocaust. The events of Holy Week pose particular challenges for clergy and congregations. In this book Henry Knight helps us deal with Holy Week texts in light of our post-Holocaust world and provides practical examples of prayers, liturgies, and resource material to help pastors prepare for and lead worship and teach during this important time in the life of a congregation.

Celebrating Holy Week in a Post-Holocaust World

The term 'Judeo-Christian' in reference to a tradition, heritage, ethic, civilization, faith etc. has been used in a wide variety of contexts with widely diverging meanings. Contrary to popular belief, the term was not coined in the United States in the middle of the 20th century but in 1831 in Germany by Ferdinand Christian Baur. By acknowledging and returning to this European perspective and context, the volume engages the historical, theological, philosophical and political dimensions of the term's development. Scholars of European intellectual history will find this volume timely and relevant.

Is there a Judeo-Christian Tradition?

The Mystery of Suffering and the Meaning of God is a book written by a skeptical but spiritual person for people who struggle with the subjects of God, divine providence, prayer, and related issues; people who are looking for honest and thoughtful--and sometimes humorous--theological reflections, but no easy answers. A work of creative theology fifteen years in the making, The Mystery of Suffering and the Meaning of God deals primarily with the issue of suffering, starting with the book of Job, and addresses the subject of theodicy before going on to explore related topics of the role of prayer, God concepts, the meaning of revelation, and how we can best live together. Laytner intersperses these penetrating theological reflections with pertinent episodes from his life, starting with the personal tragedies that sparked this book. Trained as a liberal rabbi, Laytner riffs on Jewish themes to offer a universal yet personal response to each of the challenges he discusses. His thesis is this: If you are troubled by the issue of suffering and wonder about God's presence (or lack thereof) in the world, and you find no solace in any of the traditional theodicies, then change your conception of God and God's involvement in the world. Problem solved!

The Mystery of Suffering and the Meaning of God

Many argue that Christians must address their own culpability in the destruction of Europe's Jewry. If post-Holocaust Christians only lament Christianity's sin the tradition will be ultimately left with little to say and no credibility. Post-Holocaust Christians must emphasize positive differences that Christianity can make, including: -- Repentant honesty about Christianity's anti-Jewish history -- New appreciation for the Jewish origins of Christianity, the Jewish identity of Jesus, and the continuing vitality of the Jewish people and their traditions -- Welcome liberation from liturgies and biblical interpretations that promote harmful Christian exclusivism

Good News After Auschwitz?

Bestselling and controversial bishop and teacher John Shelby Spong reveals the subversive, mystical teachings of the writer of the Gospel of John and how his teachings point us forward in the 21st century. In The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic, Spong turns his attention to the Gospel of John, the fourth Gospel in the Bible. Contrary to what is most often believed, he writes that this gospel was misinterpreted by the framers of the fourth-century creeds to be a literal account of the life of Jesus. In fact, it is a literary, interpretive retelling of the events in Jesus' life through the medium of Jewish

worship traditions and fictional characters, from Nicodemus and Lazarus to the "Beloved Disciple." The result is not only to recapture the original message of this gospel, but also to provide us today with a radical new dimension to the claim that in the humanity of Jesus the reality of God has been met and engaged. This book offers a fresh way to read the Gospel of John and a unique primer about how to be a Christian in the post-Christian twenty-first century.

The Fourth Gospel

By popular demand—study guides to two of Bishop John Shelby Spong's bestselling and controversial works, including questions, reflections, and summaries for group and individual use.

Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism

In the view of many contemporary scholars, both Jesus and Judaism have been misrepresented by the church for the past two thousand years. Their main point is that Judaism was not a superficial, rigid, and outdated religion, and Jesus did not reject it. In fact, along with his disciples, he remained a Law-abiding Jew his entire life. However, as Christianity developed from a Jewish sect in the first century AD to the official religion of the Roman Empire in the fourth century, the church was transformed, Jesus was redefined, and both Jews and their religion were repudiated and marginalized. In short, both Christians and Jews were deeply affected by what many scholars now call the de-Judaization of Jesus. This book is an attempt to correct the traditional theological and scholarly misinterpretations of Jesus and Judaism that emerged over the first four centuries of the life of the church.

The Great Betrayal

Three conditions plague us individually and socially—the compulsion to be successful, to be powerful, and to be right. Jesus faced these demons in the wilderness, and they tempt us as well. When used selfishly or for personal gain, success, power, and ideology can weaken and corrupt. However, when applied humbly and compassionately, they can be useful, even transformative. Central to the Christian Scriptures are the stories of Jesus and his disciples, and no account is more inspiring than that told by an anonymous author we call Luke. His Gospel, aptly described as “the most beautiful book in the world,” and its sequel, the book of Acts, narrate the history of Jesus and early Christianity. These books, known by scholars as Luke–Acts, constitute over one quarter of the New Testament. Together they reveal what success, power, and truth look like spiritually, from God’s perspective. Because Luke does not “do theology” in a vacuum, that is, for the sake of theology alone, questions of Luke’s purpose in composing his two-volume work impact Christianity’s relationship to the secular world, particularly issues of peace, equality, and social justice. In fact, social and political categories may be as important for understanding Luke as traditional theological ones. While exploring fascinating perspectives on Luke as historian, literary artist, and theologian, *Power Revealed* approaches Luke–Acts exegetically, expositing the biblical text for practical, pastoral, and spiritual needs. Useful for individual or group study, each chapter contains aids to learning, including (a) chapter summaries or outlines, (b) homework assignments, and (c) learning objectives.

Power Revealed

Jesus was murdered by the Jewish religious leaders whose power base was the temple of Jerusalem. Saul of Tarsus—later the Paul of Christianity—was one of these, and his brand of faith theology mirrored their theology of covenantal entitlement. Thus, Christianity’s basic theological principles derive from those who killed Jesus. This is just one of many challenging propositions backed with strong evidence that appear in this book. Jesus, like most Jews, was attuned to faithfulness rather than pure faith, to ethical behavior based on human empathy rather than metaphysical beliefs and rituals. The central focus of Jesus was hesed, the heart of the Jewish covenant with God which linked God’s mercy to human compassion and forgiveness, making both mutually interactive. This hesed forgiveness was anathema to the temple’s faux forgiveness and threatened its very existence. Therefore, Jesus came not to save us, but to show us how to save ourselves. Reinterpreting a key parable of Jesus in this light, the Parable of the Tares, Jesus can be most plausibly understood as an incarnation of Adam, the original prototype human who God, in Genesis, appointed to oversee his creation and guide our spiritual evolution. His mission was not about any sacrificial death, but about establishing the spiritual humanism of Judaic hesed as the central purpose of human existence.

Bad Faith

To most people on the planet, the existence of Jesus is a given: "Of course he did!" They take it for granted that he existed simply because it reaffirms their faith. But to the rest of us who don't believe in a supernatural Jesus, the question of the historicity of Jesus is not simple. There are thousands of different ideas about to what extent the Jesus tales were based on a real man, or men, or woman... Did Jesus even exist, and if not, what best explains the rise of such a character in the New Testament? That is where John W. Loftus and Robert M. Price come in. Each with decades of experience in the fields of theology and Christian history, Loftus and Price have compiled essays from some of the top authorities on Jesus mythicism to establish the world's first academic catalogue of mythicist beliefs. Experts who provided chapters include David Fitzgerald, Joseph Atwill, Michael Lockwood, and more! The question is no longer simply, "Did Jesus even exist?" In this compilation, you'll find yourself questioning everything about the Christ story and how it truly began.

Varieties of Jesus Mythicism

Reading the Bible with the Damned

Exploring the challenges that both the church and the unchurched have faced regarding giving and receiving the word of God, Bob Ekblad encourages us all to learn to read the Bible together as a whole. In this compelling book, he reflects on how Christians have often found it difficult to proclaim God's good news to every realm of society, while those who have needed it most have frequently deemed themselves unworthy due to social circumstances or sinfulness. In *Reading the Bible with the Damned*, Ekblad offers concrete advice on how to bridge this gap through a variety of insights ultimately leading to spiritual transformation. This book is full of examples of how Scripture changes lives for those who attend Bible studies and for those who lead them, offering practical suggestions on many passages from the Old and New Testaments.

Guerrilla Gospel

Jesus models a way of engaging with people and Scripture in the Gospels. This book will help you learn to discern God's voice, prepare and facilitate Bible studies with people on the margins with the gifts of the Spirit.

Reading the Bible across Contexts

In *Reading the Bible Across Contexts* Esa Autero offers a fresh perspective on Luke's poverty texts. This is done through a critical dialogue between an historical reading and empirical readings by two Latin American Bible reading groups.

The Word the Israelites and the Damned

Dear reader, there are some things that we need to clarify, judging from the questions being asked by some of you after reading my first two books, "The Truth The Lie And The Bible" and "The Forgotten Israelites." One of your main concerns deals with whether or not I am a racist, or if the teachings and lessons written in my books are only for black people. The answer is no. I am not a racist, and two; the lessons are not only for black people. We must remember what is said in Matthew 28:19-20 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations " This knowledge that you are about to obtain in this book, would be about THE WORD, THE ISRAELITES, AND THE DAMNED. This will be the best book you have ever read, your history and religion wrapped in the pages of truth, written in simple language. You ought to find out and read it for yourself. The truth is a dangerous weapon and I challenge anyone to prove it wrong.

Holy Bible - Best God Damned Version - Genesis

Genesis. Every God damned chapter. Because you know it's nonsense, but were never sure why.

The Bible Reading of Young Evangelicals

Young evangelicals in Britain often find themselves at odds with an increasingly secular society, and yet the tradition persists and in some places flourishes. Sociological studies into the faith of this demographic group are rare, yet there is much to be explored as to how their faith functions and how

it compares to other groups globally. Similarly, given the privilege evangelicals afford the biblical text, how young believers engage with the ancient Scriptures they understand to be "the word of God" is particularly significant. This work addresses that core question. How do young evangelicals make sense of the Bible today? Based on qualitative data gathered from three diverse evangelical churches it compares the reading priorities, ordinary hermeneutics, and theological concerns of young adults. Presenting age-related focus groups with challenging biblical narratives, the study compares strategies for negotiating the texts based on age, gender, and churchmanship. It provides a unique insight into the realities of Bible reading and the faith of "Generation Y" and gives food for thought not only to those with scholarly interests, but also those with a pastoral concern to shape and sustain the Christian faith of young adults in Britain and beyond.

The Early Christian Community

Douglas A. Hume offers a narrative ethical reading of the passages depicting the early Christian community in Acts (2:41-47 and 4:32-35). He begins with a methodological exploration of how contemporary scholars may examine the impact of biblical narratives upon reader's moral imaginations. Given the presence of friendship language in Acts, the work subsequently launches into an examination of this idiom in Greco-Roman philosophical and literary works by Aristotle, Plutarch, Diogenes Laertius, and Iamblichus. The author then proceeds to an exegetical examination of how friendship language is employed by Luke in the narrative summaries of Acts. This ethical reading of the Acts 2:41-47 and 4:32-35 incorporates multiple features of narrative criticism and asks such wide ranging questions as the use of emotion, point of view, and characterization to shape the reading audience's perception of God, the early Christian community, and other characters within the story of Luke-Acts. This study has implications for biblical studies, practical theology, and contemporary understandings of ecclesiology.

Pilgrim's Process

This book traces the intellectual journey of a Christian minister and theologian. Starting with his discovery of God through a love of the natural world, David Peel's encounter with thinkers from his Reformed tradition and extensive ecumenical involvement takes him to a revisionary theology which meets his attempt to integrate a scientific background with the Christian faith. Essays written during his career illustrate the path he has taken. The topics covered include theological method; the centrality of theology for the church's life and work; a sacramental view of ministry; the missional church; biblical authority; nonconformity's gifts to the contemporary church; and theological education. Peel's theological approach is as critical of inadequate theologies inherited from the past as it is determined to construct a Christian narrative which satisfies twin requirements: first, being congruent with the Jesus tradition; and secondly, convincing the minds, reaching the hearts, and driving the commitments of contemporary people. Both ministers and church members are challenged to view their own theological journeys as God-given vocations.

Reading the Bible in the 21st Century

"Reading the Bible in the 21st Century" (RTB) is meant for readers who are prepared to read the Bible with 21st-century acuity. In order to understand Abraham, Moses, Jonah, Jesus and the many other familiar biblical figures, you have to be able to place yourself in their time and know where they are, that is, where the action is taking place. This is what RTB addresses. In addition, the characters encountered in the Bible do not do their thinking the way we do, strange as that may seem. RTB explains the archaic mind as modern psychologists, such as Julian Jaynes, have come to understand it.

Practicing Lament

In a faith focused on resurrection hope, patient endurance, and victory in Christ, is there any room for pain, doubt, and anger? In Scripture, lament is the prayer that makes that room. Not only is lament one of the most common forms of prayer in the Old Testament, it's also woven deeply into the fabric of the New Testament and the Christian way. Lament is the cry for all those who ache over the way things are but aren't content to let them stay that way. It's the prayer for all the ways that the kingdom has not yet come, in the hope that God's justice and peace will prevail--someday.

Democratizing Biblical Studies

"Schüssler Fiorenza addresses such questions as, What are the educational practices and procedures that are advocated by traditional educational models, and how can they be changed? What kinds of educational and communicative practices do biblical studies need to develop in order to fashion an emancipatory democratizing rhetorical space and a forum of many voices? To envision, articulate, debate, and practice a radical democratic ethos of biblical studies, she identifies emerging didactic models that can foster such a radical democratic style of learning"--Pbk. cover.

The Destiny of the Damned

Once upon a time, Moses had had enough. Exhausted by the challenge of leading the Israelites from slavery to the Promised Land, Moses cried out to God, "What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? . . . If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me" (Exodus 11:11, 15). If that sounds hauntingly familiar to you, you may be the senior pastor of a contemporary church. The burden of Christian leadership is becoming increasingly unbearable--demanding skills not native to the art of pastoring; demanding time that makes sabbath rest and even normal sleep patterns seem extravagant; demanding inhuman levels of efficiency, proficiency and even saintliness. No wonder pastors seem and even feel less human these days. No wonder they burn out or break down at an alarming rate; no wonder the church is missing the mark on its mission. In *Creating a Missional Culture*, JR Woodward offers a bold and surprisingly refreshing model for churches--not small adjustments around the periphery of a church's infrastructure but a radical revisioning of how a church ought to look, from its leadership structure to its mobilization of the laity. The end result looks surprisingly like the church that Jesus created and the apostles cultivated: a church not chasing the wind but rather going into the world and making disciples of Jesus.

Creating a Missional Culture

"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed," Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew, "nothing will be impossible for you." That sounds good, but does it work in a world where seeds are genetically altered by an impatient few and hard to come by for countless others? In a world where the gulf between the very rich and the profoundly poor is constantly growing, can a mustard-seed faith make any difference? And can such a little bit of faith be sustained in a world whose future is so uncertain on so many fronts? Tom Sine says yes, and he has the audacity to try to prove it in his latest book. In *The New Conspirators* Tom surveys the landscape of creative Christianity, where streams of renewal are flowing freely from diverse sources: The emerging church Contemporary monastic movements The missional church The mosaic movement Individuals and communities of faith are coalescing in, and drawing energy from, these four streams to retrofit the church as it leads, serves and gives witness to the kingdom of God in the turbulent times facing us. Read the book and you'll want to-and be prepared to-join God's conspiracy to create a better future.

The New Conspirators

hell and eternal damnation. The fear of fire and brimstone and the worm that never dies exerted a profound and lasting influence on Americans' ideas about themselves, their neighbors, and the rest of the world. Kathryn Gin Lum poses a number of vital questions: Why did the fear of hell survive Enlightenment critiques in America, after largely subsiding in Europe and elsewhere? What were the consequences for early and antebellum Americans of living with the fear of seeing themselves and many people they knew eternally damned? How did they live under the weighty obligation to save as many souls as possible? What about those who rejected this sense of obligation and fear? Gin Lum shows that beneath early Americans' vaunted millennial optimism lurked a pervasive anxiety: that rather than being favored by God, they and their nation might be the object of divine wrath.

Damned Nation

Theology is inherently theatrical, rooted in God's performance on the world stage and oriented toward faith seeking performative understanding in the theatre of everyday life. Following Hans Urs von Balthasar's magisterial, five-volume *Theo-Drama*, a growing number of theologians and pastors have been engaging more widely with theatre and drama, producing what has been recognized as a "theatrical turn" in theology. This volume includes thirteen essays from theologians and pastors who have contributed in distinct ways to this theatrical turn and who desire to deepen interdisciplinary dialogue between theology and theatre. The result is an unprecedented collection of essays that embodies and advances theatrical theology for the purpose of enriching theological reflection and

edifying the church. Contributors include: Kevin J. Vanhoozer Ivan Khovacs Timothy Gorringer Shannon Craigo-Snell George Pattison Jim Fodor Todd E. Johnson David Cunningham Marilyn McCord Adams Richard Carter Samuel Wells Peter Goodwin Heltzel David Brown

Theatrical Theology

This book explores the church-centric interpretation of ancient biblical exegete Tyconius in his hermeneutical treatise *Liber regularum*, highlighting how his underlying ecclesiology shaped his hermeneutical enterprise

Tyconius' Book of Rules

All over the UK, Evangelical Anglicans read and study the Bible, in churches and in homes, in groups and as individuals. They do this because they believe the Bible is God's word, a collection of texts that is authoritative, inspired, consistent, clear and sufficient. But what does this mean for the way the Bible is read? Should the Bible always be read as historically accurate? As theologically accurate? As relevant for today? In other words, how do the beliefs that such readers have about the nature of the Bible, affect the way that they interpret and the conclusions that they come to? To answer these questions, Anna Hutchinson conducted field work analysing Evangelical Anglicans as they study the Bible. Utilizing qualitative methodology, she argues that the doctrine of Scripture is often narrowly conceived amongst Evangelical Anglicans, such that its influence in interpretation is often qualified and overshadowed by various factors including beliefs about God, genre and personal experience.

The Influence of the Doctrine of Scripture

In *Hearing the Old Testament* world-class scholars discuss how contemporary Christians can better hear and appropriate God's address in the Old Testament. This volume is part of a growing interest in theological interpretation of the Old Testament. Editors Craig G. Bartholomew and David J. H. Beldman offer a coherent and carefully planned volume, a truly dialogical collaboration full of up-to-date research and innovative ideas. While sharing a desire to integrate their Old Testament scholarship with their love for God - and, thus, a commitment to listening for God's voice within the text - the contributors display a variety of methods and interpretations as they apply a Trinitarian hermeneutic to the text. The breadth, expertise, and care evidenced here make this book an ideal choice for upper-level undergraduate and seminary courses. Contributors: Craig G. Bartholomew David J. H. Beldman Mark J. Boda M. Daniel Carroll R. Stephen G. Dempster Tremper Longman III J. Clinton McCann Jr. Iain Provan Richard Schultz Aubrey Spears Heath Thomas Gordon J. Wenham Al Wolters Christopher J. H. Wright

Hearing the Old Testament

Parables make up one-third of Jesus' speech in the New Testament. In this volume, Richard Lischer provides an expert guide to these parables and proposes an important distinction between reading and interpreting the parables. Emphasizing the importance of reading the parables versus interpreting them, Lischer asserts that reading offers a kind of breathing space to explore historical, literary, theological, and socio-political dimensions of the parables and their various meanings, whereas interpreting implies an expert and critical position that must be defended. In this volume, Lischer lays out four theories for reading parables: 1) parables obscure truth; 2) parables teach many truths; 3) parables teach one truth; and 4) parables undermine the truth. Ultimately, he concludes that biblical parables undermine dominant myths called "the truth" to shine light on the Truth that is Jesus, God's presence with us.

Reading the Parables

How do we communicate the message of the Scriptures in our twenty-first-century, post-Christian context? (re)Aligning with God: Reading Scripture for Church and World answers this question by presenting the Scriptures through the lens of mission and by teaching a method for reading Scripture with a missional hermeneutic. The biblical story seeks to convert us to its perspective and to transform its readers and hearers into God's missional community that exists to reflect and embody God's character to/for/in the world. Ready to revolutionize your reading of the Bible and expand your ability to unleash the Scriptures in your context? (re)Aligning with God will give you rich content and practical tools to become a profound, inspiring, and confident reader of the Bible for all who are seeking to hear its good news.

(re)Aligning with God

Liberating Biblical Study is a unique collaboration of pioneering biblical scholars, social-change activists, and movement-based artists. Well known and unknown, veterans and newcomers, these diverse practitioners of justice engage in a lively and critical conversation at the intersection of seminary, sanctuary, and street. The book is divided into eight sections; in each, a scholar, activist, and artist explore the justice issues related to a biblical text or idea, such as exodus, creation, jubilee, and sanctuary. Beyond the emerging themes (e.g., empire, resistance movements, identity, race, gender, and economics), the book raises essential questions at another level: What is the role of art in social-change movements? How can scholars be accountable beyond the academy, and activists encouraged to study? How are resistance movements nurtured and sustained? This volume is an accessible invitation to action that will appeal to all who love and strive for justice--whatever their discipline, and whatever their familiarity with the Bible, scholarship, art, and activist communities.

Liberating Biblical Study

The Seed and the Soil explores the power of the Bible that brings about God's transforming and liberating purposes, as well as its power as an often oppressively misused text. Characterised by a wide variety of storytelling, this book is accessible to all that read it. What People are saying about the book! Reading Pauline Hoggarth's book, one is aware that everything she writes is deeply rooted in her own life of engagement with Scripture and in her wide experience of the Bible's impact in many different cultural contexts. She is refreshingly open about both the difficulties many people have in engaging with Scripture and the difficulties Scripture itself presents. Richard Bauckham Emeritus Professor of New Testament Studies, University of St Andrews My shelves are full of books about reading the Bible, but Pauline's new book is outstanding. It is fresh and thoughtful, grounded in personal reality and clearly the fruit of a lifetime of international ministry and friendship, and deep engagement with God's Word. To those beginning with the Bible, Pauline passes on a wealth of practical insights, and more seasoned readers will be challenged to think more widely and more wisely. Revd Jenny Petersen Faith at QMUL [This] is a more than worthy addition to our bulging library. However, this isn't a comfortable, intellectually stimulating book about the background to the Bible or some arcane aspect of biblical theology; it is a challenging book about engaging with Scripture . . . If someone were to ask me to recommend books to help them with reading the Bible, I would have no hesitation in suggesting How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth for help in understanding the text of the Bible and The Seed and the Soil: Engaging with the Word of God as a help in letting the Bible get under your skin and transform your thinking and actions. Eddie Arthur Kouya.net Speaking with a depth of pastoral sensitivity and cultural insight, this immensely powerful book is grounded with an understanding of the difficulties encountered by many Christians reading the Bible today. The writer's passion to help others identify and overcome their own challenges includes questions for personal reflection. Amy Roche CMS Mission Partner and Research Student at Durham University

The Seed and the Soil

"What does theology have to do with sociology? Do the social sciences in general provide helpful assistance to theologians? Does theology have anything to contribute to social theory? This compendium of essays attempts to address such questions. In so doing, it confronts assumptions about how academic disciplines are best articulated, whether within their own airtight frames or in dialogue with one another. The essays in the first half of the book accomplish this from historical and methodological perspectives, while the remaining essays present case studies or constructive proposals for how theology might engage the social sciences in productive ways. For those particularly interested in the ongoing development of theologies of liberation, this book will be timely. The essays, reflecting a definite international flavor, are written in honor of Lee Cormie, a long-standing advocate of what he calls the ""new voices"" in theology that have irrupted in the wake of Vatican II. Cormie has spent over three decades teaching theologies of liberation at the Toronto School of Theology on the campus of the University of Toronto. This book continues the many conversations that his teaching has provoked. "

Theology and the Crisis of Engagement

Pietersen argues that for too long the Old Testament has been the primary source for Christian ethics and the letters of Paul for Christian discipleship. Without disparaging these sources the author suggests that the church in a postmodern, post-Christian society needs to look at Scripture with a different focus. This book seeks to examine what reading the Bible might look like in the current period when

the church is no longer central and the Christian story is not well known. 'This is a provocative and refreshing exploration of the possibilities inherent in reading Scripture from the margins, rather than from within the compromised and rapidly receding structures of Christendom. A worthy addition to the challenging After Christendom series, Lloyd Pietersen's thoughtful work moves the discussion forward in ways that are at times controversial, at other times stretching, but at all times constructive. Highly recommended!' - Brian Harris, Principal, Vose Seminary, Perth Australia

Reading the Bible After Christendom

Toward Decentering the New Testament is the first introductory text to the New Testament written by an African American woman biblical scholar and an Asian-American male biblical scholar. This text privileges the voices, scholarship, and concerns of minoritized nonwhite peoples and communities. It is written from the perspectives of minoritized voices. The first few chapters cover issues such as biblical interpretation, immigration, Roman slavery, intersectionality, and other topics. Questions raised throughout the text focus readers on relevant contemporary issues and encourage critical reflection and dialogue between student-teachers and teacher-students.

Toward Decentering the New Testament

Praise Seeking Understanding sits at the intersection of three important fields in theology: theological exegesis, Augustinian studies, and contemporary church practice. Jason Byassee deftly brings the three together, revealing an important symbiotic relationship between them -- a relationship hitherto largely ignored. Though current exegetical methods have swung away from a Christological reading of the Old Testament -- rejecting in particular Augustine's treatment of the text -- Byassee believes that is a mistake we must remedy. Using a recent translation of Augustine's *Enarrationes in Psalmos*, Byassee describes in depth Augustine's psalm hermeneutic and his approach to scripture generally, offering a defense of these views in conversation with recent work in theological exegesis.

Praise Seeking Understanding

"How can a God of love deliberately torment unbelievers for ever in hell, especially if they have never heard of Jesus?" That is a question many Christian writers fail to address. However, in this book Arnold Page faces it head on by showing, from the pages of Scripture, that God does not do such a thing, and that eternal torment is not the fate of unbelievers. Indeed, some of them will have their names written in the Book of Life. Contents include: - The basis of judgment- The fate of the unrighteous in the New Testament- Death, destruction or perishing- Gehenna, the Gehenna of fire, fire- Weeping and gnashing of teeth- Punishment- Torment

A New Christian Manifesto: Pledging Allegiance to the Kingdom of God

Preaching and the Other introduces the reader to six major themes characteristic of the postmodern era that are important for preaching and explains their implications. Themes discussed include: perception as interpretation, deconstruction, otherness, transgression, pluralism, and the importance of apologetics.

The Destiny of the Damned

Addressing an urgent and deeply felt need for more dialogue between interpreters of the Bible from radically different contexts, this book reflects in a comprehensive and existential manner on how to establish new alliances, how to learn from each other, and how to read Scripture in a manner accountable to 'the dignity of difference.'

Preaching and the Other

In the beginning, the Bible was regarded as the “Good Book,” but today it is under relentless attack from left wing audiences, novelists, and screenwriters to justify their own political agendas. But fear not: award-winning religious journalist Robert J. Hutchinson refutes the mockers, skeptics, and deniers in his new book, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Bible*. Using historical evidence and thorough analysis, Hutchinson not only proves the Bible to be true (and the liberal Left wrong), but also takes the truth one step further—showing how the Bible built and shaped Western civilization. The Bible is the source for the Western ideas of justice, science, and democracy, Hutchinson argues, and without it, Western civilization would not exist.

The Christian Parlor Magazine

The New Testament tells the story of God's sending of his Son, Jesus of Nazareth, who launches the final offensive of a nonviolent liberation movement we are each recruited to join. Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God, on earth as in heaven. He taught and demonstrated a kingdom "not of this world," empowering his disciples with the Holy Spirit to do the same. This volume of *Guerrilla Bible Studies: Following Jesus: On Earth as in Heaven* is the fourth in a series of 52 discipleship Bible studies that follow *Guerrilla Gospel: Reading the Bible for Liberation in the Power of the Spirit*. In this collection you will find practical guidelines for facilitating liberating Bible studies that mobilize people. These thirteen Bible studies have been tried-and-tested in jails, rural communities in the global South, frontline North American and European settings and in graduate-level theology schools. Each study focuses on how Jesus demonstrated, taught, and recruited disciples into his non-violent mission movement. Each study is laid out for easy use by Bible study facilitators, including questions, suggestions for guiding the study, explanations, background information about the text, and invitations and calls to action for the participants.

Journal of Theology for Southern Africa

Letting the Other Speak helps pastors, Christian educators, professors, and theological students bring the stories of six controversial biblical women to congregations by surveying historical and contemporary exegetical work on each passage, modeling exegesis a congregation in preparation for moving from text to sermon, and providing two sample sermons, one prophetic and one pastoral, for each text.

African and European Readers of the Bible in Dialogue

Russell, Penny and Will have not seen each other for twenty years. Why, then, do they spend a month driving around the coast of Britain in a van refusing to listen to music? Why do they find little blue bottles washing up on the shore containing pages from a future Bible? And why is Penny carrying such a huge spade? Funny, surprising and good-hearted, *The Brandy of the Damned* is a dream-like short novel that leaves the reader strangely grounded and which reveals different things each time it is read. It is the literary equivalent of stepping off the path and heading out into the woods, knowing that if you can't see what's ahead you are never bored. *The Brandy of the Damned* is a genuinely original story told by a unique voice. It exists in a genre of one.

The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Bible

This innovative exploration of Puritan reading practices from c.1580-1720 connects the history of religion with the history of the book.

Guerrilla Bible Studies, Volume 4

The movement that is known as 'theological interpretation of Scripture' reminds us that the reading and exegesis of Scripture is an indispensable part of the theologian's work, not to be reserved to biblical scholars alone. This insight that the reading of Scripture is a theological responsibility is always at risk of being eclipsed by the modern disciplinary divisions between biblical studies, historical theology, and systematic theology. Intended as a contribution to the theological re-engagement with Scripture, this book invites a range of high-profile systematic and constructive theologians to reflect on the role that the reading and interpretation of Scripture plays in their theological work, both professionally and more personally. Spanning a cross-section of theological perspectives contributors reflect on the role of

tradition in their reading of Scripture, the company they view as indispensable in their engagement with the text, the place of historical critical study and biblical studies, and the significance of their context. The book will be valued by all those who care for the place of Scripture in theology and the life of the church, as well as those who want an insight into the state of contemporary theology.

Letting the Other Speak

Reading the Women of the Bible takes up two of the most significant intellectual and religious issues of our day: the experiences of women in a patriarchal society and the relevance of the Bible to modern life.

The Brandy of the Damned

Godly Reading