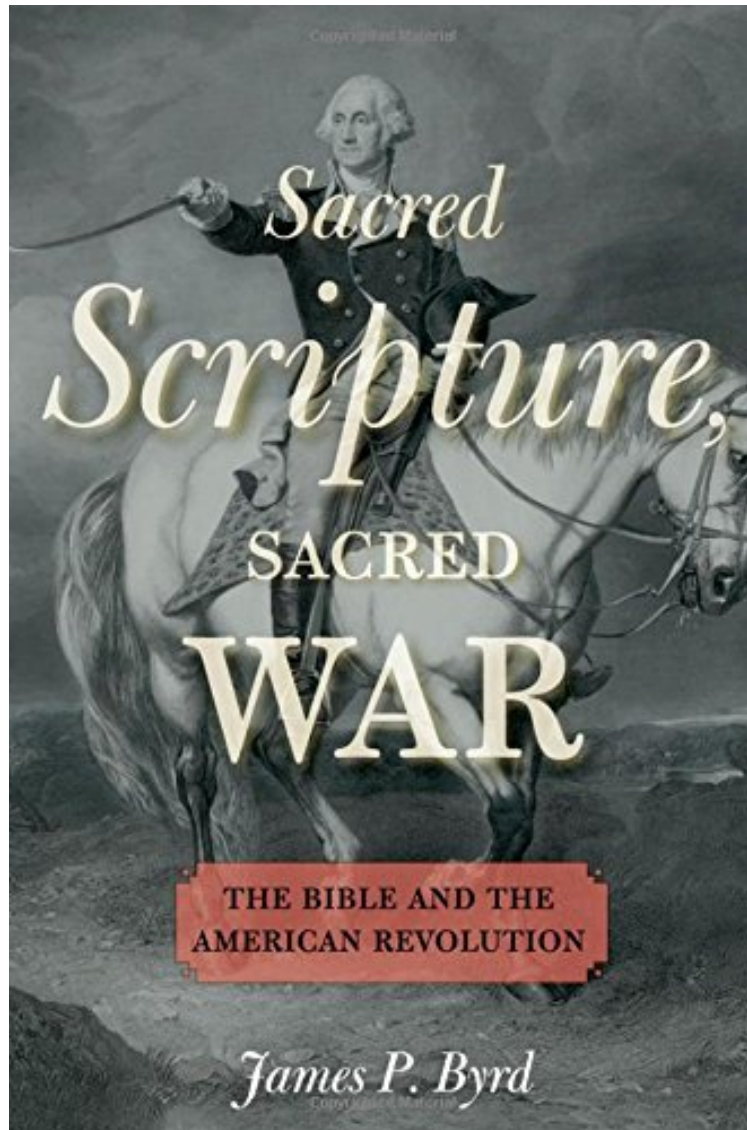


(Pdf free) Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution

Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution

James P. Byrd

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#968443 in Books Oxford University Press, USA 2013-06-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.40 x 1.00 x 9.30l, 1.05 #File Name: 019984349X256 pages | File size: 46.Mb

James P. Byrd : Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sacred Scripture, Sacred War: The Bible and the American Revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating!By Brian L. HedrickThis is a uniquely fascinating book that identifies the most popular scriptures referenced in sermons around the time of the Revolutionary War. For a

church musician that plans Independence Day celebrations each year, this book is a great resource. I also highly recommend it for Christians who love early American history.⁵ of 6 people found the following review helpful. A convincing methodology

By James D. Rapp

James Byrd's "Sacred Scripture, Sacred War" is an interesting study of the influence Colonial preachers exerted through their sermons. Byrd examined hundreds of sermons preached in support of Colonial wars and the revolution of 1776, tallying the scripture passages used in the sermons. His book is built around the top four scriptural themes preachers used: the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, David the warrior, Peter and Paul's admonitions to "stand fast", and Revelation's image of Christ the warrior. Using these and other scriptures preachers encouraged participation in war and venerated leaders like George Washington. A couple of questions kept popping into my mind as I read Byrd's work: 1) what percentage of Colonial preachers were represented by the sermons he read and tallied and 2) how frequently even did those pastors who supported the revolution devote their sermon to support for the patriot's cause. The sense one gets from the book is that the pulpits of colonial churches were filled each Sunday with Patriots admonishing young men to go shed their blood for the holy cause of independence. If that is the case, the churches must have deserted their primary mission of shepherding the flock in its faith and evangelizing those of no faith, or another faith. I find it unbelievable that more than a small minority of colonial pastors were represented in the sermons Byrd uses to make his point. Nonetheless Byrd illustrates well the influence a core of Colonial preachers had as promoters and supporters of colonial and revolutionary patriotism and war. One cannot read the book without drawing mental parallels to the influence conservative ministers are exerting on the issues of our day.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars

By Ron Van Duyn

Really good read

Winner of an Award of Merit in the Christianity Today Book Awards, History/Biography category

On January 17, 1776, one week after Thomas Paine published his incendiary pamphlet *Common Sense*, Connecticut minister Samuel Sherwood preached an equally patriotic sermon. "God Almighty, with all the powers of heaven, are on our side," Sherwood said, voicing a sacred justification for war that Americans would invoke repeatedly throughout the struggle for independence. In *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War*, James Byrd offers the first comprehensive analysis of how American revolutionaries defended their patriotic convictions through scripture. Byrd shows that the Bible was a key text of the American Revolution. Indeed, many colonists saw the Bible as primarily a book about war. They viewed God as not merely sanctioning violence but actively participating in combat, playing a decisive role on the battlefield. When war came, preachers and patriots alike turned to scripture not only for solace but for exhortations to fight. Such scripture helped amateur soldiers overcome their natural aversion to killing, conferred on those who died for the Revolution the halo of martyrdom, and gave Americans a sense of the divine providence of their cause. Many histories of the Revolution have noted the connection between religion and war, but *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War* is the first to provide a detailed analysis of specific biblical texts and how they were used, especially in making the patriotic case for war. Combing through more than 500 wartime sources, which include more than 17,000 biblical citations, Byrd shows precisely how the Bible shaped American war, and how war in turn shaped Americans' view of the Bible. Brilliantly researched and cogently argued, *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War* sheds new light on the American Revolution.

"Marvelously researched and historically compelling an achievement of the first order." -- s in *American History*

"Short but potent It will be foundational for all future studies of the Bible and the American Revolution, and it will be of great interest and relevance for broader studies of religion in late colonial America." -- s in *History*

"Excellent and trailblazing It is impossible to do justice to the richness of the book's findings and insights in a short review fascinating, important, and insightful." -- *Journal of American History*

"With its remarkable research and deft insights, *Sacred Scripture, Sacred War* represents a major breakthrough in the study of religion and the American Founding. Never before have we had such a systematic investigation of how the Patriots actually used the Bible. Anyone interested in the Revolution will have to contend with Byrd's book." -- Thomas S. Kidd, author of *God of Liberty: A Religious History of the American Revolution*

"Historians believe they know why Founders such as John Adams and Thomas Jefferson became revolutionaries, but the reasons why most common people supported the American Revolution, and were willing to fight and die for American independence, has remained something of an enigma. By studying how the Bible and the clergy inspired patriotism, historian James Byrd has provided answers that unravel some of the mystery. Byrd has written a good and important book that enriches our understanding of the American Revolution." -- John Ferling, author of *Independence: The Struggle to Set America Free*

"It is no secret that the Bible is the quintessential text in American political and cultural history. Its cadences soar in presidential addresses and in America's greatest novels. Until recently, the central role the Bible has played in American wars has been less clear. Now, thanks to James Byrd, scholars have a thoroughly narrated index of the American Revolution that shows just how pervasive the Bible was to patriots pursuing their war for independence. Richly detailed and beautifully written, this book makes a major contribution to the literature on America's religious destiny, which was forged in the travail of revolution." -- Harry S. Stout, author of *The New England Soul: Preaching and Religious Culture in Colonial New England*

"By far the most comprehensive analysis ever undertaken of how revolutionary Americans defended their patriotic convictions through scripture." - *Christianity Today*

"Byrd mines his dataset of wartime sermons during the

long eighteenth-century to great effect...adds immeasurably to our understanding of the Bible's function during wartime and the ways in which American patriots understood the Revolution." - Religion in American History "A convincing, first systematic analysis of how early American preachers and authors used the Bible to interpret Americans' engagement in war... Recommended." --CHOICE "Sacred Scripture, Sacred War is a milestone in understanding Christianity in the American Revolution."-Fides et Historia About the Author James P. Byrd is Assistant Professor of American Religious History and Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and Graduate Department of Religion. He is the author of Jonathan Edwards for Armchair Theologians and The Challenges of Roger Williams.