

[PDF] The Fourth Gospel: Tales Of A Jewish Mystic

John Shelby Spong - pdf download free book



Books Details:

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Author: John Shelby Spong
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Description:

From *Starred Review* The Gospel of John differs from Mark, Matthew, and Luke in terms of style, tone, and many of the events described. Further, the gospels tendency to negatively call out “the Jews” has led, in many ways, to anti-Semitism. So it’s surprising that Spong, a former bishop and educator who has written persuasively about the need for a nontheistic Christianity, would choose to devote a book to John. And in fact, Spong writes about his difficulties coming to terms with John’s message. But, in his eighty-second year, Spong feels he at last understands John, seeing it now in a

new light, as the writing of a Jewish mystic. He moves readers deliberately through the pages of the gospel, explaining by example how he's come to his conclusions. John, he maintains, was written after the Johanine community had been expelled from the synagogue. Consequently, John's purpose in writing is to use Jewish symbolism to explain Jesus and his movement to those who would not or could not accept him. Spong himself says that many of the ideas here—let's boil it down to God is love—aren't new. But Spong is writing for a lay audience, and he does so magnificently. His thoughts are bracing, his writing exciting, and his conclusions thought provoking. Those who love reading about religion in general and Christianity in particular may want to go through this volume more than once. --Ilene Cooper

Review "We now approach our scriptures with a literalism that is unparalleled in the history of religion. This new and imaginative book by John Shelby Spong will liberate many people from this unnecessary complication of the religious life." (Karen Armstrong, author of *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*)

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"No one has done more to articulate a vibrant, post-mythic vision of Christianity than John Shelby Spong. Bishop Spong's masterful interpretation is destined to become a classic." (Michael Dowd, Author of *Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World*)

"Bishop Spong's in-depth struggles with and work on the Gospel of John have resulted in a book that challenges dominant assumptions and interpretations. This book will help anyone who cares to think about faith in open, dynamic, hospitable, and inclusive ways." (Tat-siong Benny Liew, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean; Professor of New Testament Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA)

"Leave it to Bishop Spong to uncover a message of universal hope that is deeply rooted in Jewish mysticism. Spong's synthesis of Johannine scholarship will lead both clergy and lay readers to a new appreciation of the surprising origins and message of the Fourth Gospel." (David Felten & Jeff Procter-Murphy, authors of *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity*)

"Spong is always readable and informative, but this book reads like a cross between a detective story and an adventure saga that is founded on excellent scholarship. I could not put it down." (Fred C. Plumer, President of Progressive Christianity.Org)

"Spong invites readers on a stimulating and challenging journey to read the gospel of John afresh and to consider Christianity from a new perspective. This is a must read for every Christian who has tried to make sense of this gospel." (Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Dean and Professor of Hebrew Bible, The Theological School, Drew University)

"Spong stands on solid scholarship. . . . More important than the negatives to the profoundly persuasive author is the unburnished positive: . . . The Fourth Gospel calls on the faithful to believe that Jesus achieved 'the mystical oneness with the God who is the source of life.'" (*Publishers Weekly*)

"In his 24th book, *The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic*, the always provocative Bishop John Shelby Spong takes on the Gospel of John, opening new windows of insight and challenging the ways

the fourth gospel has usually been understood." (*Publishers Weekly*)

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