

Unprotected Texts The Bibles Surprising Contradictions About Sex And Desire Jennifer Wright Knust

The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions is the first comprehensive single-volume reference work offering authoritative coverage of ancient religions in the Mediterranean world. Chronologically, the volume's scope extends from pre-historical antiquity in the third millennium B.C.E. through the rise of Islam in the seventh century C.E. An interdisciplinary approach draws out the common issues and elements between and among religious traditions in the Mediterranean basin. Key features of the volume include: Detailed maps of the Mediterranean World, ancient Egypt, the Roman Empire, and the Hellenistic World A comprehensive timeline of major events, innovations, and individuals, divided by region to provide both a diachronic and pan-Mediterranean, synchronic view A broad geographical range including western Asia, northern Africa, and southern Europe This encyclopedia will serve as a key point of reference for all students and scholars interested in ancient Mediterranean culture and society.

“An explosive, fascinating book that reveals how the Bible cannot be used as a rulebook when it comes to sex. A terrific read by a top scholar.” —Bart Ehrman, author of *Misquoting Jesus* Boston University's cutting-edge religion scholar Jennifer Wright Knust reveals the Bible's contradictory messages about sex in this thoughtful, riveting, and timely reexploration of the letter of the gospels. In the tradition of Bart Erhman's *Jesus Interrupted* and John Shelby Spong's *Sins of Scripture*, Knust's *Unprotected Texts* liberates us from the pervasive moralizing—the fickle dos and don'ts—so often dictated by religious demagogues. Knust's powerful reading offers a return to the scripture, away from the mere slogans to which it is so often reduced.

No one can describe a wine like Karen MacNeil. Comprehensive, entertaining, authoritative, and endlessly interesting, *The Wine Bible* is a lively course from an expert teacher, grounding the reader deeply in the fundamentals—vine-yards and varietals, climate and terroir, the nine attributes of a wine's greatness—while layering on tips, informative asides, anecdotes, definitions, photographs, maps, labels, and recommended bottles. Discover how to taste with focus and build a wine-tasting memory. The reason behind Champagne's bubbles. Italy, the place the ancient Greeks called the land of wine. An oak barrel's effect on flavor. Sherry, the world's most misunderstood and underappreciated wine. How to match wine with food—and mood. Plus everything else you need to know to buy, store, serve, and enjoy the world's most captivating beverage.

Through careful, innovative readings, Jennifer Knust explores the writings of Paul, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus of Lyons, and other early Christian authors who argued that Christ alone made self-mastery possible. Rejection of Christ led to both immoral sexual behavior and, ultimately, alienation and punishment from God. Knust considers how Christian writers participated in a long tradition of rhetorical invective, a rhetoric that was often employed to defend status and difference. Christians borrowed, deployed, and reconfigured classical rhetorical techniques, turning them against their rulers to undercut their moral and political authority.

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Knust also examines the use of accusations of licentiousness in conflicts between rival groups of Christians. Portraying rival sects as depraved allowed accusers to claim their own group as representative of "true Christianity."

What is the Christian view of sex? What about God's view? Are you surprised to know that the two might not line up? Stepping away from religious tradition, *Sex in the Bible* compares scripture to scripture to find out exactly what God has to say about human sexuality-and what it reveals may shock you. Providing a technical and thorough explanation of his findings, author Evan P. Turner begins his in-depth study by clearly defining what sin is, according to the Bible, so as to make evident what is not sin. Is masturbation wrong? What does God think of divorce? Is it okay for single people to have sex? Navigating these controversial questions, along with many more, the author points out key words and explains the significance of certain Hebrew and Greek terms to further elucidate what the Bible actually says about any given topic. Though there are certainly forbidden acts, you will begin to see that God actually offers a surprising amount of freedom when it comes to sex. Discover the life-giving truth about sex in this revolutionary study of the Bible.

A fascinating journey through the Bible closely examines what the biblical texts say about sex, revealing an amazing variety of perspectives biblical writers bring to topics such as lust and passion, sexual pleasure, contraception and abortion, and much more. Original.

"These days sexual sin is far less about sex and far more about the misuse of power and exploitation of vulnerability. It's time to redraw the ethical map. But how should a contemporary Christian ethic of sexuality be formulated? Marvin Ellison, a pioneer in contemporary Christian rethinking of sexuality and sexual ethics, uses a series of provocative questions to increase readers' skills and confidence for engaging in ethical deliberation about sexuality. Students and all adults will welcome this book for enabling their personal clarity, approach to relationships, and mindful participation in respectful moral debate." -- Publisher description.

Would you like to understand the Whore of Babylon prophecy described in Revelation 17 and 18? Why does the Whore wear purple and red, and ride a red Beast and why is her name branded on her forehead? *The Whore of Babylon in Bible Prophecy: A book of Revelation Mystery Revealed* examines this passage while revealing new details of "Mystery Babylon" along with compelling evidence of the Whore of Babylon's identity along with her role in the Revived Roman Empire and her coming judgment. The book uncovers: Hidden details of Babylon's origin How the little horn points to the Harlot and the revived Roman Empire. The names of blasphemy on the seven heads and their correlation to the woman riding the seven to eight headed Beast. You will also learn historical and often missed details of the Queen of Heaven, the Vatican, and the tie to the mysterious Zechariah 5 prediction and how the ten king prophecy showcases modern politics. Disclosed is overwhelming proof the city of seven hills is Rome and many other details missed by other Bible expositors. Scholar, Analyst, Bible Prophecy Expert, Journalist and Commentator; Erika Grey once again delivers a fact filled, information rich expose.

Is it the INFJs destiny to live a life void of the soul-shattering connection that they desire? Can the most misunderstood of all the personality types ever find true happiness in a relationship? If you are an INFJ, or are in a relationship with an INFJ, and want to discover the secrets to a

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healthy and rewarding relationship, then keep reading. As one of the rarest personality types, INFJs are often misunderstood their whole lives. When they eventually commit to somebody, the need to be understood is more prevalent than ever. INFJs, do you find yourself doubting that anyone could ever truly understand you on a deeper level? INFJs report the highest rates of marital dissatisfaction, however, this does not need to be the case for you! Research has proven that educating couples on their partner's personality traits can increase relationship satisfaction and reduce divorce rates! It really is that simple ... In *INFJs in Relationships: The Ultimate Guide to Happy, Healthy and Rewarding Relationships for INFJ People*, Melissa Brooke uncovers the secrets to long-lasting enduring INFJ relationships. Melissa, an INFJ herself, is now 15 years into a happy and fulfilling relationship, and she wants to reassure all fellow INFJs that a happy, healthy and rewarding relationship is possible for them too. Start building the strong foundations for your relationship today. This book will help to spark those all-important conversations with your romantic partner. By the end of the book, your partner will feel that they understand you better than ever before. Together you are starting to build the strong foundations that will allow you to form deep and meaningful connections. Embrace the strengths of your INFJ personality, and work on your weaknesses to create a happy and healthy relationship that you always dreamed of. There are no excuses to feel misunderstood in your relationship any longer! You no longer need to feel unseen or unheard; let your INFJ light shine. Help your partner to understand and appreciate exactly what you bring to the relationship when you can be freely and unapologetically you! Taking the time to really understand how your personality traits manifest in your relationships will be one of your most valuable investments. Armed with the understanding and support of your partner, become your greatest INFJ version and be proud of who you are! Here Is a Preview of What You'll Discover in *INFJs in Relationships: The Ultimate Guide to Happy, Healthy and Rewarding Relationships for INFJ People: The 4 Cognitive Functions of an INFJ 12 Unique Strengths That INFJs Bring to Relationships Simple & Proven Strategies to Overcome INFJ Weaknesses in Romantic Relationships What an INFJ Really Wants from a Romantic Partner How Compatible Other Myers-Briggs Personality Types Are in INFJ Relationships (All 16 of Them) Joint Exercises to Spark Communication Between Partners Much, Much More!* Don't give up on your dream of a happier, healthier, and more rewarding relationship before reading this book. Start building the strong, long-lasting, and meaningful relationship that you deserve, TODAY. Click on the BUY NOW button at the top of this page to download this book to your PC, Mac, smartphone, tablet, or Kindle device.

A passionate argument for LGBTQ equality within religious communities—"a book for our times and a book for the ages" (EDGE) The myth that the Bible forbids homosexuality—the myth of "God versus Gay"—is behind some of the most divisive and painful conflicts of our day. In this provocative and game-changing book, scholar and activist Jay Michaelson shows that the Bible does not prohibit same-sex intimacy but does quite the opposite. In fact, the vast majority of the Bible's teachings support the full equality and dignity of LGBTQ people, from the first flaw it finds in creation ("It is not good for a person to be alone") to the way religious communities grow through reflection and conscience. Michaelson argues passionately for equality—not despite religion, but because of it. With close readings of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, the latest data on the science of sexual orientation, and a sympathetic, accessible, and ecumenical approach to religious faith, Michaelson makes the case that sexual diversity is part of the beauty of nature. The recognition of same-sex families will strengthen, not threaten, the values religious people hold dear. Whatever your views on religion and sexual diversity, *God vs. Gay* is a plea for a more compassionate, informed conversation—and a first step toward creating one.

Lynn Cohick provides an accurate and fulsome picture of the earliest Christian women by examining a wide variety of first-century Jewish and Greco-Roman documents that illuminate their lives. She organizes the book around three major spheres of life: family, religious community,

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and society in general. Cohick shows that although women during this period were active at all levels within their religious communities, their influence was not always identified by leadership titles nor did their gender always determine their level of participation. The book corrects our understanding of early Christian women by offering an authentic and descriptive historical picture of their lives. Includes black-and-white illustrations from the ancient world.

This book offers a new interpretation and transmission history of the Pericope Adulterae, arguing that the an interpolator placed the story at John 7.53-8.11 in order to highlight the claim that Jesus could write (John 8.6, 8) in light of a careful reading of John's Gospel.

"The fulfilled renown of Moby-Dick and of As I Lay Dying is augmented by Blood Meridian, since Cormac McCarthy is the worthy disciple both of Melville and Faulkner," writes esteemed literary scholar Harold Bloom in his Introduction to the Modern Library edition. "I venture that no other living American novelist, not even Pynchon, has given us a book as strong and memorable." Cormac McCarthy's masterwork, Blood Meridian, chronicles the brutal world of the Texas-Mexico borderlands in the mid-nineteenth century. Its wounded hero, the teenage Kid, must confront the extraordinary violence of the Glanton gang, a murderous cadre on an official mission to scalp Indians and sell those scalps. Loosely based on fact, the novel represents a genius vision of the historical West, one so fiercely realized that since its initial publication in 1985 the canon of American literature has welcomed Blood Meridian to its shelf. "A classic American novel of regeneration through violence," declares Michael Herr. "McCarthy can only be compared to our greatest writers."

What causes a child to grow up gay or straight? In this book, neuroscientist Simon LeVay summarizes a wealth of scientific evidence that points to one inescapable conclusion: Sexual orientation results primarily from an interaction between genes, sex hormones, and the cells of the developing body and brain. LeVay helped create this field in 1991 with a much-publicized study in Science, where he reported on a difference in the brain structure between gay and straight men. Since then, an entire scientific discipline has sprung up around the quest for a biological explanation of sexual orientation. In this book, LeVay provides a clear explanation of where the science stands today, taking the reader on a whirlwind tour of laboratories that specialize in genetics, endocrinology, neuroscience, cognitive psychology, evolutionary psychology, and family demographics. He describes, for instance, how researchers have manipulated the sex hormone levels of animals during development, causing them to mate preferentially with animals of their own gender. LeVay also reports on the prevalence of homosexual behavior among wild animals, ranging from Graylag geese to the Bonobo chimpanzee. In this revised edition LeVay broadens his horizons. He adds a new chapter on bisexuality, reviews some uncommon forms of sexuality such as asexuality and pedophilia, and considers whether there could be a biological basis for subtypes of gay people such as "butch" and "femme" lesbians. Although many details remain unresolved, the general conclusion is quite clear: A person's sexual orientation arises in large part from biological processes that are already underway before birth.

2021 Association of Catholic Publishers first place award in theology 2021 Catholic Media Association Award first place award in marriage and family living Six years into the papacy of Pope Francis, Catholics are still figuring out how to respond to his image of the church as a field hospital—a church that goes into the streets rather than remaining locked up behind closed doors. Marriage and family are primary sites of the field hospital, called to meet people's need for healing and accompaniment with compassion and love. The authors of this collection—all lay, a mix of single and married, traditional and progressive Catholics—take up this work. They offer practical wisdom from and critical engagement with the Catholic tradition but avoid rehashing decades-old theological debates. Instead, their essays engage with and respond to realities shaping contemporary family life, like religious pluralism, technology, migration, racism, sex and gender, incarceration,

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consumerism, and the call to holiness. The result is a collection that envisions ways that families can be places of healing and love in and for the world. List of contributors: Jennifer Beste Megan K. McCabe Elizabeth Antus Kathryn Lilla Cox Kent Lasnoski Hoon Choi Cristina L. H. Traina Craig A. Ford Jr. Bridget Burke Ravizza Julie Donovan Massey Emily Reimer-Barry Richard Gaillardetz Timothy O'Malley Sandra Sullivan-Dunbar Kathryn Getek-Solis Kari-Shane Davis Zimmerman Jana Marguerite Bennett Victor Carmona Gemma Tulud Cruz Daniel Olsen Thomas Beaudoin Christine Firer Hinze David Cloutier Marcus Mescher Sue Muldoon Timothy Muldoon Mary M. Doyle-Roche Jason King Julie Rubio

“A fascinating, troubling, and finally heartening book that subtly shows ways that Christians might reconcile their bodies with their devotion to God. Highly recommended for individual Christians but also for pastors and church groups.”—Library Journal, starred review

Stories of sexual scandals in churches throughout the nation have been downright routine in recent years, suggesting to many Americans that a deeply rooted problem plagues American Christianity—and prompting some to abandon their congregations altogether. In *See Me Naked*, Amy Frykholm takes us beyond simple indictments of, or blind allegiance to, Christian cultures to explore the complex, intimate intersection of sexuality and spirituality as it affects the lives of ordinary Christians. Recounting with care and nuance the life histories of nine American Protestants, Frykholm shows us the harm done by the rules-based sexual ethic now dominant, which alternately denies and romanticizes sexuality. But she also points to how American Christians might otherwise access their spiritual tradition to heal the divide between religion and sexuality. One story examines the intricate relationship between a man’s religious faith and his sexual addiction. In another, a man defines religion as a wall that kept him from the discovery that he was gay. One young woman uses sex to defy her devout parents, while another seeks to transcend her body by going without food. Nearly everyone interviewed in *See Me Naked* remains a Christian, with some further on their journey than others. Yet each of them is working to understand the connection between their desires and their faith. Ultimately, their stories—stories of pain and violence, perseverance and courage—attest to the healing power of struggling through the wild and uncertain experiences of life. *See Me Naked* explores the many ways that people work to recover from harmful beliefs and restores the notion that one of the key insights of Christianity is that the body, with all its struggles, pains, and difficulties, is a vehicle of the holy and can lead us into a more full relationship with God.

SOMEBODY'S Not Telling You the Truth! Whether you are a Christian or not... religious or not, you're going to be intrigued by this discovery. Does God really consider premarital sex a sin? How about prostitution? Most... No, all "Christians" believe that sex before marriage is a sin and that all prostitution is an abomination in the sight of God. But is that what God really says in scripture? Truth is... the truth has been cloaked by false religious doctrines based on critical flaws in the translations of certain words, perhaps intentionally, changing the meaning of specific pieces of scripture within the historical context it was written. What this creates is a gross misunderstanding of what the original intent of the writers was with regards to this topic. It's as if the religious elites have launched a campaign of disinformation designed to pull the wool over your eyes... But why? The outcome is condemnation and guilt for anyone who engages in premarital sex... or even thinks about it. But none of that is Biblically correct! This book proves it. Written by a Christian of more than 35 years who was challenged to expose the truth based on a failed relationship with his fiance, in which some Christian

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associates openly passed judgement that his relationship wasn't blessed due to premarital sex. Having discovered the truth long ago but never really studying it, he was forced to defend himself against a barrage of accusations based on scripture thrown at him by those indoctrinated in the religion of sexual immorality: Scripture he knew was out of context with the wrong translations. Unfortunately, he lost that battle because he couldn't "show himself approved." This led to a 4-month long journey into rediscovering the truth and exposing the lies perpetrated on him and the rest of the world. Based on facts that have been hidden from the public for centuries, he reveals what God's real intentions are regarding sex, sex before marriage and prostitution. What you will discover flies in the face of main street religious doctrine that premarital sex is a sin, all prostitution is a sin and that anyone "lusting" after another to desire that person is adultery. Whether you are a Christian or not, you will feel liberated from this distorted and false doctrine of sexual immorality and uncover what God truly has to say about those things which are really sexually immoral and why. This book is for anyone who is justly interested in the truth on this taboo. It will empower you and inspire you. This book is not a condemnation of Christianity and instead shows that it is "religion," not Christianity that is the issue. This book doesn't promote prostitution nor encourage sex before marriage, especially for young adults. It's an exploration of the truth that has been hidden for too long.

Proposes that scripture be understood as a word that prompts more questions than it answers and that in scripture God has not uttered the last word for us, but the first.

Sex and religion are inevitably and intricately linked. There are few realms of human experience other than sex in which religion has greater reach and influence. The role of religion, of any faith, to prohibit, regulate, condemn, and reward, is unavoidably prominent in questions of sex—namely with whom, when, how, and why. In *Sex and Religion*, Dag Øistein Endsjø examines the myriad and complex religious attitudes towards sex in cultures throughout the world. Endsjø reflects on some of the most significantly problematic areas in the relationship between sex and religion—from sex before or outside of marriage to homosexuality. Through many examples from world religions, he outlines what people mean by sex in a religious context, with whom it's permissible to have sex, how sex can be a directly religious experience, and what consequences there are for deviance, for both the individual and society. As Endsjø explains, while Buddhist monks call attention to gay sex as a holy mystery, the Christian church questions a homosexual's place in the church. Some religions may believe that promiscuity leads to hurricanes and nuclear war, and in others God condemns interracial marriage. *Sex and Religion* reveals there is nothing natural or self-evident about the ways in which various religions prescribe or proscribe and bless or condemn different types of sexuality. Whether sex becomes sacred or abhorrent depends entirely on how a religion defines it. *Sex and Religion* is a fascinating investigation of mores, meanings, rituals,

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and rules in many faiths around the globe, and will be of interest to anyone curious about the intersection of these fundamental aspects of human history and experience.

Each Christmas, adults and children alike delight at the story of the kings from the East who followed the star to Bethlehem to offer gifts to the newborn Christ. While this familiar tale is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, another little-known version later emerged that claimed to be the eyewitness account of the wise men. This ancient manuscript has lain hidden for centuries in the vaults of the Vatican Library, but through the determined persistence of a young scholar, Brent Landau, this astonishing discovery has been translated into English for the very first time as the Revelation of the Magi. Everything we know about the wise men is based on only a few verses from the Bible. With the Revelation of the Magi, we can now read the story from the Magi's perspective. Readers will learn of the Magi's prophecies of God's incarnation from the beginning of time, their startling visitation in the form of a star, the teachings they receive from the baby Jesus, and the wise men's joyous return to their homeland to spread the good news. This ancient version of the Christmas story is guaranteed to astonish and delight. It will also raise larger questions of the significance and meaning of Christ's birth, and the mission to spread the good news to every corner of the globe. All the drama and intrigue of the brief description of Jesus's birth in the Bible is filled out in greater, more colorful detail, offering for the first time the complete story of these beloved characters.

Historically, the Bible has been used to drive a wedge between the spirit and the body. In this provocative book, David Carr argues that the Bible affirms erotic passion. Sexuality and spirituality, he contends, are intricately interwoven; the journey toward God and the life-long engagement with our own sexual embodiment are inseparable.

Moving beyond the deep-seated cultural feelings of shame that have long fueled the conflict between Christianity and sex—and the belief that there is only one right and valid way to practice one's sexuality—this renowned University of Chicago pastor uses enlightening personal stories and examples from theology to show how sex is powerful and holy. For years, Christians have been told to adhere to one singular path when it comes to sex: abstinence and purity. Yet this limited focus ignores the reality that people's sexual and romantic lives differ widely, even among those who consider themselves devout believers. Church leaders have often refused to address the topic—or have preached in ways that are harmful to the emotional and spiritual growth of the faithful in the pews. Pastor McCleneghan is determined to reshape the issue—and fundamentally transcend this disconnect between sexuality and spirituality that has left many Christians feeling guilty and sinful. Written in her measured, non-judgmental voice, *Good Christian Sex* combines humorous personal anecdotes with theological research to transform how Christians think and talk about this basic human need, offering a new understanding that reconciles human love and religious faith. Breaking with outdated conventions,

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McCleneghan explains how the Bible and Christian tradition inform our beliefs about desire, pleasure, nudity, fidelity, premarital sex, and the variety of sexual practices, and encourages Christians to talk about their bodies, their sensuality, and their longings in a frank, positive, and realistic way. Warm, insightful, and honest, *Good Christian Sex* is a message of hope, that at last lifts the veil of shame felt by many religious people.

"The Harbinger opens with the appearance of a man burdened with a message he has received from a mysterious figure called The Prophet. The Prophet has given him nine seals, each containing a message about America's future ... As the story unfolds, each revelation becomes a piece in a greater puzzle -- the ramifications of which will even alter the course of world history."--Publisher's website.

This modern re-examination of the Bible's references to sex strips away illegitimate religious tradition, to reveal that God views sexual pleasure as a blessing to humanity.

Bible scholar Jennifer Wright Knust addresses the big questions that dominate today's discussions and debates when it comes to sex and the Bible: Is premarital sex a sin? When, and in what contexts, is sexual desire appropriate? With whom can I legitimately have sex? Are same-sex relations permissible? In an era where the phrases, "the Bible says," and "God says," are so often exploited, it is time to consider what the Bible actually does—or does not—say about monogamy, polygamy, homosexuality, gender roles, and sex. *Unprotected Texts* directly and pointedly takes on widely shared misconceptions about sex, arguing that the Bible cannot—and should not—serve as a rulebook for sexual morality, despite popular claims to the contrary. From the Song of Songs' lyrical eroticism to the rigid sexual rules of Leviticus—and everything in between—Knust parses the Bible's contradictory, often surprising messages. Skillfully revealing the latest insights from critical scholarship, Knust provides a compassionate and liberating model for navigating these deeply personal issues that affect us all.

A profound exploration of the Bible's most controversial book—from the author of *Beyond Belief* and *The Gnostic Gospels* The strangest book of the New Testament, filled with visions of the Rapture, the whore of Babylon, and apocalyptic writing of the end of times, the Book of Revelation has fascinated readers for more than two thousand years, but where did it come from? And what are the meanings of its surreal images of dragons, monsters, angels, and cosmic war? Elaine Pagels, New York Times bestselling author and "the preeminent voice of biblical scholarship to the American public" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*), elucidates the true history of this controversial book, uncovering its origins and the roots of dissent, violence, and division in the world's religions. Brilliantly weaving scholarship with a deep understanding of the human needs to which religion speaks, Pagels has written what may be the masterwork of her unique career.

Beginning on the shores of West Africa in the sixteenth century and ending in the U.S. Lower South on the eve of the Civil War, Alexis Wells-Oghoghomeh traces a bold history of the interior lives of bondwomen as they carved out an existence for themselves and their families amid the horrors of American slavery. With particular attention to maternity, sex, and other gendered aspects of

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women's lives, she documents how bondwomen crafted female-centered cultures that shaped the religious consciousness and practices of entire enslaved communities. Indeed, gender as well as race co-constituted the Black religious subject, she argues—requiring a shift away from understandings of "slave religion" as a gender-amorphous category. Women responded on many levels—ethically, ritually, and communally—to southern slavery. Drawing on a wide range of sources, Wells-Oghoghomeh shows how they remembered, reconfigured, and innovated beliefs and practices circulating between Africa and the Americas. In this way, she redresses the exclusion of enslaved women from the American religious narrative. Challenging conventional institutional histories, this book opens a rare window onto the spiritual strivings of one of the most remarkable and elusive groups in the American experience.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Raw, intimate, and timely—a no-holds-barred celebration of our bodies that flies in the face of antiquated ideas about sex and gender. “A triumph.”—Glennon Doyle • “One of the most important, life-changing books I’ve ever read.”—Rachel Held Evans, author of *Searching for Sunday* and *Inspired* Negative messages about sex come from all corners of society: from the church, from the media, from our own families. As a result, countless people have suffered pain, guilt, and judgment. In this instant bestseller, Nadia Bolz-Weber unleashes her critical eye and her vulnerable yet hopeful soul on the harmful conversations about sex that have fed our shame. Bolz-Weber offers no simple amendments or polite compromises. Instead, this modern-day reverend calls for an inclusivity that empowers us to be loyal to people and, perhaps most important, ourselves. “Christianity is not a program for avoiding mistakes,” she writes. “It is a faith of the guilty.” With an alternative understanding of Scripture passages that have been weaponized against Christians for decades, Bolz-Weber reminds us that sexual flourishing can and should be for all genders, all bodies, and all humans. She shares stories, poetry, and Scripture that wage war on perpetual anxiety around sex by celebrating sexuality in all its forms and recognizing it for the gift that it is. If you’ve been mistreated, confused, angered, and/or wounded by shaming sexual messages, this one is for you.

An essential exploration of why and how women’s sexuality works—based on groundbreaking research and brain science—that will radically transform your sex life into one filled with confidence and joy. Researchers have spent the last decade trying to develop a “pink pill” for women to function like Viagra does for men. So where is it? Well, for reasons this book makes crystal clear, that pill will never be the answer—but as a result of the research that’s gone into it, scientists in the last few years have learned more about how women’s sexuality works than we ever thought possible, and *Come as You Are* explains it all. The first lesson in this essential, transformative book by Dr. Emily Nagoski is that every woman has her own unique sexuality, like a fingerprint, and that women vary more than men in our anatomy, our sexual response mechanisms, and the way our bodies respond to the sexual world. So we never need to judge ourselves based on others’ experiences. Because women vary, and that’s normal. Second lesson: sex happens in a context. And all the complications of everyday life influence the context surrounding a woman’s arousal, desire, and orgasm. Cutting-edge research across multiple disciplines tells us that the most important factor for women in creating and sustaining a fulfilling sex life, is not what you do in bed or how you do it, but how you feel about it. Which means that stress,

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mood, trust, and body image are not peripheral factors in a woman's sexual wellbeing; they are central to it. Once you understand these factors, and how to influence them, you can create for yourself better sex and more profound pleasure than you ever thought possible. And Emily Nagoski can prove it.

Belief in God in the face of suffering is one of the most intractable problems of Christian theology. Many respond to the spiritual challenge of evil by ignoring it, blaming God, or insisting on the inherent meaninglessness of life. In this book, William Greenway contends that we don't have to deny our moral selves by either ignoring evil or abandoning our moral sensibilities toward it. We can open our eyes fully to suffering and evil, and our own complicity in them. We can do so because it is only in this full acceptance of the world's guilt and our own that we make ourselves fully open to agape, to being seized by love of others and God. Inspired by the Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas and the Christian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Challenge of Evil* lovingly explains how we can look squarely at the overwhelming suffering in the world and still, by grace, have faith in a good and loving God.

For centuries, the Garden of Eden story has been a cornerstone for the Christian doctrine of the Fall and original sin. In recent years, many scholars have disputed this understanding of Genesis 3 because it has no words for sin, transgression, disobedience, or punishment. Instead, it is about how the human condition came about. Yet the picture is not so simple. *The Genesis of Good and Evil* examines how the idea of the Fall developed in Jewish tradition on the eve of Christianity. In the end, the Garden of Eden is a rich study of humans in relation to God that leaves open many questions. One such question is, Does Genesis 3, 4, and 6, taken together, support the Christian doctrine of original sin? Smith's well-informed, close reading of these chapters concludes that it does. In this book, he addresses the many mysterious matters of the Garden story and invites readers to explore questions of their own.

Through a series of visions given to the Apostle John, God has given us a detailed account of what to expect during the time of the end...including specific dates for the 2nd Coming of Christ, the rapture of believers, when the Seals will be broken...and more!

What the Bible "Really" says About Sex, and what many people think the Bible says about sex are two different things. Although the Bible clearly condemns immoral sexual behaviour, to go beyond what the Bible clearly teaches is legalism. Words like "adultery", "fornication", and "lust" do not mean the same things today that they meant in biblical times. We've also lost sight of the reasons behind the rules. What the Bible "Really" says about Sex makes a compelling biblical case for "responsible non-monogamy", also known as "polyamory". It also grapples with other difficult ethical questions concerning nudity, prostitution, pornography, homosexuality, situation ethics, polygamy, the sin of Adam and Eve, procreation, marriage, safe sex, love, sex after the resurrection, and family values. Tom Gruber gets to the crux of the matter with laser-sharp clarity. Gruber writes in a style that a layman can easily understand, a skeptic cannot easily refute, and a scholar cannot easily dispute. This highly-controversial book is a must read for all open-minded individuals

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seeking an accurate understanding of What the Bible "Really" says About Sex.

For several decades, Michael Coogan's introductory course on the Old Testament has been a perennial favorite among students at Harvard University. In *God and Sex*, Coogan examines one of the most controversial aspects of the Hebrew Scripture: What the Old Testament really says about sex, and how contemporary understanding of those writings is frequently misunderstood or misrepresented. In the engaging and witty voice generations of students have appreciated, Coogan explores the language and social world of the Bible, showing how much innuendo and euphemism is at play, and illuminating the sexuality of biblical figures as well as God. By doing so, Coogan reveals the immense gap between popular use of Scripture and its original context. *God and Sex* is certain to provoke, entertain, and enlighten readers. This is a valuable resource book through the Bible, explaining many customs practiced in Bible times. Not only is it easy to understand, but it is also filled with many helpful illustrations.

Francis Spufford's *Unapologetic* is a wonderfully pugnacious defense of Christianity. Refuting critics such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and the "new atheist" crowd, Spufford, a former atheist and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, argues that Christianity is recognizable, drawing on the deep and deeply ordinary vocabulary of human feeling, satisfying those who believe in it by offering a ruthlessly realistic account of the grown-up dignity of Christian experience. Fans of C. S. Lewis, N. T. Wright, Marilynne Robinson, Mary Karr, Diana Butler Bass, Rob Bell, and James Martin will appreciate Spufford's crisp, lively, and abashedly defiant thesis. *Unapologetic* is a book for believers who are fed up with being patronized, for non-believers curious about how faith can possibly work in the twenty-first century, and for anyone who feels there is something indefinably wrong, literalistic, anti-imaginative and intolerant about the way the atheist case is now being made.

What does the Bible say about the value of women? Does the Bible teach that women are as valuable as men or does it portray them as somehow more flawed, more suspect, or weak and easily deceived? Beginning from Genesis and working all the way through the storyline of the Bible, *Worthy* demonstrates the significant and yes, even surprising, ways that God has used women to accomplish His kingdom goals. Because, like men, they are created in His image, their lives reflect and declare His worth. *Worthy* will enable and encourage both men and women to embrace this true and lofty vision of God's creation, plan, and their value in His eyes. Bestselling author Elyse Fitzpatrick and pastor Eric Schumacher together invite women to embrace a transformative and empowering view of their Maker, themselves, and the church. But this isn't only a book for women. It is also a book for men, especially leaders, who want to grow in their understanding of God's perspective on women, people who normally make up the majority of their congregations; men who might be wondering if they've missed something amid the abuse scandals that are rocking the church. Might the

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headlines they're reading today about abuse have their roots in a denigration of the value and worth of women? Worthy: Celebrating the Value of Women will help every reader see the value, place, and calling of women through study questions and a "Digging Deeper" section that will help men and women discover how to cherish, value, and honor one another for God's glory.

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