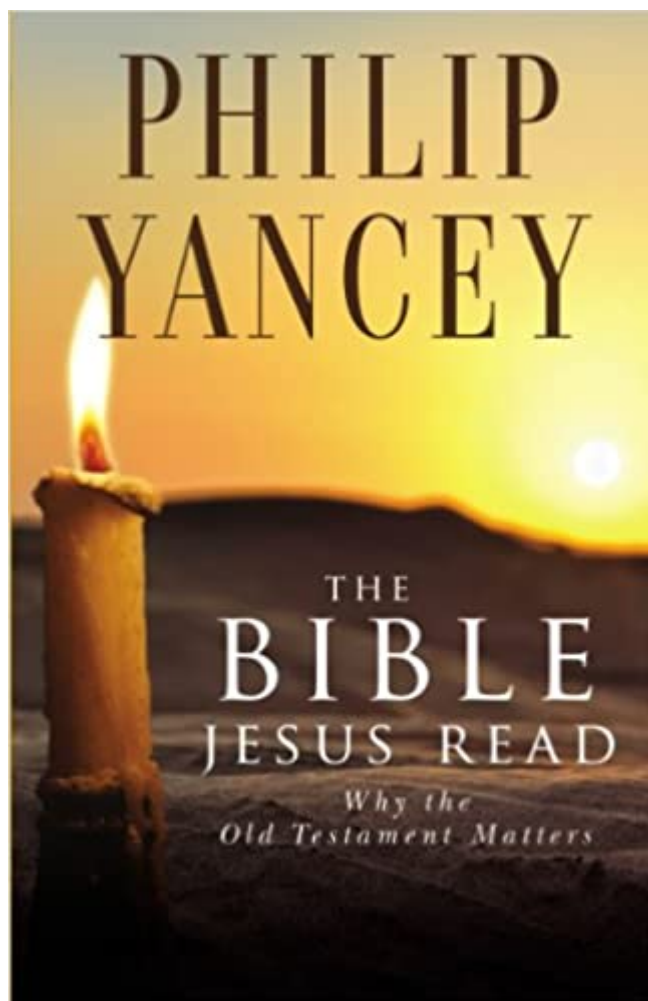


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## Bible Jesus Read, The



## Synopsis

Philip Yancey has a way of confronting our most cherished but misguided notions about faith. In *The Bible Jesus Read*, he challenges the perception that the New Testament is all that matters and the Old Testament isn't worth taking the time to read and understand. Yancey admits that, like many Christians, he usually avoided the Old Testament. After all, why bother with writings that can be so baffling, boring, even offensive to the modern mind? But a surprising discovery awaited Yancey when he began to explore how the Old Testament related to his life today. Those seemingly irrelevant Hebrew Scriptures took on a startling immediacy, portraying a passionate relationship between God and people against the broad backdrop of human experience. Like nothing else, the Old Testament depicts the cries, the complaints, the deep, insistent questionings of the heart, the stuff of life we all must contend with. With his candid, signature style, Yancey interacts with the Old Testament from the perspective of his own deeply personal journey. From Moses, the amazing prince of Egypt, to the psalmists' turbulent emotions and the prophets' oddball rantings, Yancey paints a picture of Israel's God--and ours--that fills in the blanks of a solely New Testament vision of the Almighty. Probing some carefully selected Old Testament books--Job, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and the Prophets--Yancey reveals how the Old Testament deals in astonishing depth and detail with the issues that trouble us most. The Old Testament in fact tackles what the New Testament often only skirts. But that shouldn't surprise us. It is, after all, the Bible Jesus read. *The Bible Jesus Read* will give you abundant new insights into the heart of God the Father. And as you read with a fresh eye the prayers, poems, songs, and bedtime stories that Jesus so revered, you will gain a profound new understanding of Christ. "The more we comprehend the Old Testament," Yancey writes, "the more we comprehend Jesus."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Philip Yancey, editor at large and columnist for Christianity Today, follows up his back-to-back bestselling books, *What's So Amazing About Grace* and *The Jesus I Never Knew*, with *The Bible Jesus Read*, an exploration of the significance of the Old Testament to today's Christian. Given previous book titles--*Where Is God When It Hurts*, *Disappointment with God*, and *The Gift of Pain*--one might jokingly suggest that in the Old Testament Yancey has found his true home. He acknowledges that in studying key sections of the Hebrew Bible (he concentrates on Job, Deuteronomy, The Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and the Prophets) he found himself confronted by the core questions that haunt his Christian faith: Do I matter? Does God care? Why doesn't God act? As always, Yancey explores these central human questions with a style that is marked by directness, humor, and honesty. He writes not as theologian or mystic but as a questioning seeker. Rather than providing simple answers--he in fact says that "by no means did Jesus resolve the problem of pain"--he instead affirms the words of Thomas Merton, which he quotes in his Introduction: "There is ... nothing comfortable about the Bible--until we manage to get so used to it that we make it comfortable for ourselves." Even as he finds the Old Testament a "companion for my pilgrimage," so is Yancey a companion for his readers, precisely through his willingness to ask --and his courage not to answer--all the hard questions. --Doug Thorpe --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Yancey is an astute author who challenges Christians' assumptions without alienating them. In *The Bible Jesus Read*, Yancey encourages readers to consider how Hebrew Scripture--what Christians call the Old Testament--is relevant to their own lives. His premise is that although many Christians tacitly consider the New Testament more important than the Old, the New Testament was written after Jesus' earthly ministry, making the Old Testament "the Bible Jesus read." Hebrew Scripture was the greatest influence on the mind and spirit of the founder of Christianity, a fact that, in the author's estimation, obligates Christians to know it well. Yancey acknowledges the difficulty of transcending the cultural gulf between modern civilization and ancient Israel and seeks to bridge the gap by highlighting sections of the Old Testament that he initially found hard to appreciate. The

writings of the Prophets were particularly obscure to Yancey because of the nonnarrative style and assumption of a warrior culture. However, he gradually discovered the passages' deep relevance to, and resonance with, his own experience. He came to love these Old Testament books when he realized that many of their concerns, such as justice for the poor and faithfulness to God, are timeless. Yancey's lucid style and honest handling of difficult ideas ensure that readers who have enjoyed his earlier books will not be disappointed in this one. (Sept.) FYI: Zondervan will simultaneously release an audio version, read by the author (two cassettes, 2 hrs., \$16.99 ISBN 0-310-22982-0). Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This is an enjoyable read, but it's not an analytical discussion of the Bible, it's more of an autobiographical look at the author's own thoughts and experiences from his studies. Some interesting insights make it worth the time. Please note: has not listed this accurately. The MP3 audio book I received was ABRIDGED and read by the author himself, so it has only a 3-hour run time, which was disappointing.

I wasn't sure what to expect from this book. But without a doubt i have gained some insight and a perspective of the Bible that Jesus read. I would recommend this to anyone who has struggled reading the old testament...which I have and still do.. but with this new perspective I have a new way of reading it. Enjoy!!!

This book is a "must read" for anyone who is serious about understanding the Bible and their personal relationship with the living God Triune. Thank you Philip Yancey for another easy to read yet powerfull insight into God's involvement with the crown of His creation.

I very much enjoyed it and ordered a copy for family. Very interesting and enlightening.

Provides an excellent understanding of why the OT is important to us.

Philip Yancey is one of the finest writers out there today...I have read everything he has written..."The Bible Jesus Read" is a great look at the OT in a fresh light..So If you are like many who don't open the pages of the OT often this book is a great read...

Loved going through the psalms with Yancey and other portions - he just brings out all the thoughts I've had while trying to "get into" the Psalms. He takes you along his journey, a style of teaching, writing, and preaching I realize I love.

No goal was to read OT this year and this book helped me understand the OT more. Had great insights

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