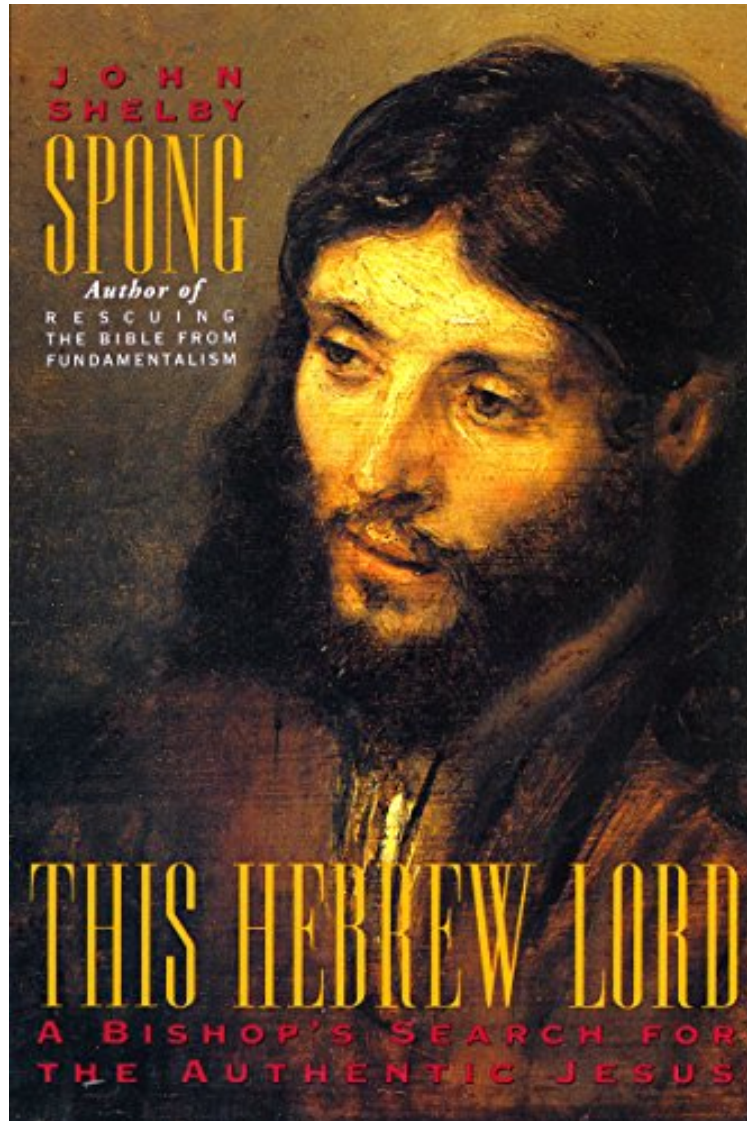


(Mobile library) This Hebrew Lord: Bishop's Search for the Authentic Jesus

## This Hebrew Lord: Bishop's Search for the Authentic Jesus

Von John Shelby Spong

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**Von John Shelby Spong : This Hebrew Lord: Bishop's Search for the Authentic Jesus** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised This Hebrew Lord: Bishop's Search for the Authentic Jesus:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Christians: read this.Von Moon over ManhattanAnyone holding to an orthodox Christian faith should read this to understand the prevailing post-modern thinking about Jesus Christ, which Spong embodies so well as he follows in the tradition of Bultmann, Tillich and, more recently, John A.T. Robinson.His thesis is basically that Christ makes one

"free to be, free to live, free to love." Spong's bibliography includes "I'm OK, You're OK." While most clergy desire to grow up to be like Luther or Augustine or St. Paul, my guess is that Spong wishes he would have been born as Copernicus, Darwin, or Freud, three men whom he seems to regard higher than any Christian thinker. Spong fails in several areas. He misuses the whole notion of Jewish midrash (read Jacob Neusner's "Midrash in Context: Exegesis in Formative Judaism"); he relies heavily on the theology of a man (Robinson) who mistranslates the Greek New Testament; and he makes some simply incredible statements (I won't spoil the surprises for you). What serious Christians need to take away from this book is this: post-modernists think that the New Testament is a Jewish, apocalyptic vision/midrashic construct, and that Jesus of Nazareth was an incredibly self-actualized man (but merely a man, mind you) who lived out what he "thought" was his Messianic mission (Spong never does quite address how Jesus manages to get himself crucified between two criminals as prophecy predicted). Read this book, then read II Peter 2, and then go out into the world and make disciples of all nations. Spong won't slow you down any.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An eye-opening book with a practical application. Von W.D. Peckenpaugh

Bishop Spong was one of the first authors to bring the "search for the historic Jesus" to mainstream, everyday Christians, and he does it in a way that opens many eyes to a fundamental, yet often overlooked, truth: Jesus, on whom Christianity bases its entire faith, was an observant Jew! This seems to be a very minor revelation, but centuries of oppression and discrimination against our Jewish brothers and sisters make this a fact worth repeating, and worth exploring in depth -- as Spong does here. While I don't necessarily agree with all his conclusions, I find Spong's inquiry honest, sincere, and refreshing. The book is an interesting read, and will certainly expose almost everyone to some new questions and ideas about the ministry and divinity of Jesus (as related to his Jewish identity and the culture in which he ministered). The practical application of which I speak [in the title of this review] is a more loving and understanding relationship between Christians and Jews, a recognition of our common religious roots, and a celebration of our common God (even if we do disagree about whether Jesus was the Messiah). Bishop Spong, in fact, presented a series of lectures with a rabbi friend, which was later transcribed into a separate book, and the realization by both groups (Christians and Jews) was that fear, stereotypes, and prejudice had replaced the love and seeking of truth for which both our faiths call. I highly recommend this book to all.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. God's Love is Freeing

Von Dr. Ron Ribble

This is not a world in which one reads and agrees on everything a mind like Bishop Spong's puts forth as proposition. If one did agree on every proposition, it would be agreement absent rationality and akin to the petrified belief structure of evangelical fundamentalism. As a catholic I am not bound to a literal interpretation of Scripture and in my past as mainstream and fundamentalist protestant, I could never bring myself to succumb to such notions. Spong causes anyone who is not frightened by the venture to explore the Jewishness of Christ. He was--despite the typical Aryan images of him foisted on us from an early age--a semite, a Jew well-grounded in Jewish culture and belief. To understand him as a Jew is to know better the Christ whose name we claim to reverence. I cannot help but endorse Spong's conclusion that the mission of Jesus--ordained by God or otherwise--was to set us free to realize the fullness of life and in doing so to make our own choices. And I find his blend of existentialism with a freeing view of the meaning of scripture to be thoughtful and wholly palatable. Those who believe in the limitations of literalism, who accept the chains of fundamentalism, whose minds are threatened by demons of their own making, who stifle thought and make a jest of genuine goodness, will necessarily find Spong's book anathema. For them belief is a prison from which escape is impossible.

**Kurzbeschreibung** From the bestselling author of *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*: John Shelby Spong's original groundbreaking classic, now newly revised, reveals the Jesus "behind the language of myth, magic, and superstition." "In this study I found a Lord, a center for my being. Behind the supernatural framework of the first century . . . I discovered a life I wanted to know; a life that possessed a power I wanted to possess; a freedom, a wholeness for which I had yearned for years." Illuminating the "figure who stands at the center of all the Christian Church is," John Shelby Spong explores Jesus under the light of the Hebrew tradition into which he was born. Candid, personal, and soundly argued, this is Spong's spiritual and intellectual pilgrimage to the Christ he discovered in Jesus of Nazareth.

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**Synopsis** Spong illuminates the "figure who stands at the centre of all that the Christian Church is" by exploring Jesus under the light of the Hebrew tradition into which he was born. This is Spong's spiritual and

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