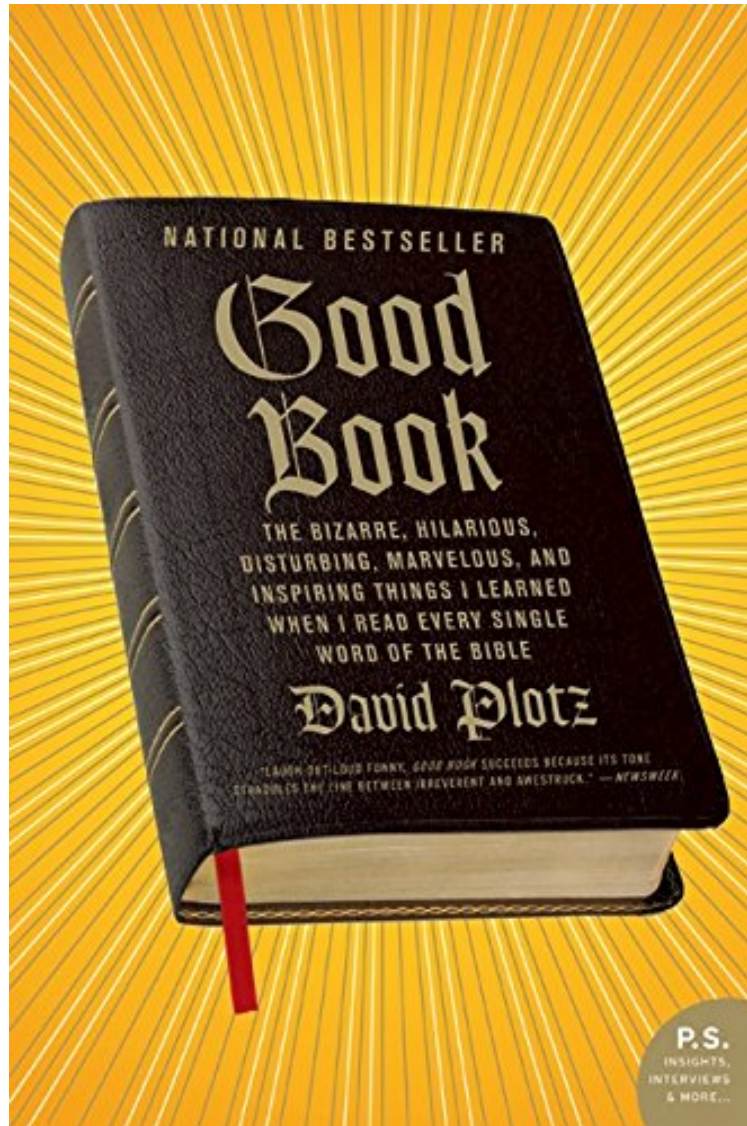


[Ebook pdf] Good Book: The Bizarre, Hilarious, Disturbing, Marvelous, and Inspiring Things I Learned When I Read Every Single Word of the Bible

Good Book: The Bizarre, Hilarious, Disturbing, Marvelous, and Inspiring Things I Learned When I Read Every Single Word of the Bible

David Plotz

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David Plotz : Good Book: The Bizarre, Hilarious, Disturbing, Marvelous, and Inspiring Things I Learned When I Read Every Single Word of the Bible before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be

worth my time, and all praised *Good Book: The Bizarre, Hilarious, Disturbing, Marvelous, and Inspiring Things I Learned When I Read Every Single Word of the Bible*:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Good Book, indeed
By Maggiedad2
While I enjoyed the book a lot, I came away troubled by Mr. Plotz' apparent dilemma with the Bible. Having grown up a foot-washing Baptist, learning scripture from the Authorized (King James) version, trained to believe in biblical inerrancy (I've softened my stance on that one a bit), I always accepted the Old Testament as I read it. I never focused on the Creator's human side. The author seems to be looking for a reason to dismiss the Bible, which I think is not difficult to do if you read it through contemporary eyes. I'd be curious to know if other readers come away with the same quandary. It didn't impact my enjoyment of the book, as Mr. Plotz wrote it very well. I'd recommend it for the strong believer, the curious and the doubters. It is a humorous, well-written piece, bound to make one think.
46 of 48 people found the following review helpful. "Good Book" is just that
By Holly Reinecke
As a Sunday school graduate back in the day, when we were expected to actually know the Bible, the author's adventure in reading the Hebrew Bible straight through struck me as audacious and courageous. It's no easy task to read (without skipping). Although other critics have found "Good Book" shallow and snarky, I think its "shallowness" is actually more like trying to keep an emotional distance from what is almost completely incomprehensible to modern thought. A God that can order, if not compel, the wholesale slaughter of Canaanites and Moabites is not a God with which most of us feel comfortable. Calling Him "Our Father" is as difficult for David Plotz as it is for me. Mr. Plotz's forthright telling of the most well known Bible stories, and some of the least known as well, makes for a rich banquet to feed the mind. He ends his recounting of the Bible with Second Chronicles because the New Testament is not part of his canon, but provides an understandable and short version of most of the OT's chapters. It's not a comparison reading - no gloomy predictions about the future taken from the Bible's many instances of doom - and it's not a holy reading. It is simply a quick retelling, in his own words and with personal asides, of the books of the Old Testament. Plotz used not only his own Hebrew Bible but also a King James version and a Revised Standard version so at times he points out the differences in how a story is told. This is a pretty good idea because those of us who were brought up with the idea that every word of the Bible was written by God can be pretty dogmatic about the language. Plotz also states at the end that he is no nearer to God now than he was before going on this journey. But he says that the Bible opened him up to being in a verbal, if somewhat argumentative, relationship with the Lord. It is a book I would recommend to any reader for its humor and honesty. Read the Bible, too. Plotz recommends that, too.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I recommend you read this concurrently with Asimov's Guide to the ...
By Robert Thomas Macrery
Wow!!! A real eye-opener!!! How many of us really know what happened to Dinah? His style is just right for this kind of exegesis. He is not afraid to tell-it-like-it-is, and give his candid opinions. But at the same time will only offend the "extreme fundamentalist". He has come up with many, indeed hilarious, turns-of-phrase. I recommend you read this concurrently with Asimov's Guide to the Bible - also a brilliant work - but more on the factual, historical side. I wish Plotz would attack also the New Testament - PLEASE!

At a time when wars are fought over scriptural interpretation, when the influence of religion on American politics has never been greater, when many Americans still believe in the Bible's literal truth, it has never been more important to get to know the Bible. *Good Book* is what happens when a regular guy—an average Job—actually reads the book on which his religion, his culture, and his world are based. Along the way, he grapples with the most profound theological questions: How many commandments do we actually need? Does God prefer obedience or good deeds? And the most unexpected ones: Why are so many women in the Bible prostitutes? Why does God love bald men so much? Is Samson really that stupid?

From Booklist
Here are some of the bizarre, hilarious, and disturbing things in the *Good Book* (i.e., the Hebrew Bible). Cain gets off scot-free after killing Abel. Abraham dies at age 175, "a good ripe age, old and contented." Jacob wrestles with and defeats an angel. God keeps seething about the golden calf. David sets himself up as a guerrilla, a freedom fighter. He's the George Washington of Judea. Solomon really doesn't dig Jewish girls, preferring the thrill of the pagan. King Ahaziah is seen as Israel's precursor to Gerald Ford. Plotz compares Ezekiel to the bad parts of *Portrait of a Lady*, *Madame Bovary*, and *Married with Children* rolled up into a ball of rage. Deeply religious people might be offended by the book, but for the rest of us there's a laugh on every page. --George Cohen "Irreverent. . . . Plotz's hilarious exegeses will have you laughing out loud. Who knew the Bible was such a riot?" (*Time Out New York*) "A bloody good book. . . . Very funny. . . . Priceless for those of all traditions who see value in posing unanswerable questions to each other, and to God himself." (*The Minneapolis Star Tribune*) "Highly entertaining." (*The Jerusalem Post*) "Like the Bible itself, *Good Book* contains multitudes—it is by turns thought-provoking, funny, enlightening and moving. In short, David Plotz's book easily lives up to its name. Trust me, Thou shalt enjoy." (A. J. Jacobs, author of *The Year of Living Biblically*) "Thanks to David Plotz's amazing book, I will never have to read *The Bible*. When can he do this for *Madame Bovary*?" (Andy Borowitz, author of *The Borowitz Report*) "Plotz is a genius

writer. He can mine Genesis for new insights—and play the book of Job for laughs. He’s the perfect companion for a romp through the Bible: charmingly confessional, a deeply penetrating reader, and at complete ease relating ancient (often obscure) narratives to our modern condition.” (Franklin Foer, author of *How Soccer Explains the World*)

From the Back Cover Like many Jews and Christians, David Plotz long assumed he knew what was in the Bible. He read parts of it as a child in Hebrew school, then attended a Christian high school where he studied the Old and New Testaments. Many of the highlights stuck with him—Adam and Eve, Cain versus Abel, Jacob versus Esau, Jonah versus whale, forty days and nights, ten plagues and commandments, twelve tribes and apostles, Red Sea walked under, Galilee walked on, bush into fire, rock into water, water into wine. And, of course, he absorbed from all around him other bits of the Bible—from stories he heard in churches and synagogues, in movies and on television, from his parents and teachers. But it wasn't until he picked up a Bible at a cousin's bat mitzvah—and became engrossed and horrified by a lesser-known story in Genesis—that he couldn't put it down. At a time when wars are fought over scriptural interpretation, when the influence of religion on American politics has never been greater, when many Americans still believe in the Bible's literal truth, it has never been more important to get to know the Bible. *Good Book* is what happens when a regular guy—an average Job—actually reads the book on which his religion, his culture, and his world are based. Along the way, he grapples with the most profound theological questions: How many commandments do we actually need? Does God prefer obedience or good deeds? And the most unexpected ones: Why are so many women in the Bible prostitutes? Why does God love bald men so much? Is Samson really that stupid? *Good Book* is an irreverent, enthralling journey through the world's most important work of literature.