


1-2019

Question 12 - What are some modern, present day views in regards to the Bible?

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Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "Question 12 - What are some modern, present day views in regards to the Bible?" (2019). *101 Most Asked Questions*. 38.
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/questions_101/38

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101 MOST ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BIBLE

12. What are some modern, present day views in regards to the Bible?

The following quotes are taken from Peter Jones' *Spirit Wars* book, published by the Wire Press Publishing, Mukilteo, WA.

"You know the world has changed when the British royal family changes. Earlier monarchs of the House of Windsor were far from angels. But Charles is the first modern royal and heir to the throne to admit, without remorse and on prime time telly, that he is an adulterer. The future king can justify sexual pluralism – having more than one woman – because, like most of his western contemporaries, he has bought the new 'truth' of religious pluralism (having more than one truth). For His Royal Highness, there are many ways to God, and possibly many gods. Since 1521 the British monarch has borne the title 'Defender of the Faith.' When Charles becomes king he intends to drop the definite article and be known as 'Defender of Faith' since, as he explains, with an exquisite sense of modern-day tolerance, all religions "contain common elements of truth." Charles will be the first deconstructed king (if by then that title is not politically incorrect) on the British throne." (p. 118)

Recently John Richard Neuhaus, respected commentator of the state of religion in America, has said:

"The teaching of the Bible in theological schools is in the grip of gnosticism, the belief that it is necessary to appeal away from the plain sense of Scripture to a higher knowledge that lies above or behind the text. The aim of biblical studies is to put the students 'in the know' so that they will be privy to an esoteric knowledge that even most intelligent and educated folks cannot get from their reading of the Scriptures in Hebrew, Greek or English." (p. 130)

"The new Bible will likely look something like the texts read at one of the plenary sessions of the *Parliament of the World's Religions*, 'Voices of Spirit and Tradition.' Texts from Hindu and Buddhist Scriptures were read along with selections from the Coran and the Sufi masters, an American Indian animistic chant, and a poem by a womanist claiming that humanity needs new revelations. The death-of-God theologian and polytheist, David Miller, Professor of Religion at Syracuse University and member of the Joseph Campbell Institute, called for the end of dogmas and doctrines that limit unity and for the discovery of a world soul through weaning and emptying. Miller read from Meister Eckhart, a medieval mystic who prayed: 'I pray God, free me of God.'" (p. 102)

"The scripture is the church's book. I think the church can do with its scripture what it wants to do with its scripture."

(Burton Throckmorton, member of the National Council of Churches revision committee for the RSV Bible, p. 117)

Melanie Morrison, co-founder of CLOUT (Christian Lesbians Out Together) declared: "I know in my heart that the canon is not closed, it is open. I know this because the Bible does not reconcile me with the earth and the Bible does not reconcile me with my sexual self." (p. 88)

"The story that we have in the West, so far as it is based on the Bible, is based on a view of the universe that belongs to the first millennium B.C. It does not accord with our concept either of the universe or of the dignity of man. It belongs entirely somewhere else." (Public television personality, Joseph Campbell, p. 83)

"The 'orthodox' Bible today represents only a portion of the inspired books of the early Christian era and, at best, a partial explanation of Christ's teachings."
(Leading New Testament scholar, James Robinson, p. 82)