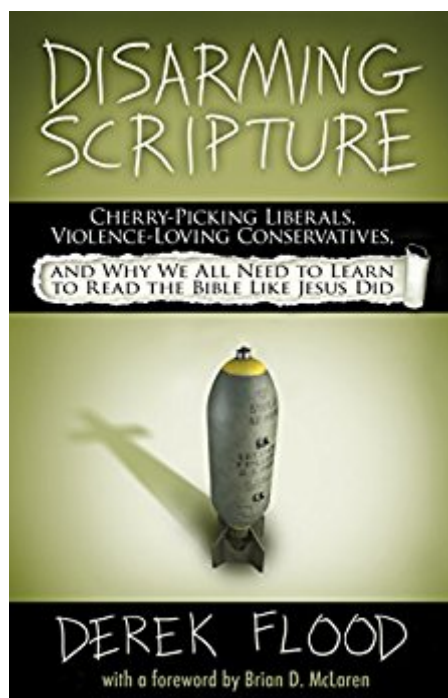




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Disarming Scripture: Cherry-Picking Liberals, Violence-Loving Conservatives, And Why We All Need To Learn To Read The Bible Like Jesus Did



Synopsis

A GOD OF LOVE AND GENOCIDE? For many Christians the problem of violence of Scripture can result in a crisis of faith—especially when we see how such passages have been used throughout history to justify horrific bloodshed in God's name. Moving beyond typical conservative and liberal approaches, which seek to either defend or whitewash over violence in the Bible, Disarming Scripture takes a surprising yet compelling approach: Learning to read the Bible like Jesus did. Along the way the book deals with some very big issues, ranging from passages commanding genocide and infanticide in the Old Testament to passages in the New Testament that have been used to justify slavery, child abuse, and state violence. The take-away is an approach to Scripture that not only sees questioning as an acceptable part of a healthy faith, but as an absolutely essential part of it.

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Customer Reviews

Disarming Scripture is a refreshing contribution to the church on how to approach the scriptures. I

would highly recommend this book for anyone who has found themselves troubled with certain contradictory pictures of God in the Old and New Testament and who sincerely want to follow Jesus. Flood has done an amazing job of showing us a way forward in the Bible wars which have been dominated by fundamentalists/foundationalists on the one side and liberals on the other. Flood offers an approach to the Bible that is neither simplistic and naive, or so bloated and complex as to be of no practical use. Rather he puts forth a way of grappling with scriptures that is focused on Jesus and a trajectory that moves away from violence and retribution and towards compassion, forgiveness and grace. A way of reading that is rooted in following Jesus, in community, and in the Spirit.

This is a fantastic, encouraging, pathway of spiritual growth through its endorsement of "faithful questioning" and its affirmation of healthy struggle and wrestling with historical and supposed certainty. It was tremendously freeing to find a written embrace of our humanity's search for and in Truth. I sense such a relaxed honest quest forward. I would encourage anyone, and particularly those wounded by or structured in Christian fundamentalism, to take a risk,....reengage your wounds and possible loss of faith. Challenge your rigidity. Learn to read scripture like Jesus did. Discover Jesus,.... again!

I've read many books, specifically on the topic of Christian non-violence. Many of those books were complex, long and wordy. This is where this book becomes the best one I've read on the subject. It is simple, concise and masterfully executed. You may not agree with all his perspectives, but certainly it will not be because he failed to be clear. Most books on non-violence seem to ignore the old testament and just keep pointing at Jesus to make the point of non-violence. For me, understanding what Derek had to say about interpreting scripture was a much needed key I had been missing in this whole idea. It fills in the gap, where before I only shrugged my shoulders at the OT violence and went with my conscience that something wasn't right with a literal reading of it. I was going to say that I wish he had spoken of the atonement in regards to this whole topic, but I just read the synopsis of his other book and suspect that he tackles the subject there. For me, I went 25 Years believing in non-violence, yet believing God had to kill Jesus in order to atone for our sins. It's hard to live the path of non-violence, when you believe God doesn't. Bravo to Derek for being a voice in bringing change to these ideas. Lastly, while violence is often thought of as a physical thing, it is often an emotional and spiritual thing as well. I would have loved to see Derek map out where the trajectory of Scripture takes us and has to say to some of the widely held, emotionally/spiritually

violent dogmas and beliefs of the church. This isn't a criticism, just perhaps beyond the scope of this book.

An excellent book which really gave me something to think about. I'm constantly referring back to this book, and gives a completely different perspective on those troubling OT battles. I still don't understand that part completely, but this book is help me too.

i really really loved this book. how did Jesus and Paul view/interpret scripture - by faithful "questioning" or "unquestioning obedience"? Jesus looked at the fruits of law and scripture interpretation/application - does it harm or help people? book discusses and analyzes so much from scripture - restorative justice, inerrancy and infallibility, nature of Jesus' parables, just to name a few. discusses concepts others have supported with scripture such as slavery, violence, abuse, genocide, etc. discusses how to read the bible on a 'trajectory' down the path that Jesus set us on - bringing his kingdom to this earth. concludes with many great statements - one of which is: that questioning is a sign of a healthy faith, not a weak faith. i could go on and on..but i will stop. read the book,.

This is a wonderful, generous, thought provoking book that has wide ranging implications as we might expect of a book that wants to reconfigure the way we read Scripture. Clearly reasoned and well-written. It's somewhat casual and approachable style belies the power of its argument and its point. If we want to read, understand, and live faithfully as Jesus' people for the world we need to begin and continue to read and interpret Scripture in the world-changing way that Jesus (and Paul, too) did. Will not be well-received by control freaks that think every important issue has been decided and then frozen in time 2000 years ago and that our present task is simply to hold the fort until Jesus returns. Very helpful. 5 stars does not equal perfection, just a very worthwhile read.

Many of us have become so loyal to a particular religious system and ideology that we have lost touch with the compassionate, peaceful beauty that The Gospel is. Many of us have bought into the notion - with unquestioning obedience - that unquestioning obedience is the hallmark of faithfulness. In this book, we will be awakened and reminded that Jesus demonstrates the way of faithful questioning that always leads to compassion, love, and life. The paradigm presented in this book is, I think, what most of us hope the Gospel would be - for us, and through us to others. Derek Flood provides a courageous and faithful questioning here of what lies at the heart of what it means to be

faithful. Blessings and peace to you as you journey through this vision.

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