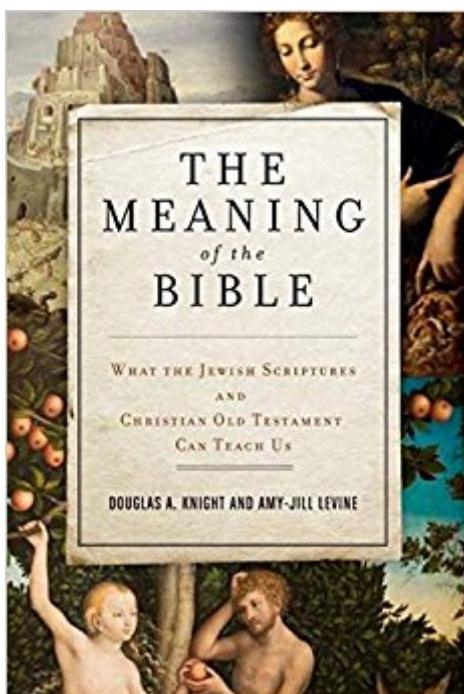


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# The Meaning Of The Bible: What The Jewish Scriptures And Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us



## Synopsis

In *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us*, preeminent biblical scholars Douglas A. Knight and Amy-Jill Levine deliver a broad and engaging introduction to the Old Testament—also known as the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible—offering a wealth of compelling historical background and context for the sacred literature that is at the heart of Judaism and Christianity. John Shelby Spong, author of *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World* writes, "Levine and Knight have combined to write a book on the Bible that is as academically brilliant as it is marvelously entertaining. By placing our scriptures into their original Jewish context they have opened up startling and profound new insights. This is a terrific book."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Amy-Jill Levine and Douglas A. Knight have combined to write a book on the Bible that is as academically brilliant as it is marvelously entertaining. By placing our scriptures into their original Jewish context they have opened up startling and profound new insights. This is a terrific book." (John Shelby Spong, author of *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World*) "More than random facts about the Hebrew Bible . . . more than a historical overview . . . [t]hey are aiming for true understanding of the life, culture, and practices of the ancient Israelites." (Booklist) "A winsome, accessible introduction to the theological thought of the Hebrew Bible. This sort of irenic, thoughtful linkage of criticism and interpretation within a

confessing tradition is exactly what we most need in Scripture reading. (Walter Brueggemann, Professor Emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary) "From its superb introduction to its perfectly worded conclusion, this book does it all. Whether your interest in the Bible is historical or literary, specific texts or broad themes, this book has it and conveys its relevance for today. (Richard Elliott Friedman, author of *Who Wrote the Bible?* and *The Bible Now*) "Provides new knowledge on the Bible's rich diversity of teaching on sexuality, familial and ethnic discord, political corruption, religious infidelity, economic exploitation as well as the nature of God, faith, love, and social justice. It is both enlightening and inspiring. (Peter J. Paris, the Elmer G. Homrighausen Professor of Christian Social Ethics, Emeritus, Princeton Theological Seminary) "A book we have needed for years - learned and accessible, clearly organized by the topics readers care about, and fully engaged with current discussions of deep and broad significance. (William Brosend, Executive Director, the Episcopal Preaching Foundation) "If anyone thinks the fruit of biblical scholarship is esoteric and heavy reading, direct that person to this book. In it, Knight and Levine demonstrate both their scholarly proficiency and their expertise as seasoned educators. This book should appeal to a broad audience. (Dianne Bergant, CSA, Catholic Theological Union) "Knight and Levine have done a marvelous job of taking very sophisticated material and presenting it in an illuminating and thoroughly engaging way that bespeaks of excellent scholarship by two distinguished teachers. (Carol J. Dempsey, OP, Ph.D, Professor of Theology, University of Portland, and author of *Reading the Bible, Transforming Conflict*) "A highly accessible . . . survey that is in tune with current scholarship. (Library Journal)

### What the Bible Really Says About Politics, Sex, Creation, Suffering, and More

A book I am reading - it keeps hitting me what a rinky dink education I received at Dallas Theological Seminary whenever I read books of this caliber and type. As Mark Noll pointed out in *The scandal of the Evangelical Mind*, those so called graduate schools are not really graduate schools. But how was I to know. The so-called mainline scholarship is so refreshing.

This is an outstanding work by renowned Vanderbilt Divinity School professors. We are reading a chapter each week for my Sunday School class, and all are enthusiastically embracing the challenging text and investigating various versions of the Biblical texts cited. Readers have remarked on the down-to-earth conversational tone of the book. After an introduction that explains

the writers' perspective -- one a Christian, the other a Jew -- the book sets the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures in the context of history, its literary heritage, and the land of Israel and its Settlement. Then come the thematic chapters, such as Law and Justice, Chaos and Creation, Sexuality, Wisdom and Theodicy. We're in Law and Justice now, and, though I'm a lawyer and a Vanderbilt Divinity School grad, I'm just now learning about the 5 daughters' petition (Num. 27:1-11, 36:1-12, and Josh. 17:3-6) -- just to give one example of the insights offered by this work.

Any book written by or cowritten by Amy Jill Levine is enlightening and written in an interesting fashion. She makes cultural heritage very easy to understand and does not make any judgemental statements about one's beliefs. The only thing better is hearing her speak in person.

Very informative. If you want to be very knowledgeable about the Bible and only could read one book. This is the book to read.

This is a helpful book especially for a Christian who wants to know more about her heritage.

I like the style of the book and the insights from a Jewish perspective.

Great

this book is phenomenal for understanding the truth of the word of God.

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