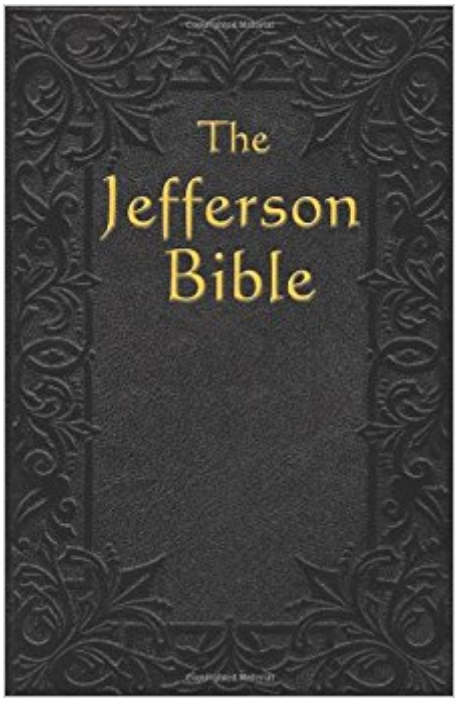
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The Jefferson Bible: The Life And Morals Of Jesus Of Nazareth



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Synopsis

In 1804 Thomas Jefferson decided to study the gospels to see if he could distill the essence of Jesus' teachings into a concise book that could be quickly read and easily understood. This volume is the result, offering valuable insights into the teachings of Jesus Christ and into the mind and beliefs of Thomas Jefferson.

Book Information

Paperback: 100 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 622 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #84,646 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Meditations > New Testament #88 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Religion #99 inÃ Â Books > History > World > Religious > Religion, Politics & State

Customer Reviews

"[A] fascinating document, telling us a great deal about a great eighteenth-century mind and its world." ---Charles S. Adams, Religious Studies Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English, French, Greek, Latin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Simply a beautiful book that includes an exact replica of Thomas Jefferson's handcrafted work in which he cut apart Greek, Latin, French and English New Testaments and pasted them together to highlight the "Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth extracted textually from the Gospels." A thorough introduction by two scholars tells why and how this was done. Jefferson's careful, hand-written preface to his work, complete with strike-outs and interjections, illustrates the attention to detail that our third President brought to this endeavor. And we can't fail to appreciate the color

plates and a tipped-in map of the Holy Land.

I bought this because there have been so much made of the "Jefferson Bible" from left- and right-leaning people with left-leaners using it to bolster their calls for separation of church and state and right-wingers using it to bolster their claims that there is no such call. The well-written, thoroughly documented articles at the beginning of the book make Thomas Jefferson’s positions clear (neither extremist viewpoint gets it right) and the digital pictures of Jefferson’s book itself gave me the chance to see just what he had done. Thank you, Smithsonian, for making this available to the public at large.

The Smithsonian’s reproduction of TJ’s remade bible is a welcome volume in my library of Founding Fathers’ writings. Its deteriorated condition meant major conservation work--all carefully explained in the preface sections--and, assuming an accurate reproduction, now makes this work available to non scholars and interested readers.Unlike some in previous reviews, the source of printing did not bother me--it is the ideas presented that are the important work. I found the book to be sturdy and well printed. The introductory sections on the history of the book and the conservation efforts undertaken were interesting (to me) and worked well with an online course I was taking at the time of acquisition.The introductory remarks followed by a thorough reading of the abridged bible, give a unique look into Jefferson’s very private and almost unshared views on his religious beliefs. This was a worthwhile purchase.Disclaimer: it is (apparently) the same physical size as TJ’s original but I find the reproduced type very small for these older eyes. Needs to be read with a good light over the shoulder. While I do not really want a large print edition, one or two points of type size would have made this a "5".

amazing to hold a facsimile of jefferson’s work in my hands. the book itself is beautiful and inside you can actually see the time and work he took with this very personal project. an insight into his thinking/reasoning. i love all things old and historical and for that reason alone it would make this a great purchase, but it is also the smithsonian edition and that makes it even more special. a great addition to any library.

Jefferson threw out all the myths and fabrications and left the guiding principles in place. If Americans lived by these few morals America would be Greater Again. This cuts to the chafe.

This was more than I'd anticipated, and much better. This rendition by the Smithsonian gives the feel of what Jefferson created by piecing together parts of the New Testament, right down to his notes in the margin and glued in notes--and you can see the power of his thinking. Jefferson took out the miracles and left the "Life and Morals," that which could be experienced without the Devine, and which shows a life well lived and teachings that are relevant today. But to me, the biggest bonus is the front-matter, telling of the times in which the writing was done--and showing how much Jefferson's time was like today. A worthy read both from a spiritual and historical viewpoint.

Jefferson was the one-man version of "The Jesus Seminar" of his time. In fact, in their rendition of the New Testament, "The Five Gospels," "The Jesus Seminar" pays tribute to our third president. Anyone wanting to know what one of the preeminent founders of this country thought about Jesus, Christianity and the Bible, must read this book. This is a beautiful book. You can actually see Jefferson "cuting-and-pasting," in four languages no less, as he separated the "diamonds" of wisdom from the "dunghill," as he expressed it.

If you like top quality books, the Smithsonian Edition is beautiful.If you just want to know about Jefferson's Bible, there are less expensive options that should satisfy your interest.

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