



# Biblical Literacy

*Timothy Beal*

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“The Bible...is a locked treasure for those unfamiliar with the Scriptures....Beal offers a key with his accessible guide.” —*Cleveland Plain Dealer*

“With skill and insight, Timothy Beal has given us a great gift: a lucid and engaging introduction to the most important book ever published.” —Jon Meacham, author of *American Lion*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize

In the tradition of Stephen Prothero’s *Religious Literacy*, and with the deftness of Bill Bryson’s *Mother Tongue*, Timothy Beal’s *Biblical Literacy* is a one-stop course in the Bible passages and background information that everyone needs to know to navigate our nuanced cultural landscape—from devout believers to decided atheists, average citizens to pop-culture aficionados. Like *Religion in America*, *Religion and its Monsters*, and other of his highly acclaimed books, Beal’s *Biblical Literacy* is a must-have handbook for understanding today’s world.

## Biblical Literacy Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2008)

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Author : Timothy Beal

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Genre : Religion, Nonfiction, Christian

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# From Reader Review Biblical Literacy for online ebook

## Adrienne says

remedial sunday school!

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## Melissa says

Perspective is more on how the bible has influenced literature in relating important stories in both the Hebrew and New Testament scriptures.

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## Geoffrey Benn says

This book is intended as an introduction to the bible for people with little to no familiarity with the book. Beal curated what he considers to be key passages from both the old and new testaments and has interspersed these with short sections of commentary explaining what to look for in each passage and its connections to secular western culture. As someone who was raised with limited exposure to the bible and Christianity, I found the book to be highly enlightening and informative, and expect that it will give me deeper insight into literature containing bible references (i.e. most of the Western canon). I also appreciated that Beal's goal is clearly to inform, not to convert. I recommend this for readers interested in becoming more familiar with the bible and how it has influenced modern culture.

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## Margaret D'Anieri says

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## Mary says

Excerpts from the NRSV Bible with commentary interspersed which provides background, raises questions or ties in contemporary and classic references to the stories he selected. Prof. Beal intends to cover all the bases for an educated persons grasp of the great book and he does. But I was looking for a focus on the Bible as interpreted in the Western Canon and this is not it. Nothing on classical music or art or Dante, or Faulkner, etc.

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## J Layne says

Author says the Bible disagrees with itself. He questions whether it is right for God to harden Pharaoh's heart. He says other things that are not true to the Bible as the Word of God. I cannot recommend this book.

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### **Marya says**

Like the excellent professor that he is, Dr. Beal allows the reader to form not only his/her ideas, but his/her questions. As promised on the cover, this version has "The best bits without all the boring bits". If you think you need to read the Bible for your general education but get scared off by its sheer size, this is the one for you. He even has scattered commentary throughout telling you where in pop culture a certain verse has been picked up (everything from Bill Clinton's speech on Monicagate to an Indigo Girl's song).

It's this last part that's most interesting. The reason I gave this book only 3 stars was because I wished Dr. Beal had put in more of those commentaries. If you are only reading the Bible to get the literary references, it would've been nice to see those references in more detail.

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### **Mark Gross says**

Reviewed all the biblical heros and villians and at the end had an interesting glossary of all the common saying we use today which come from the bible. However the interpretations, like the bible asked more questions than it answered. It did show how people use the bible to justify their unjust objectives which was a premise of The Uses and Abuses of History.

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### **Heather says**

A look at the Bible solely as a work of literature...interesting but not overwhelmingly so.

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