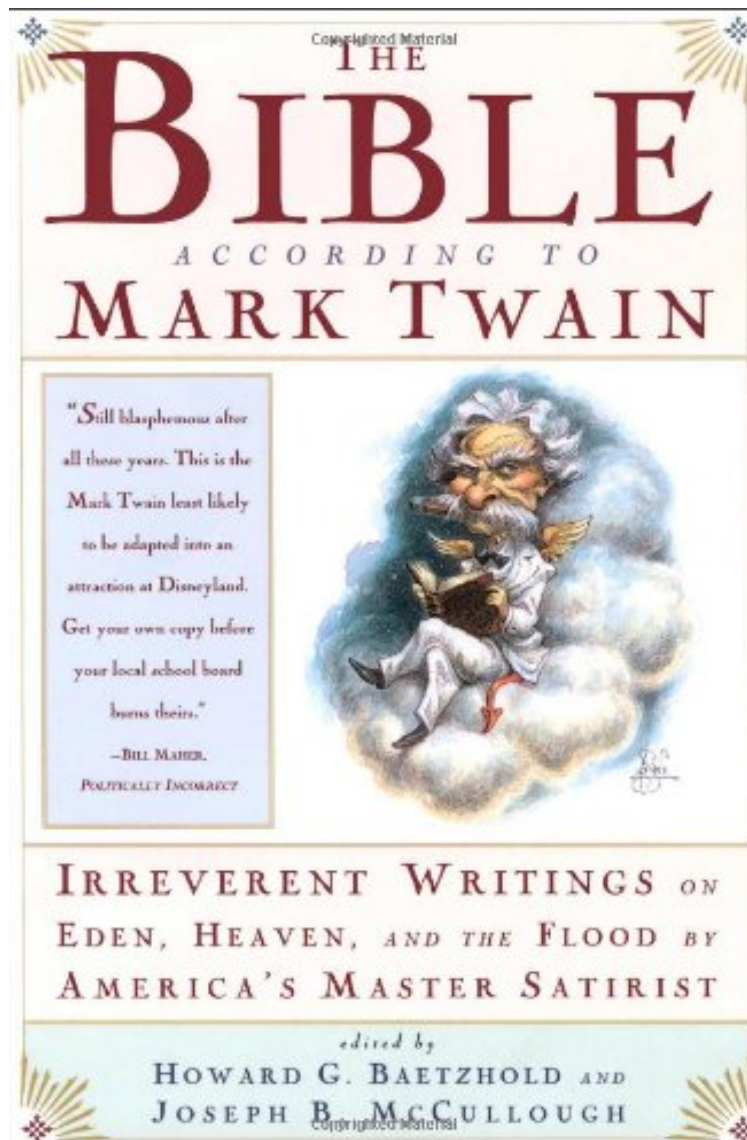


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The Bible According to Mark Twain: Irreverent Writings on Eden, Heaven, and the Flood by America's Master Satirist

Mark Twain

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Mark Twain : The Bible According to Mark Twain: Irreverent Writings on Eden, Heaven, and the Flood by America's Master Satirist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bible According to Mark Twain: Irreverent Writings on Eden, Heaven, and the Flood by America's

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. If you love Mark Twain then you will not be disappointed in ...By Bruce BoertjeIf you love Mark Twain then you will not be disappointed in this book. His humor is second to none and shines through the book. Twain skewers the Bible, but you need to leave it to yourself to determine if he is correct or not. However, he will give you food for thought. Whether you agree or disagree with him, this book is worth a read. It will help you access and validate your own beliefs.8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Mark Twain gets itBy GriffelThis book is a real eye opener. Take those familiar bible stories such as Adam and Eve and the Great Flood and apply some logic and irony to the story and you have a whole new take on it. I love Mark Twain's humor. Don't get this book if you must stick to the literal interpretation at all cost. For open minded, it is a must. I especially liked the Diary of Eve and the Diary of Adam. How must they have viewed the world in the beginning - before and after "The Fall"? Mark Twain gives us something to think about.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good, but not his best writing.By Mike3746These are some of Mark Twain's more subdued writings. I can see why he did not want them published until after his death. If you are a devout bible thumper, you will not like this collection of his less known writings. If you want to know a lot more about the bible and it's sillier passages, it's for you. It's as if Mark Twain knew these adventures of his more atheist side would not be well received by his contemporary public. His heart was not in really sharing his more personal ideas on religion and christianity and Judaism. He was truly compelled to write this, but not really inspired.

An indispensable and provocative compilation of witty essays dealing with Biblical stories and their inconsistencies from America's master satirist, Mark Twain. *The Bible According to Mark Twain* is a selection of essays spanning forty years of his writing career, which touch on and satirize stories and figures from the Bible. In his characteristic style, Twain illustrates the inherent comedy and inconsistencies found within Holy Scripture, simultaneously entertaining and provoking questions about man's place in the world and his relationship with God. An important installment in the Twain canon, this book is perfect for fans of America's master satirist.

From BooklistThe editors of this book have serious reason to believe that the Bible influenced Mark Twain more than any other book as his beliefs progressed from Presbyterianism through deism and on to Darwinian determinism. They scoured 40 years of his writings to compile an anthology of both unpublished and newly edited works, complete with appendixes of related pieces, in which Twain dealt with biblical figures, themes, or settings. The result is a fascinating contribution to the Twain canon in which we see him wrestle with the God-man relationship and take provocative stabs at the Bible's inconsistencies. Twain's styles here are as arresting as his content as he moves from biblical rhythms and rhetoric to the Pepsian bombast of the author he was reading when he wrote "Methuselah's Diary." Twain aficionados will revel in such episodes as Shem and his family sitting up all night signing autographs for their now-famous dad, Noah, while Methuselah pouts that he was not selected to build the infamous ark. A collection that offers readers a fascinating panoply of wit, satire, farce, fantasy, lyricism, heresy, the sardonic, and the controversial. Patricia Hassler *The Bible According to Mark Twain* helps us in the process of rediscovering or reinventing Mark Twain by engaging our question about where this figure came from, what forces shaped him, what he means, and why he speaks to and for Americans especially. (College Literature)Baetzhold and McCullough have delivered a great boon to lovers of Mark Twain. In providing for both those Biblical writings which Twain considered publishable and those that then seemed too potentially offensive for publication, they have enabled us to gain a fuller comprehension of the very complex author. In providing the original form as well as revised versions of published material, they have enabled us to observe the artist at work and thus to gain a deeper insight into the nature of his art. And in making their explanatory materials so readable and readily accessible, they made the pursuit of Mark Twain studies thoroughly enjoyable. (Mark Twain Society)A collection that offers readers a fascinating panoply of wit, satire, farce, fantasy, lyricism, heresy, the sardonic, and the controversial. (Booklist)The present collection?spanning four decades (1871-1910)?is both a genuine service to Twain lovers and one showing Twain at his most charming and witty. (Kirkus s)From the Back CoverThis volume collects the most important writings by Mark Twain in which he used biblical settings, themes, and figures. Featuring Twain's singular portrayals of God, Adam, Eve, Satan, Methuselah, Shem, St. Peter, and others, the writings stand among Twain's most imaginative expressions of his views on human nature and humankind's relation to the Creator and the universe. Composed over four decades (1871-1910), the writings range from farce to fantasy to satire, each one bearing the mark of Twain's unmistakable wit and insight. Among the many delights in store for readers are Adam and Eve's divergent accounts of their domestic troubles; Methuselah's discussion of an ancient version of baseball, complete with a parody of baseball jargon; Shem's hand-wringing account of how material shortages and labor troubles were hampering the progress of the ark his father, Noah, was building; a description of the disruptive actions of the fire-and-brimstone evangelist Sam Jones upon arriving in heaven; Captain Stormfield's revelations of what heaven is really like; Satan's musings on our puerile concepts of the afterlife; and Twain's advice on how to dress and tip properly in heaven. Twain's humor, however, is never gratuitous. As readers

laugh their way through this volume, they will find ample evidence of Twain's concerns about scriptural fallacies and inconsistencies, the Bible's rather flat portrayal of important characters, and our limited notions about the nature and meaning of our own - and God's - existence. Many of the pieces in this collection, even the most light-hearted, might still be considered controversial; of some of the darker pieces, Twain himself acknowledged that they would be heretical in any age. Moreover, these writings are valuable cultural artifacts of a time when, across the Western world, fundamental religious beliefs were being called into question by the precepts of Darwinism and the rapid advances of science and technology. Several of this volume's selections are previously unpublished; others, like *Letters from the Earth*, are classics. Virtually all have been newly edited to reflect as closely as possible Twain's final intentions for their form and content. For serious Twain devotees, editors Howard G. Baetzhold and Joseph B. McCullough have supplied an abundance of background material on the writings, including details on the history of their composition, publication, and relevance to the Twain canon.