

ADAM HAMILTON

Author of 24 Hours That Changed the World, The Journey, and The Way

HALF

TRUTHS

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES
AND OTHER THINGS THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY



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TRUTHS

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES
AND OTHER THINGS THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY

1. God helps those who help themselves
2. God won't give you more than you can handle
3. God said it, I believe it, that settles it
4. Love the sinner hate the sin
5. Everything happens for a reason

Most of us as Christians have things we believe, and tell others, and even count on, that we've not carefully examined.

Some of the things we accept and repeat to others sound so true, and we've believed them for so long, that they become what some call 'sacred cows' – things above question or criticism.

When these beliefs are questioned we become defensive or irritated.

We may even worry that if the beliefs aren't true, the rest of our faith may crumble.

Adam Hamilton

Half-true *not* Un-true



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Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Proverbs 13:24

Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Proverbs 13:24

Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says.

1 Corinthians 14:33

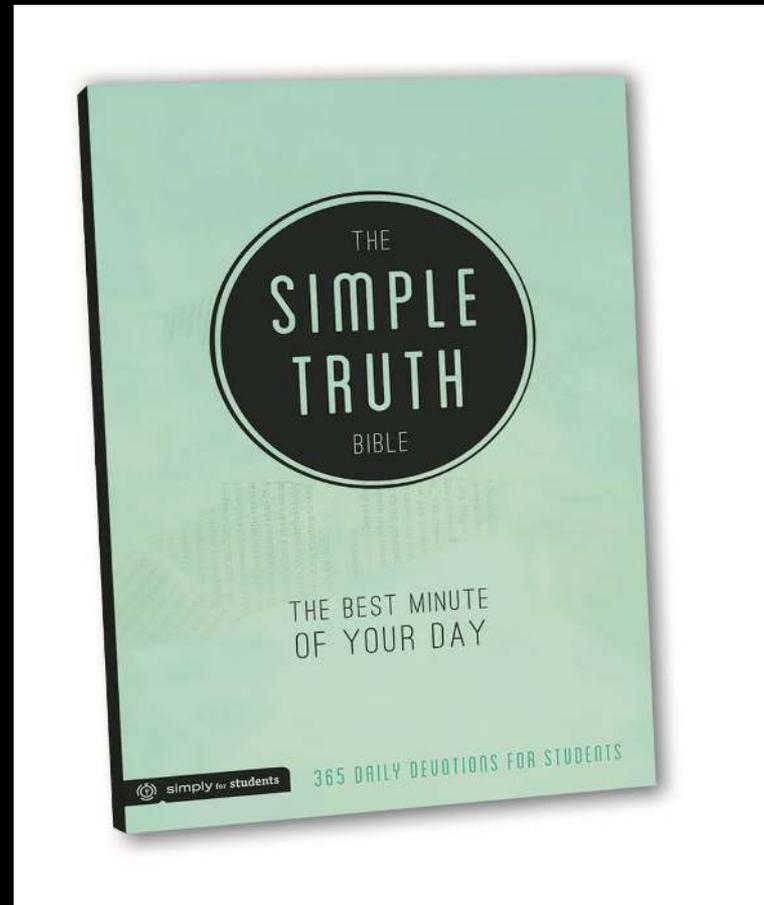
I wrestle with it every day and it shapes my life...



If
God said it
I Believe it
that Settles it

Wendy's
ARTISTIC
DESIGN

God said it – is an over simplification.



¹² Designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. ¹³ As part of your equipment have something to dig with, and when you relieve yourself, dig a hole and cover up your excrement. ¹⁴ For the Lord your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.

Deuteronomy 23:12-24



ONE MAN'S HUMBLE QUEST
TO FOLLOW THE BIBLE
AS LITERALLY AS
POSSIBLE

THE YEAR OF LIVING BIBLICALLY

'Engaging ... comical
... full of curious lore'
Independent on Sunday



A. J. JACOBS

RACHEL HELD EVANS



A YEAR OF BIBLICAL WOMANHOOD

How a Liberated Woman Found Herself
Sitting on Her Roof, Covering Her Head, and
Calling Her Husband Master



Don't wear blended fabrics or sow two different seeds in your field – *Leviticus 19:19*

Eliminate pork and shrimp from your diet
– *Leviticus 11:7-12*

For men, don't trim the edges of your beard
– *Leviticus 19:27*

Children who curse or strike their parents or who are persistently rebellious should be put to death
– *Exodus 21:15 and Deuteronomy 21:18-21*

Don't mow your lawn or clean your house on Saturdays (the Sabbath), or you will be put to death – *Exodus 35:2*

For women, if you're not a virgin when you marry, the men of your town are to stone you to death
– *Deuteronomy 22:21*



LEVITICUS
19:28

“Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord.

Leviticus 19:28

Here's the point I'm trying to make: Whether Christians admit it or not, we seldom actually read the Bible with the thought that God said it, I believe it, that settles it.

I remember speaking to a Christian some years [ago] who said to me, 'I don't interpret Scripture; I just take it all as God's Word and try to live it.' I asked him, 'So, you refrain from eating pork and you go to church on Saturday?' To which he replied, 'Well, no, that's the Old Testament.' 'Okay, so you insist that your wife prays with her head covered, that your daughters not braid their hair, and that you have no savings accounts?' He replied, 'No, those passages were about the times when the biblical authors lived, but not today.'

To which I replied, 'In other words, you interpret scripture!

Adam Hamilton

God said it – doesn't reflect the way Jesus, Paul and the apostles used scripture.



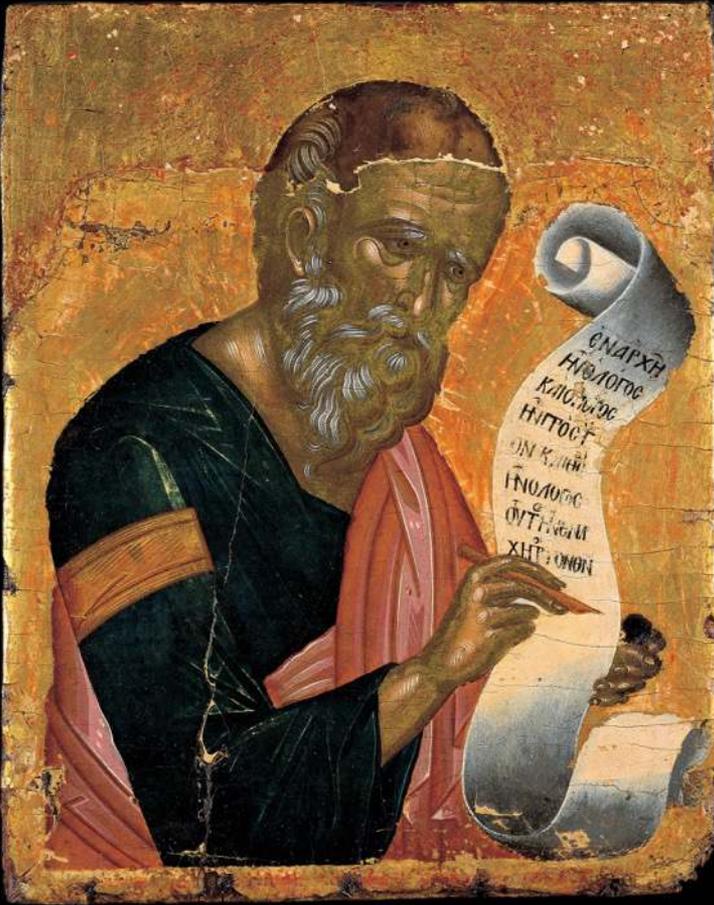
You've heard it said, but I say...



The Jewish practice of midrash



Who was John? Who was Paul?



¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

In Paul's letters, he never claims that his words and thoughts are synonymous with God's words and thoughts. He does, however, trust that he is led by the Spirit. In response to questions from believers in his churches, he writes to teach, encourage, correct, and mentor his flock. Does God speak through him in this? Of course. Does God still speak through Paul's words to us today? Absolutely. But since he is writing as Paul and not God, we must interpret his words. We must seek to understand the times in which Paul wrote, the circumstances he was addressing, and the ways his words continue to address our current situation.

Adam Hamilton

God breathed – inspired!

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Why does this matter?



The Bible contains the defining story of my life. Its words and teachings shape who I am and who I hope to be. I study it daily, praying that God will speak to me as I do.

But I read it recognising that the biblical authors were people, writing for various purposes and for specific audiences in particular historical circumstances.

These authors related their experiences of God – the way they heard him speak, as well as the things they thought and believed about God and God's will for their lives.

God was at work in them, influencing their writing, and God continues to influence all of us as we read their words.

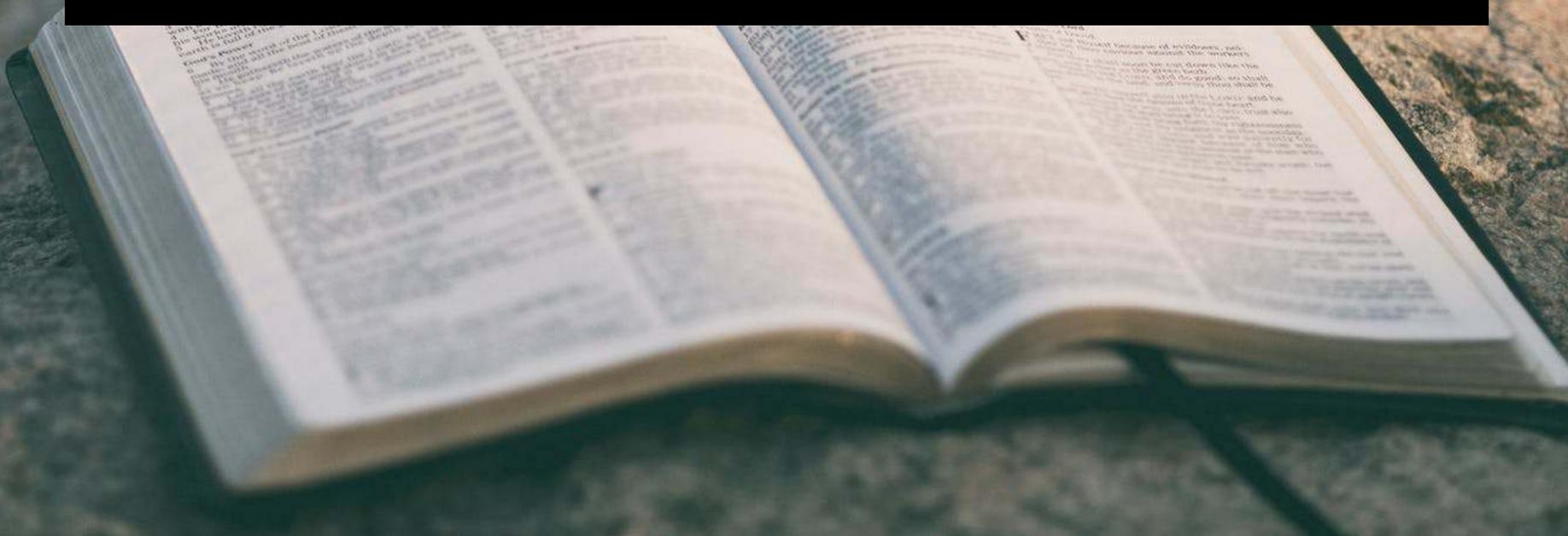
That is far different from saying, 'God said it, I believe it, that settles it.'

Adam Hamilton

A better truth

'God influenced it. I read, study, and sometimes wrestle with it. And as I interpret it in the light of Jesus Christ, I hear God speak through it and seek to live its words as best I can.'

Adam Hamilton



THE
THINKING AGAIN
BADLY
ABOUT THE STORY
BEHAVED

OF SCRIPTURE
BIBLE



NICK PAGE

How
the Bible
Actually
Works*



*In Which I Explain
How an Ancient,
Ambiguous, and
Diverse Book Leads
Us to Wisdom Rather
Than Answers—and
Why That's Great News

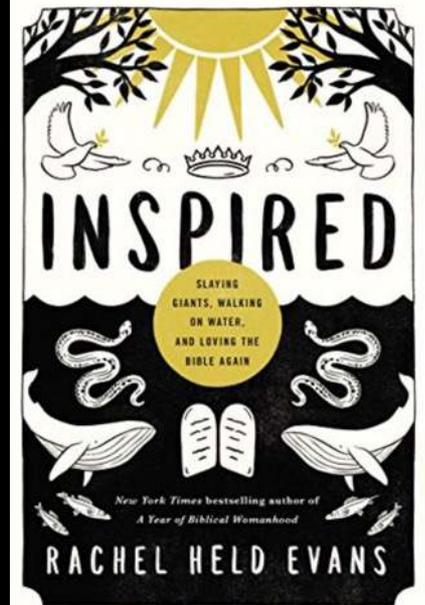
Peter Enns
Author of *The Bible Tells Me So*

What Is
the Bible?

How an Ancient Library
of Poems, Letters, and
Stories Can Transform
the Way You Think and
Feel About Everything

Rob Bell

New York Times Bestselling Author of *Love Wins*





Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit
Wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad

Anon

“The truth is, you can bend Scripture to say just about anything you want it to say. You can bend it until it breaks.

For those who count the Bible as sacred, interpretation is not a matter of whether to pick and choose, but how to pick and choose. We’re all selective. We all wrestle with how to interpret and apply the Bible to our lives. We all go to the text looking for something, and we all have a tendency to find it.

So the question we have to ask ourselves is this: are we reading with the prejudice of love, with Christ as our model, or are we reading with the prejudices of judgment and power, self-interest and greed? Are we seeking to enslave or liberate, burden or set free?”

Rachel Held Evans

LOVE the Lord your God
with all your **HEART,**
with all your **SOUL,**
with all your **MIND,**
and with
all your **STRENGTH.**

LOVE
your **NEIGHBOR**
as **YOURSELF.**

There is no other commandment
greater than these.

—JESUS



A timely book of timeless truths (wisdom)

1. Read and Study the bible

- Debate and discuss
- Do it alone and in groups
- Don't fixate on the "right" answer
- Practice Midrash

2. Recognise your biases

- Every point of view is a view from a point

3. Focus on Jesus

- Observe the fruit

