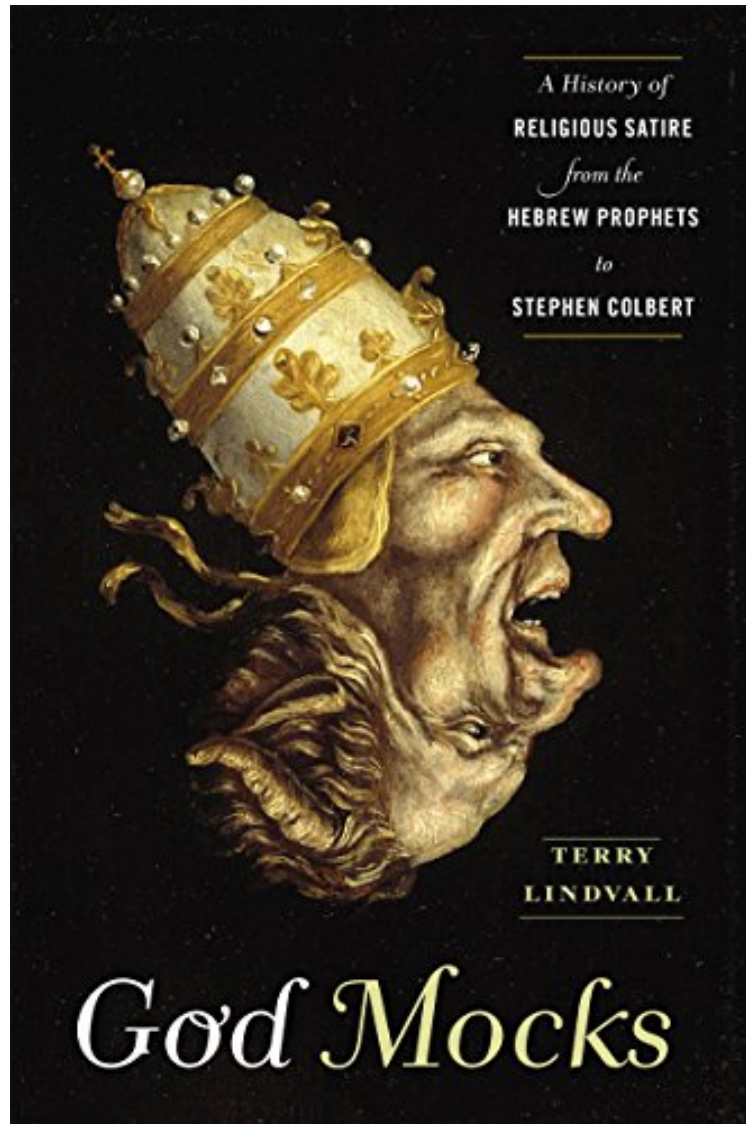


God Mocks: A History of Religious Satire from the Hebrew Prophets to Stephen Colbert

Terry Lindvall

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Terry Lindvall : God Mocks: A History of Religious Satire from the Hebrew Prophets to Stephen Colbert before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God Mocks: A History of Religious Satire from the Hebrew Prophets to Stephen Colbert:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a technical look at satire through the years ...By

Alwynbilly This is a technical look at satire through the years, Judeo-Christian sources. Not light reading, well written, with abundant referencing of classic authors and texts for exploring. Enjoyable look at this topic. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not funny for having the word "satire" in the title
By Michael Putman Not funny for having the word "satire" in the title, but a fascinating view of religious activity and what our pontifications and behaviors says of we humans. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Terry Lindvall On The Need For Holy Taunting
By 'Yomi 'Segun Stephen "Within the sacred texts lie traces of holy taunting," writes the author of *God Mocks*. He then goes ahead to back this claim by chronicling the relationship between Christianity and satire since time began. From the prophets like Ezekiel to modern day satirist like Stephen Colbert, *God Mocks* gives a chronology that includes over one hundred names with varying styles of humour unique to most. The book also recounts witty jokes that rocked the Christian world with careers that went down the toilet with them. *God Mocks* says that those who practice humour are like the prophets of old in the Bible. The book reveals prophets using satire as a chastening rod to nudge people into the right path. The author writes, "...satire with the biblical texts exposes the follies of God's people with both sensual and scatological imagery, such as the Hebrew prophet Ezekiel lying naked, writing about the large-membered mules that Israel runs after, and baking nauseous barley cakes with human dung. Such images unleash a shocking satiric judgement upon the unfaithfulness of God's people." This book does not only narrate the history of Christian satire, but tries to explain its very nature. *God Mocks* delves into what makes some kinds of satire successful and what renders others damaging and hollow. As far as style goes, *God Mocks* is quite a dry read. If you don't mind a scholastic style with loads of names, then this might be for you. Though *God Mocks* is a book about humour, it does not seek to entertain; instead, it opts to instruct. Many thanks to NYU Press for review copy.

Winner of the 2016 Religious Communication Association Book of the Year Award
In *God Mocks*, Terry Lindvall ventures into the muddy and dangerous realm of religious satire, chronicling its evolution from the biblical wit and humor of the Hebrew prophets through the Roman Era and the Middle Ages all the way up to the present. He takes the reader on a journey through the work of Chaucer and his *Canterbury Tales*, Cervantes, Jonathan Swift, and Mark Twain, and ending with the mediated entertainment of modern wags like Stephen Colbert.

"I read Lindvall's book with great appreciation and learned a lot. It contained so much more than I expected, a virtual history of religious mockery, which no one has attempted before. It is a significant contribution to religious and cultural studies. Beside that, it is a just plain good read." -Harvey Cox, Hollis Research Professor of Divinity, Harvard University
"Lindvall provides a comedic...analysis of the role of satire in religious life across the ages. Lindvall makes the case that satire has been part of religious observances from the outset." -Publishers Weekly
"Lindvall's prose is elegant, and he is a fine guide on this rollicking, significant tour de force that belongs in all academic literature." -Catholic Library World
"Terry Lindvall, a stand-up comedian cleverly disguised as an academic, makes the difficult art of humor look easy with *God Mocks*." -Virginia-Pilot
"From Balaam's ass to Erasmus to Kierkegaard to The Onion, Lindvall finds redemption in satire's impulse to make us better human beings." -The Christian Century
"This is an excellent overview and introduction to numerous authors of religious satire...will appeal to readers of literary criticism and church history buffs seeking a unique perspective." -Library Journal
"I can think of no author better suited to write this book than Lindvall, who is as funny as he is insightful as he leads his readers through this raucous history. More than ever, we need wise, insightful satirists and ministers and writers who aren't afraid to not take themselves so seriously, and *God Mocks* provides them with a fount of inspiration." -Patheos
"God Mocks leads readers through the comic savagery that believers have perfected over the centuries...Lindvall's book unfurls a delightfully variegated tapestry." -Christianity Today
"Terry Lindvall's lively and witty prose is perfect for *God Mocks*, an engaging and fascinating history of the unexpectedly comical ways that prophets and preachers, artists and writers have exposed the sins and foibles of the saints across the ages. This broad and creative study cleverly probes the lighter side of human depravity to reveal how much satirical discourse has always been vital to the redemptive (and oft times entertaining) task of prophetic consciousness raising. A delightful, thoroughly researched, and perceptive contribution to understanding religious communication." -William D. Romanowski, author of *Reforming Hollywood: How American Protestants Fought for Freedom at the Movies*
"God Mocks is a catalogue of hundreds of years of religious satire, parody, caricature, commentary, and mockery – and most importantly, the difference between each and why some are more effective than others – all intended to comment on the influence and practices of various religion orders and organizations over the centuries." -San Francisco Book
"This is a godsend for those interested in the role of humor in Christianity. It is remarkably comprehensive and detailed without being pedantic. Lindvall's writing sparkles with the same wit he is chronicling, making this book a delight to read." -John Morreall, author of *Comedy, Tragedy, and Religion*
"God Mocks should be required reading for all ministers and religious bloggers that regularly speak or write with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other." -Patheos
About the Author Terry Lindvall is C. S. Lewis Chair of Communication and Christian Thought at Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Virginia. Previously he taught at Duke University's Divinity School and was the Walter Mason Fellow of Religious Studies at The College of

William and Mary. He is the former president of Regent University, where he was professor of film and communication and the arts and held the Distinguished Chair of Visual Communication. He is the author of *Surprised by Laughter: The Comic World of C.S. Lewis*; *The Mother of All Laughter: Sarah and the Genesis of Comedy*; and *The Silents of God: Selected Issues and Documents in Silent American Film and Religion, 1908-1926*, among other works.