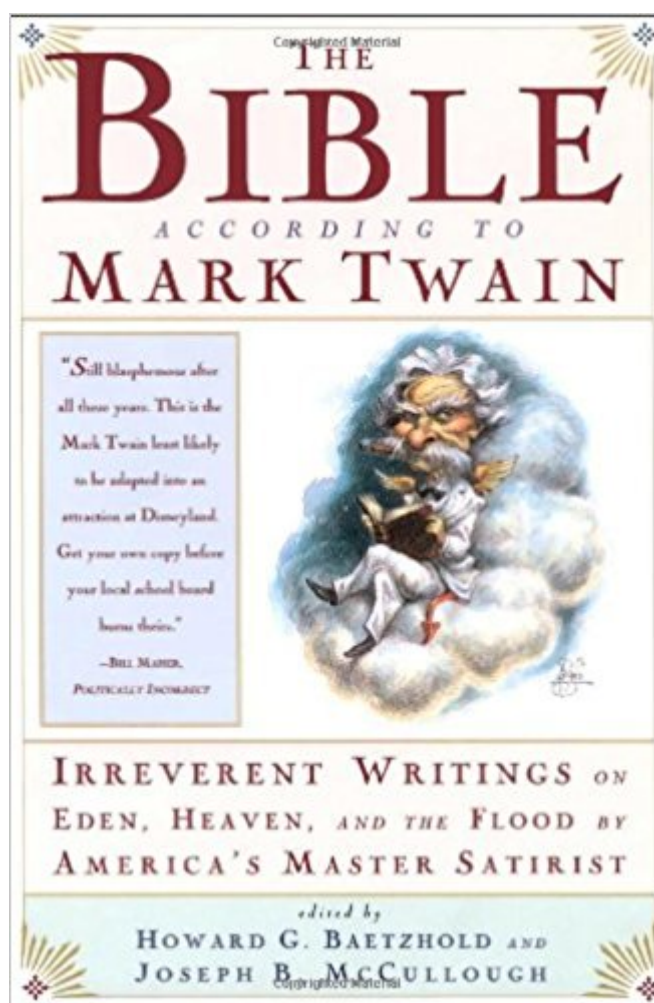


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# The Bible According To Mark Twain: Irreverent Writings On Eden, Heaven, And The Flood By America's Master Satirist



## Synopsis

An indispensable and provocative compilation of witty essays dealing with Biblical stories and their inconsistencies from America's master satirist, Mark Twain. This is a selection of essays spanning forty years of his writing career, which touch on and satirize stories and figures from the Bible. In his characteristic style, Twain illustrates the inherent comedy and inconsistencies found within Holy Scripture, simultaneously entertaining and provoking questions about man's place in the world and his relationship with God. An important installment in the Twain canon, this book is perfect for fans of America's master satirist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The editors of this book have serious reason to believe that the Bible influenced Mark Twain more than any other book as his beliefs progressed from Presbyterianism through deism and on to Darwinian determinism. They scoured 40 years of his writings to compile an anthology of both unpublished and newly edited works, complete with appendixes of related pieces, in which Twain dealt with biblical figures, themes, or settings. The result is a fascinating contribution to the Twain canon in which we see him wrestle with the God-man relationship and take provocative stabs at the Bible's inconsistencies. Twain's styles here are as arresting as his content as he moves from biblical rhythms and rhetoric to the Pepysian bombast of the author he was reading when he wrote "Methuselah's Diary." Twain aficionados will revel in such episodes as Shem and his family sitting up all night signing autographs for their now-famous dad, Noah, while Methuselah pouts that he was not selected to build the infamous ark. A collection that offers readers a fascinating panoply of wit,

satire, farce, fantasy, lyricism, heresy, the sardonic, and the controversial. Patricia Hassler --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The Bible According to Mark Twain helps us in the process of rediscovering or reinventing Mark Twain by engaging our question about where this figure came from, what forces shaped him, what he means, and why he speaks to and for Americans especially. (College Literature) Baetzhold and McCullough have delivered a great boon to lovers of Mark Twain. In providing for both those Biblical writings which Twain considered publishable and those that then seemed too potentially offensive for publication, they have enabled us to gain a fuller comprehension of the very complex author. In providing the original form as well as revised versions of published material, they have enabled us to observe the artist at work and thus to gain a deeper insight into the nature of his art. And in making their explanatory materials so readable and readily accessible, they made the pursuit of Mark Twain studies thoroughly enjoyable. (Mark Twain Society) A collection that offers readers a fascinating panoply of wit, satire, farce, fantasy, lyricism, heresy, the sardonic, and the controversial. (Booklist) The present collection -- spanning four decades (1871-1910) -- is both a genuine service to Twain lovers and one showing Twain at his most charming and witty. (Kirkus Reviews) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If you love Mark Twain then you will not be disappointed in this book. His humor is second to none and shines through the book. Twain skewers the Bible, but you need to leave it to yourself to determine if he is correct or not. However, he will give you food for thought. Whether you agree or disagree with him, this book is worth a read. It will help you access and validate your own beliefs.

This book is a real eye opener. Take those familiar bible stories such as Adam and Eve and the Great Flood and apply some logic and irony to the story and you have a whole new take on it. I love Mark Twain's humor. Don't get this book if you must stick to the literal interpretation at all cost. For open minded, it is a must. I especially liked the Diary of Eve and the Diary of Adam. How must they have viewed the world in the beginning - before and after "The Fall"? Mark Twain gives us something to think about.

These are some of Mark Twain's more subdued writings. I can see why he did not want them published until after his death. If you are a devout bible thumper, you will not like this collection of his less known writings. If you want to know a lot more about the bible and its sillier passages, it's

for you. It's as if Mark Twain knew these adventures of his more atheist side would not be well received by his contemporary public. His heart was not in really sharing his more personal ideas on religion and christianity and Judaism. He was truly compelled to write this, but not really inspired.

I learned to read looking over my mothers shoulder reading "Tom Sawyer". So reading "The Bible..." was like meeting an old friend. Mark Twain takes on the Old and New Testaments using a series of 'scenarios' to demonstrate how the basic concepts found in the Old Testament play out and indicate problems in that model of the world. Great book that raises questions as to what are we doing here?. I loved the book.

Years ago, I won a copy of "Letters from the Earth" in a high school literary contest. Twain was not amateurish in his criticism of the hypocrisy in American "Christian" society, and this book will, I'm sure, bear that out once again.

This book is a long needed source for the views that Mark Twain held on religion. It would be best though if you read his 'Letters From the Earth' book before reading this one. You will get the full dose of 'Twain' humor before you delve into his insights and background work for those stories. 'Letters From the Earth' was also published long after Twain's death, around 1962. This book contains a large amount of 'new' material from the Twain Project library at the Univ of Cal Berkeley, and really is a must have book. You will not be disappointed at all, surprised occasionally, but never disappointed.

If you are a fan of Twain's peculiar sense of humor, you will love this.

Had a copy of this book which I lost in divorce. Decided to find another as I never got to finish reading. Great price, good read from the Master Himself. My Father had a set of all his books as Dad's family was from Hannibal, Mo and an ancestor actually knew the Clemens family. Thus his works have always been favorites of our family.

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