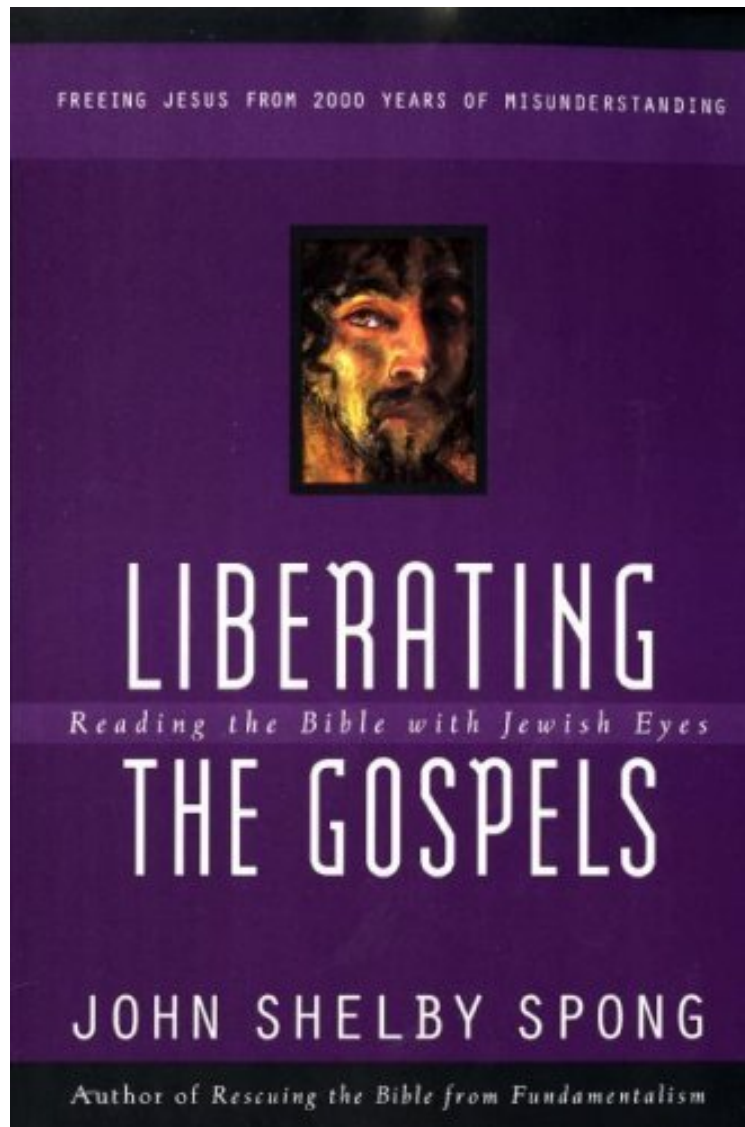


[Read ebook] Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes

Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes

Von John Shelby Spong

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Von John Shelby Spong : Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Liberating View of the BibleVon Wendell HolmesI had long ago come to the conclusion that the Bible was not literal history but had been written as an expression of religious experience. However, I have never been clear about the particulars of this process. Spong presents the most common-sense and well-supported theory for how the Gospels

were written that I have ever encountered. I am amazed by how clearly the arrangement and content of the Gospel stories fit into the liturgical calendar of the Jews. The use of Old Testament material to interpret the life of Jesus becomes obvious through Spong's unrelenting barrage of evidence. Spong makes such a strong case that only the most stubborn and narrow-minded fundamentalist could completely deny the theory put forth in this book. The book also sheds light on the writing of Acts and the epistles. I would love to see a future book dealing with the book of Revelation. By liberating the Gospels from a long history of cultural misinterpretation in a format for the popular reading public, Spong has done so much--through this and his other books--to liberate the Christianity and faith of so many in this secular age. This is a book to be studied as well as read. Like Spong's other books, it includes a detailed bibliography for those who wish to explore the subject further.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent alternative explanation to the writing of the gospVon Ein KundeSpong argues that the gospels, rather than being eyewitness accounts of the life and acts of Jesus, are constructions of Jesus' life based on the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). In the late twentieth century, as Spong says in his prologue, it is not possible to take many of the gospel writers' events literally. But when we relate incidents and statements to events in the lives of Moses, Elijah, Abraham et. al, and verses in the psalms, we can see that the gospels are "midrashic" interpretations of Jesus' life. That is, the Jewish authors of the gospel are interpreting the life of Jesus according to their original sacred scriptures--the Hebrew Bible. That is the key to reading the gospels: they are not literal accounts of actual events, but midrashic attempts to understand the life of Jesus by connecting it to Hebrew scriptures.Far from trying to undermine faith in Jesus, Spong says in his final chapter, he is trying to bring back into the Christian fold all those who have left because they cannot rationally accept the gospels as literal history. Spong's book resolves the apparent contradiction between faith and rationality by referring the gospels to their source material in the Hebrew Bible.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Best YetVon watziznameThis is one of the two best books I have ever read, and I read a lot. (The other is "Davy," by Edgar Pangborn.)The book presents a clear and convincing explanation of how and why the Gospels were written. Knowing this, it becomes possible much better to appreciate the wonderful, beautiful person Jesus was; to understand his message of inclusive love; to cast aside the distracting nonsense of the unbelievable literalist interpretation of the Gospels, so that one can try to see the picture of Jesus the Gospel writers intended their audience to receive.Some critics would deny Spong the right to call himself a Christian, or to call the God he worships "God." Maybe they are right, but whatever name someone calls it by will not change Spong's faith by one iota.Albeit I do not share Spong's faith, I recognize that it has in it a large measure of truth and goodness and beauty. It is probably not precisely the faith that Jesus held, but it resembles it much more than does the "Christian" faith of the perpetrators of the crusades, the inquisition, the holocaust, and the ethnic cleansing of Bosnia.

KurzbeschreibungIn this boldest book since *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, Bishop John Shelby Spong offers a compelling view of the Gospels as thoroughly Jewish tests.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.From Publishers WeeklyBuilding upon his earlier conclusions that Jesus' Jewishness is the key to understanding Jesus' life and work (*This Hebrew Lord*), Spong contends that the failure to read the Gospels as fundamentally Jewish impoverishes many traditional Christian readings. Tracing the history of New Testament interpretation, Spong demonstrates the tendencies among Christian interpreters to read the Gospels as documents addressing primarily an audience of Greek Gentile Christians rather than as narratives connected to the broader history of Judaism. Spong relies on a wide range of New Testament scholarship to argue that the form and content of the Gospels reflects not Greek influence or concerns but a peculiarly Jewish outlook on matters of religion and culture. Thus, for Spong, the Gospels are neither objective accounts of historical events nor biographies of Jesus but midrashim, or interpretive narratives, connecting the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth to the history, literature and religion of Judaism. For example, he isolates the symbolic roles that certain characters from the Hebrew Bible, like Elijah and Joseph, play in transmitting the story of Jesus to a Jewish audience. While Spong's conclusions about the value of reading the Gospels through Jewish lenses are neither new nor exciting, his forceful readings of the Gospels and his imaginative speculations about biblical figures are sure to provoke heated discussion among Christian interpreters. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistThe Bible has, of course, been read with Jewish eyes from the moment it was written: it is a Jewish book. But *Liberating the Gospels* is a Christian book; and Spong, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Newark, New Jersey, urges his Christian audience to remember that the book they call the New Testament was written almost entirely by Jewish authors for an audience that was initially almost entirely Jewish, an audience to whom it would not have occurred to think of the Bible (the "Law" and the "Prophets") as anything but Jewish. Spong's primary concern is to popularize the work of Michael Goulder, who reads the Gospel accounts as midrashic interpretations of regular readings of the Torah prescribed for worship services in the

synagogue. They are thus not historical accounts so much as liturgically structured homilies that present history through sacred texts. This is not new, but it will be surprising to many readers, and that is sure to sustain the aura of controversy surrounding Bishop Spong's prolific writing. Steve Schroeder