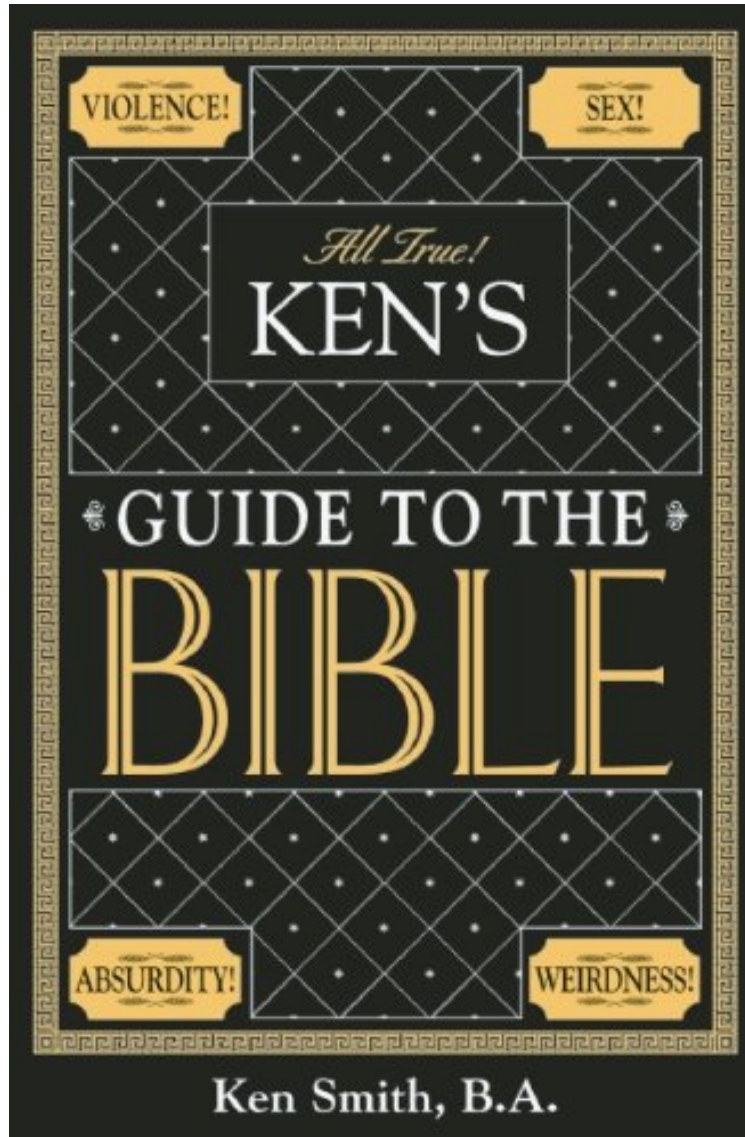


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Ken's Guide to the Bible

Ken Smith

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Ken Smith : Ken's Guide to the Bible before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ken's Guide to the Bible:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good First Book to Read When You Question Your Belief in the BibleBy Tina Rae CollinsIf you're looking for a book that explains the problems with the Bible that is concise and based on the Bible itself, this is a good one. In fact, it could be a great book to share with others who are questioning their faith in the Old and New Testaments.13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A breath of fresh air!By

A Customer
How rare and wonderful to finally see an intelligent, well-researched piece of CRITICAL writing on the actual *content* of the Bible. Biblical scholars have argued about authorship and other topics for years, but this is the first book I've seen that concerns itself with the actual contents AND is directed to the general reader. I was amazed and disappointed by some of the negative comments I've seen -- comments that suggest to me that those people never gave the book more than a casual glance. Smith used not one but FOUR different translations of the Bible in his research, and his commentary does not give any indication that he's a demon-worshipping subversive, or that anyone else should be either. Rather, he indicates only that it's important to read the Bible with your brain, rather than uncritically accepting all the spoon-fed platitudes that most of us are brainwashed with throughout our childhood. 24 of 28 people found the following review helpful. Irreverent and fun
By Bri
This little book is a hoot. Ken takes the veil away from many of the less well advertised aspects of the biblical "message." Too bad the people this could really help either won't read it or won't get it. I'd have given it all five stars but for a couple of things. First, Ken misses some of the most outrageous "family values" tales in the OT. The one that tipped me off about the "value" of this book, way back when I was a little nipper, was the dreadful tale of Abraham and Isaac. The story of a god repulsive enough to command a man to murder his own son for no reason other than to prove what a brainless sheep he was, and a father who was perfectly ready to do it. This story should terrify any child with half a brain. Then there's the charming story of Lot, supposedly the only honorable man in Sodom, who, in order to preserve the dignity of a couple of God's angel spies, appeased a mob by throwing them his two virgin daughters. Oh, yes--this book is a great guide to high family values. The other reason I can't give Ken five stars is that he's a bit behind on his New Testament scholarship. It's been quite well established that (1) none of the gospels was written by anyone who ever knew Jesus, despite having the names of apostles, (2) in fact, there's not a single word of "eye witness" testimony re. Jesus in any part of the Bible, (3) the oldest part of the NT is, in fact, some of the stuff written by Paul, so arguably *his* version of the Jesus/Christianity stuff is more accurate (and this stuff was written many years after the death of Jesus--if, in fact, Jesus was a real person, which is quite questionable), and (4) the oldest of the four gospels was Mark; Matthew and Luke simply plagiarized Mark, beefed up and tweaked stuff to meet their particular liturgical needs, and invented stuff like birth myths to make Jesus seem more supernatural than Mark's rather pasturale depiction seems to indicate. So it's not very surprising that John is the odd man out--this is the only one of the four gospels that's somewhat independent of the others. Both of the (contradictory) birth myths are just that--completely fabricated. In fact, Joseph, the supposed father of Jesus, is probably also completely fabricated. Sorry, True Believers. Your faith is based on shifting sand. Were it not shielded by layer after layer of religious gauze, the Bible is a book which no one would consider to be suitable reading for anyone under the age of 21. Let's get those Bibles shelved where they belong--in the mythology section, right next to Bullfinch's.

An insider's guide to the Bible with a focus on sex, gore and lunacy.

From the Back Cover
The Bible is a thick, imposing, often unreadable, damnedly religious book. Most people don't have the time or the patience even to attempt reading it. But everyone knows they're supposed to know what's in the world's most widely quoted book. To whom can you turn? Ken Smith, co-author of the best-selling Roadside America books, goes where traditional Bible authorities fear to tread. Ken's Guide to the Bible takes you directly to the Good Book's naughty parts and wastes no time on the stuff you already know. With hammerhead precision and pig-iron wit, this compact volume lays bare all the sex, gore, and lunacy that the Bible has to offer. Read Ken's Guide to the Bible and you'll know more about the Good Book than most televangelists, Christian rockers, and conservative school-board members put together!