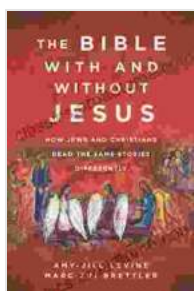


The Bible With and Without Jesus: A Comparative Study of the Gospels and the Epistles

The Bible is a complex and multifaceted text that has been interpreted in many different ways over the centuries. One of the most important questions that readers have grappled with is the question of Jesus' role in the Bible. Was Jesus the Son of God, as the Gospels claim? Or was he simply a human teacher, as the Epistles suggest?



The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently

by Amy-Jill Levine

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4407 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 512 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



In *The Bible With and Without Jesus*, renowned biblical scholar Bart Ehrman offers a groundbreaking new approach to this question. Ehrman compares the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels with the teachings of the early Church in the Epistles, revealing striking differences between the two.

He argues that the early Church transformed Jesus' message into a new religion that was more in line with the beliefs of the Greco-Roman world.

Ehrman's work is a major contribution to the study of the Bible and early Christianity. It is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the historical Jesus and the origins of Christianity.

The Teachings of Jesus

The Gospels present Jesus as a radical teacher who challenged the religious and political establishment of his day. He preached a message of love, forgiveness, and compassion, and he taught that the Kingdom of God was at hand. Jesus also performed many miracles, such as healing the sick and raising the dead.

Ehrman argues that Jesus' teachings were rooted in the Jewish tradition, but that he also departed from traditional Judaism in several important ways. For example, Jesus taught that people should love their enemies, even those who persecute them. He also taught that women were equal to men, and that the poor and the marginalized were deserving of God's love.

The Teachings of the Early Church

The Epistles were written by the early leaders of the Christian Church, including Paul, Peter, James, and John. These letters were written to address the needs of the early Christian communities, and they provide a glimpse into the beliefs and practices of the early Church.

Ehrman argues that the teachings of the early Church departed from the teachings of Jesus in several important ways. For example, the early Church taught that Jesus was the Son of God, and that he had come to

save humanity from sin. The early Church also taught that faith in Jesus was necessary for salvation, and that those who did not believe in Jesus would be condemned to hell.

The Differences Between Jesus and the Early Church

Ehrman's comparative study of the Gospels and the Epistles reveals a number of striking differences between the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of the early Church. These differences include:

- Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God was at hand, while the early Church taught that the Kingdom of God would come at the end of time.
- Jesus taught that people should love their enemies, while the early Church taught that Christians should only love other Christians.
- Jesus taught that women were equal to men, while the early Church taught that women were subordinate to men.
- Jesus taught that the poor and the marginalized were deserving of God's love, while the early Church often ignored the poor and the marginalized.

Ehrman argues that these differences are due to the fact that the early Church transformed Jesus' message into a new religion that was more in line with the beliefs of the Greco-Roman world. The early Church adopted many of the beliefs and practices of the Greco-Roman mystery religions, such as the belief in a divine savior who died and rose from the dead.

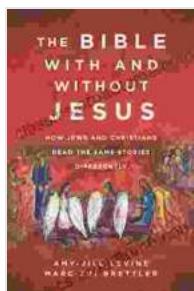
The Significance of Ehrman's Work

Ehrman's work is a major contribution to the study of the Bible and early Christianity. It is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the historical

Jesus and the origins of Christianity. Ehrman's work provides a new perspective on the Bible, and it challenges many of the traditional assumptions about Jesus and the early Church.

Ehrman's work is also important because it helps us to understand the roots of our own beliefs. Many of the beliefs and practices that we hold dear today can be traced back to the early Church. By understanding the differences between Jesus and the early Church, we can better understand our own beliefs and how they have been shaped by history.

The Bible With and Without Jesus is a groundbreaking new study of the Bible that challenges many of our traditional assumptions about Jesus and the early Church. Ehrman's work provides a new perspective on the Bible, and it is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the historical Jesus and the origins of Christianity.



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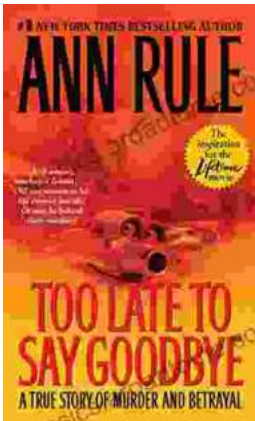
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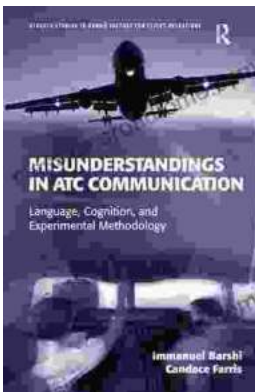
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