

Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable To Read It

By Peter Enns

In his new book, Peter Enns argues that our modern approach to defending scripture has made us unable to read it. He shows how our focus on protecting the Bible's authority has led us to ignore its complexity and nuance, and how this has resulted in a narrow and impoverished understanding of the text.



The Bible Tells Me So: Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It by Peter Enns

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3899 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 293 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Enns begins by examining the history of biblical interpretation. He shows how the early church fathers developed a set of interpretive principles that were designed to protect the Bible's authority. These principles included the idea of inerrancy, the belief that the Bible is without error in all matters of faith and practice. Inerrancy became a central doctrine of the church, and it has continued to be defended by many Christians to this day.

However, Enns argues that the doctrine of inerrancy has had a negative impact on our ability to read the Bible. He shows how inerrancy has led us to focus on the Bible's literal meaning, and to ignore its more metaphorical and nuanced aspects. This has resulted in a narrow and impoverished understanding of the text.

Enns proposes a new approach to biblical interpretation that he calls "canonical criticism." Canonical criticism focuses on the Bible as a whole, and it seeks to understand the Bible's meaning in light of its own historical and literary context. Canonical criticism does not deny the Bible's authority, but it does recognize that the Bible is a complex and nuanced text that can be interpreted in a variety of ways.

Enns's book is a challenging and provocative look at the way we read the Bible. He argues that our modern approach to defending scripture has made us unable to read it, and he proposes a new approach that is more faithful to the text.

Reviews

"Peter Enns has written a brilliant and important book. He shows how our modern approach to defending scripture has made us unable to read it. Enns's book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the Bible in a deeper and more meaningful way." - John Walton, Professor of Old Testament, Wheaton College

"Enns's book is a game-changer. He shows how our traditional approach to biblical interpretation has led us to misunderstand the Bible. Enns's book is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the Bible in its own

terms." - Kathleen O'Connor, Professor of New Testament, Hebrew Union College

About the Author

Peter Enns is a professor of Old Testament at Eastern University. He is the author of several books, including *Inspiration and Incarnation* and *The Bible Tells Me So*.

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