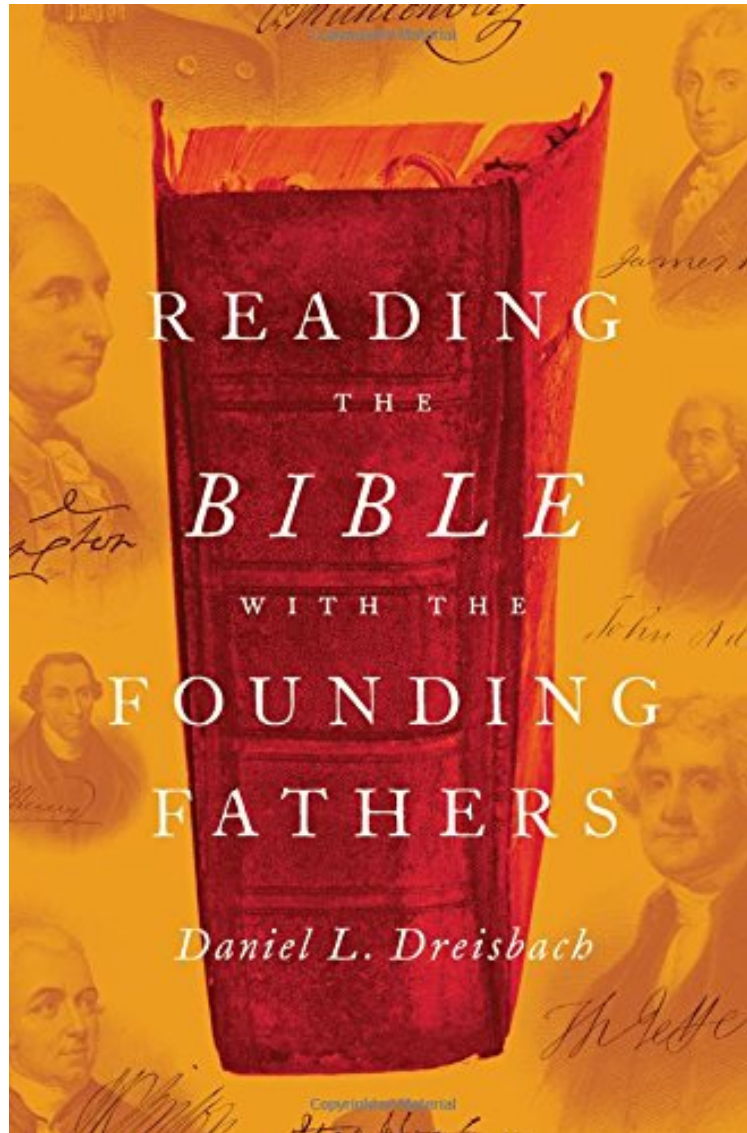


[Ebook free] Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers

Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers

Daniel L. Dreisbach

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Daniel L. Dreisbach : Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Historical Treatment of the Beliefs That Shaped The Forces For American Independence By M James Excellent research and presentation of the faith of our Founding Fathers. Very informative and pleasant reading with rich detail and background. Highly recommend to all who are interested in the scholarly history of the early years of the founding of the establishment of the independence of

America. Well done! 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Food For Thought By GDP Daniel L. Dreisbach's book is an interesting investigation of the influence the Bible, particularly the King James Version (1611), had upon the generation of the nation's "Founding Fathers." Most of us would intuitively conclude it was significant, since the Bible was essentially ubiquitous in Colonial America. As Dreisbach writes, "[The Bible] was integral to their education - both formal and informal - and it shaped their worldview, values, and habits of mind in diverse ways" (p. 49). While some Founders came to the Bible as believers, others thought of the Bible's moral teaching's as utilitarian. What Dreisbach contributes is a more intense look at specific examples of Scripture upon which the Founders likely relied. Intellectual histories in general, as well as the effects of sources upon subsequent actions or expressions in particular, are notoriously difficult to "prove" but Dreisbach builds a very strong circumstantial case for several examples. For instance, statements bearing the influence of Micah 6:8 are explored. Frequent paraphrases of "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God?" populate the quotes of Founding Fathers, who saw parallels between the terms of Israel's compact with God after its deliverance from Egypt and the terms upon which the young United States should abide in order to prosper. Another example focuses on the biblical basis for civil disobedience and, of course, the American Revolution (Acts 5:29, "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than man") over the traditional biblical citation for the justification of monarchies (Romans 13:1, "Let every soul be subject unto the highest powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are of God"). The book continues in a like fashion. Dreisbach sees heavy traces of the critical biblical literature of the Protestant Reformation embedded throughout the Declaration of Independence (p. 133). He does not claim that the Bible was either the key or the primary source for American Revolutionary doctrine, but it certainly was significant and understanding that significance is crucial to understanding the Founding Fathers (p. 231, 234). Dreisbach also admits that, "The bible was employed for literary, rhetorical, and political purposes, in addition to theological and spiritual reasons" (p. 231). This book is not an apologia, but a reasoned argument. An important reason for reading this book is to remind oneself just how much wisdom is contained within the Bible and that its wisdom was, and still can be, applied to politics. I found myself returning to two items: 1) Benjamin Franklin referenced Genesis 47 with these words of warning about the ways of tyrants, "... get first all the people[']s money, then all their lands, and then make them and their children servants forever" (p. 85); and, 2) A statement made by Samuel Langdon on June 5, 1788 about choosing representatives by referencing Proverbs 28-29, "Fix your eyes upon men [or women] of good understanding, and known honesty; men [or women] of knowledge, improved by experience; men [or women] who fear God, and hate covetousness; who love truth and righteousness " (p. 166). Worth remembering. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Necessary to Know Now By Stan Crader There never was and will never be a better time than the present to learn. Dreisbach's gift is going to the original source to document the true intentions of our founding fathers. Social media makes widespread debate simple and easy. It also makes the widespread dissemination of faulty notions told as fact simple and easy. America's founding notions are no longer taught in public school and are being lost. Read this book and arm yourself to defend the founding principles of America. Thanks, Daniel, for sharing your many years of research to introduce us to something old that to many will be new.

No book was more accessible or familiar to the American founders than the Bible, and no book was more frequently alluded to or quoted from in the political discourse of the age. How and for what purposes did the founding generation use the Bible? How did the Bible influence their political culture? Shedding new light on some of the most familiar rhetoric of the founding era, Daniel Dreisbach analyzes the founders' diverse use of scripture, ranging from the literary to the theological. He shows that they looked to the Bible for insights on human nature, civic virtue, political authority, and the rights and duties of citizens, as well as for political and legal models to emulate. They quoted scripture to authorize civil resistance, to invoke divine blessings for righteous nations, and to provide the language of liberty that would be appropriated by patriotic Americans. Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers broaches the perennial question of whether the American founding was, to some extent, informed by religious--specifically Christian--ideas. In the sense that the founding generation were members of a biblically literate society that placed the Bible at the center of culture and discourse, the answer to that question is clearly "yes." Ignoring the Bible's influence on the founders, Dreisbach warns, produces a distorted image of the American political experiment, and of the concept of self-government on which America is built.

"One of the many merits of Daniel Dreisbach's book is to show how misleading this picture [of the Founding Fathers as cool to religion] is. Against this popular image, the Bible was referenced more often than any other text, or even writer, during the Revolutionary period... Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers is a scholarly book, drawing on an abundance of source material and demonstrating an admirable familiarity with the period and the Bible."--Church Times "Well-researched and beautifully written, Daniel Dreisbach's Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers immerses readers in an era when American culture was greatly influenced by the Bible. One of the book's chief strengths is demonstrating how the Scriptures informed the thinking of both devout Christians and religious skeptics

during America's early years. While Dreisbach wants us to appreciate the Bible's role as a practical guide and source of inspiration for America's founding generation, he also wants us to take action. As Bible engagement steadily declines in our own day, Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers uses history to stretch our cultural imagination: How might the Bible inspire a new generation of Americans to tackle the crises facing our republic today?"--Roy L. Peterson, President and CEO, American Bible Society "For far too long, scholars have neglected the Bible's influence on America's founders. In this elegantly written book, Daniel L. Dreisbach argues convincingly that the Holy Scriptures 'shaped the world of the founding fathers in profound and manifold ways.' Exhaustively researched and judiciously argued, this volume makes it impossible to ignore the Bible's central role in the founding era." --Mark David Hall, Herbert Hoover Distinguished Professor of Politics, George Fox University "For several years Daniel Dreisbach has been publishing extensively researched articles on specific aspects of the Bible's presence in Revolutionary America. Now he has expanded that research, added to the subjects considered, and provided a rich interpretive context. Although the resulting book does not answer all questions concerning how Scripture was put to use, it does represent a landmark investigative triumph and a splendid contribution to early United States history." --Mark A. Noll is the author of *In the Beginning Was the Word: The Bible in American Public Life, 1492-1783* "This book can be read in an evening but mined for a lifetime. The elegant prose and the enticing topics of liberty, justice, virtue, authority, and faith in the American founding era make it hard to stop reading. But beneath the text, the voluminous notes and quotes are a treasure trove that scholars of many fields will be mining for a very long time. A brilliant achievement." --John Witte, Jr., Director, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University "Daniel Dreisbach's fascinating *Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers* is a model of compelling research and sound judgment. It convincingly demonstrates just how deeply the Bible shaped the Founders' writings, speeches, and ideas." --Thomas S. Kidd, author of *God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution* "The resulting contribution of this book is that the sheer wealth of material adds abundantly to our knowledge of how pervasively, profusely, and profoundly the Bible was invoked, for rhetorical and edifying purposes, throughout the founding era...The author's style is clear and accessible. *Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers* is easy to read, informative, and enjoyable. Modest in its purpose and scope, this book is recommended for university and public libraries alike." --*Reading Religion* "Daniel Dreisbach's *Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers* undercuts theories that America's founders emphasized Enlightenment thinking over Biblical wisdom." --*World Magazine* About the Author Daniel L. Dreisbach is a professor in the Department of Justice, Law, and Criminology at American University in Washington, D.C. He received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia. He has written extensively on the intersection of religion, politics, and law in the American founding.