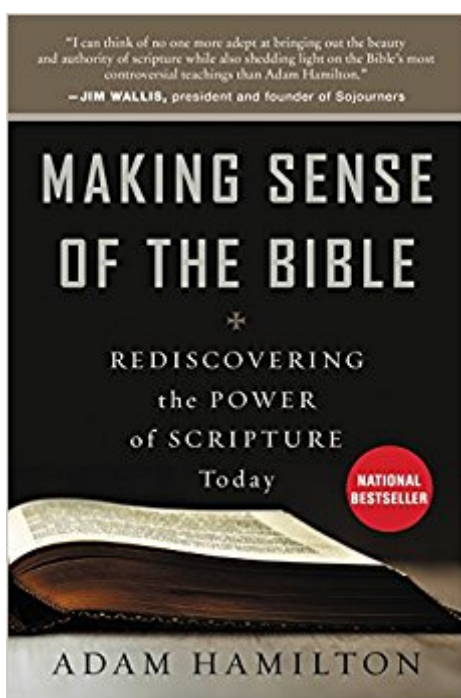


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# Making Sense Of The Bible: Rediscovering The Power Of Scripture Today



## Synopsis

Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about a particular social issue, but instead it is about how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing. In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country's leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. Did God really command Moses to put gay people to death? Did Jesus really teach that everyone who is not a Christian will be assigned to hell? Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the church"? Were Adam and Eve real people? Is the book of Revelation really about the end times? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? Is the Bible ever wrong? In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often misunderstood biblical themes leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving.

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## Customer Reviews

"When I think about how many people have been turned off to the Christian faith because of how they mis-read and mis-understand the Bible, I can only say, Thank you Jesus for this book! It's going to help a lot of people." (Tony Campolo, Founder and

President, Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education) “Wondrously accessible, Hamilton combines good scholarship with a light touch and exhibits his wise, generous pastoral heart. Hamilton does not let us forget that he bears witness to the gospel and the result is a discussion that permits readers to think again and faithfully about the Bible.” (Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary) “Clear, straightforward, lucid, faithful, helpful. Highly recommended.” (James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*) “This is an honest, relevant, and captivating book. Hamilton asks taboo questions and refuses cliché answers. He invites you to join him on a quest for truth, and even if you don’t arrive at the same destination, you will surely enjoy the ride.” (Shane Claiborne, author and activist) “Acting as friend and guide to those who seek to read the Bible intelligently and with spiritual insight, Hamilton walks readers through the pitfalls of fundamentalism and dry scholarship, opening up both the Bible’s profound humanity and its wisdom for living.” (Diana Butler Bass, author of *Christianity After Religion*) “I can think of no one more adept at bringing out the beauty and authority of scripture while also shedding light on the Bible’s most controversial teachings than Adam Hamilton. This is a must read for anyone who is looking for a fuller understanding of the Bible.” (Jim Wallis, president and founder of Sojourners and author of *On God’s Side*) “If you hope there’s a better way to read, live by, and value the Bible, Hamilton has written the book that will help you—and people you know and love. It’s understandable. It’s honest. It’s wise. And it’s so, so needed.” (Brian D. McLaren author of *We Make the Road by Walking*) This isn’t your grandfather’s revivalism. Equal parts an evangelical return to the Bible as the foundation of Protestant Christianity and a scholarly, inclusive approach to understanding scripture that draws on themes familiar to readers of Brian D. McLaren, Rob Bell and Marcus Borg. Most importantly, for the millions of men and women who have been avoiding churches for years, this is a faithful and intelligent orientation to the Bible. (Read the Spirit) “Helpful, pastoral, and hopeful....this book is a gift to the broader church at a time when we are not simply wrestling with so-called controversial issues, but perhaps discerning a fresh word from God on how to live as faithful Christ-followers in the twenty-first century.” (The Covenant Companion) “The best single volume introduction to the bible.” (The Quarterly Journal of the Academy of Parish Clergy)

In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible. The book begins with foundational questions such as, How and when was the Bible written? Who

decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? And, Is the Bible ever wrong? From there, Hamilton considers the real questions people frequently ask that continue to divide Christians and denominations alike, including: Were Adam and Eve real people? Why is God so violent in the Old Testament? Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the church"? Is Jesus the only way to salvation? How does God view homosexual people? Is the Book of Revelation a guide to the End Times? In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often misunderstood biblical themes leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Having had exposure to the Bible since childhood, and been at times tortured with guilt for my life's experiences, I have found solstice once I realized that the Bible is Not God's dictated word, but inspired writings from people of faith. Their writings were based upon Their beliefs of what people Should Believe, not what God instructed. Just look at the genocide that was supposed to be ordered by God. The teachings of Jesus shows the love for people, not their "stoning" for being human. Great book & course!!!

A good tool for small group discussion, as we have used it. Hamilton does a wonderful job offering an alternative to the more conservative (and in my mind, rigid) views of scripture. I was reared in fundamentalism but have since moved to what is for me a more balanced and open position. Hamilton provides an excellent hermeneutic for those like me, who are looking for a way to reconcile scripture with science, war and genocide, human sexuality, and other similar hot button issues. He does so in clear, concise and respectful fashion. The only thing that keeps me from giving this product a full 5 stars is that it does not come with a groups discussion guide.

As a moderate Evangelical, I have always believed in the authority and inspiration of Scripture, but struggled with the definition of "inerrancy". While I do not necessarily agree with all of the author's conclusions (though admittedly I am still working through them), I do believe his emphasis on the humanity as well as the divine aspects of scripture are a needed corrective in our time. My biggest complaint is that he kind of injects his own image or picture of Jesus and ignores the "not-so-pacifist-not-so-merciful" parts in other sections. Holiness encapsulated Jesus as much as love, and while I agree that Jesus is the key hermeneutic in seeing Scripture rightly, I also urge readers to see Jesus rightly as well. Loved and hated the challenges this book brings on our views

of scripture; if you are struggling with inerrancy it is a must read.

Thorough, yet easily readable. Fascinating overview about the formation of the Old and New Testaments--how they relate to each other, how the OT points to the coming of Jesus, Jesus' use of OT scripture, and the history of the early Christian church. Hamilton's book has increased my awareness and appreciation for the human efforts and decisions that formed the modern Bible, as well as the Divine inspiration behind its content. I appreciate his emphasis on reading the Bible in the historical context in which it was written, as well as how it can speak to us in contemporary society. As always, Hamilton does an excellent job presenting both sides of difficult passages, which makes him appealing to a broad readership. Challenging yet reassuring to followers of Christ who seek reasoned, informed validation for the source of our faith. One of the best books I have read about the Bible--Highly recommend!

it was very easy to relate to and it broke down all the questions many people have about the bible. Bottom line, love God, serve God, and love your neighbor as you would yourself.

Outstanding book, helping achieve a deeper understanding of the Bible, and how it relates to my life as well as to my understanding of others. Also, it will be informative to non-Christians who want a deeper prospective of the importance of religion, and provide ample food for thought to Christians and Jews who have different views than Adam Hamilton. Doug Libby, Woodville, TX

This is a wonderful book! It is so helpful in explaining what many of us feel but don't know how to express. It also offers a reasonable understanding of the OT and what seems to be a picture of a God different from the one we encounter in the NT. Hamilton is so good at making sense of the Bible.

Pastor Adam Hamilton is really a great teacher. This book allowed me to not feel bad about being skeptical about everything I read about Noah and Jonah. Pastor Hamilton allowed me to get the underlying message of Noah and Jonah. I've long been a believer, now I'd like to reconcile Creation with the latest theories of the Physicists?Thanks Pastor Adam, Rsquared

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