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From Reader Review About the Holy Bible for online ebook

James Corrigan says

One of the finest books I have read on the Bible. The author tho long deceased has taken a book and shone it for what it is filed with misconceptions and half truths. This is a great example of the phrase "Tell a lie big enough and long enough, so when you tell the truth no-one will believe you". A fine read for the mentality liberated and the intellectually acute.

I am interested in literature that stimulates the mind and questions the culture of a society. To question, is the path to wisdom. I highly recommend this book.

David S. T. says

This short work from the 19th century agnostic Ingersoll was a little disappointing. Right away he starts talking about Moses making up a religion to control his followers, regardless of what someone's opinion of this is, there's no way to know of this is true, if you accept the bible then Moses was telling the truth, if you don't then Moses could have been mistaken or delusional but that's no indication he made up a religion. Most of the rest of the book continues in like manner, he spends a significant portion attacking some of the things Jehovah commanded the Israelites to do in the old testament. He expects the people of ancient Israel to have the same mindset as his and since they didn't they are a barbarous people (for example he goes on about Jehovah gave the Israelites no schools, no sciences, no arts, no commerce). Overall this polemic attacks the bible but doesn't do a great job of getting its point across, its much more of a book written for the atheist not as much to convince a believer of his errors (and there are far better books at accomplishing this). I hope his book on the mistakes of moses has a little more substance.

He did make a decent point about if Jesus was god incarnate he would know the future and if so why didn't he take more care to explain his words and help prevent all of the battles we've had over doctrine (such as actually explaining the trinity himself or clarifying his position on earth).

Johnny says

I found myself wishing that the author had continued to detail similarities between Christianity and the other religions throughout the booklet, but nonetheless it was an interesting read, a rare voice in a sea of 19th century Christian apologists. Atheists and agnostics will like it - as will those either sitting on the fence or equipped with an inquisitive mind - though the invested Christian will probably continue on unscathed (as belief is a personal choice, it's immune to external factors).

Erica says

Packed with reasons why the Bible isn't a "good book," clearly articulated for a general audience. This book even made me question the goodness of Jesus' character.

Noah McClintock says

Simple, but effective critique of Christianity and religion. I should read more of Ingersoll's work.

Siobhan O' Sullivan says

great book, great writer, enjoyed this!

Michael Dorais says

I read the free Kindle version and a free version is available to read online at Google Books
<http://books.google.com/books/about/A...>

This is rhetorical and I wouldn't be surprised if someone could pick apart a claim here and there and show it false, but this review of the Bible by an atheist humanist is pretty much on the money and consistent with my reading of the Bible.

My personal note is that once you dispense with the idea that the Bible is the literal word of God and read it as pure literature from various contexts in history, you can engage with it like you would any ancient literature, history, or mythology. If you do believe in God you can read it as something God would like you to be aware of and learn from, but any God that fits any decent description I have heard of God wouldn't want you to take it literally as God's direct word. You can learn just as much from seeing the obvious mistakes made by the people and gods of the stories in it as you can from its timeless wisdom and account of human nature. In that sense, perhaps Mr. Ingersoll was a bit too harsh, but I have to agree with him on the relative merits of other ancient and modern literature.

But the difference between the Bible and at least most other ancient literature is that the Bible is historically very important to Western culture and, the King James Bible especially, to the English language and English speaking culture, and it is currently believed in some way and held sacred by probably billions of the Christians people on the planet. Christianity dominates this world we are in. You might as well read and find out for yourself what the dominant world religion believes. On the other hand, if you are Christian and are like most Christians you probably haven't read for yourself most of what you believe. Consider reading the Bible - the whole Bible, by itself, without a preacher making a speech that dances around what it really says.

John says

An absolute must read

This is an absolute must read for anyone seeking the truth behind the bible and the Christian faith. This short book is well written and just as relevant today as it was in the late nineteenth century.

Allison Butler says

Although I wish there were more citations for some of the assertions made by Ingersoll, I thought this book was a very interesting read.

I've read many critiques of the bible as an inspired work, and this one adds some new insights and research points to further a reader's deconstruction of how the bible was put together and some of the historical inaccuracies it contains.

Overall, worth a read.

Zach Christensen says

Eh. He is a good writer. Fun to read. But there was nothing ground breaking here. Mostly just Enlightenment snobbery.

Patrick O'Toole says

Outstanding

Honest, blunt and terse. This is a short and simple critique of the Bible. There are no references or footnotes and it doesn't need any.

Greg says

This was the first of his works that I've read. Though short and mildly fast-paced, it was very interesting to read a late 19th-century agnostic's views on the Holy Bible. With many views on the Bible heavily chastised and considered blasphemous nowadays, I take Ingersoll's words as a courageous leap forward during a time of heavy preaching and continual discrimination, a world that has unfortunately remained in almost two centuries later. Whatever your views or opinions or beliefs may be, I give this work five stars because of its simplicity and heavily informative style.
