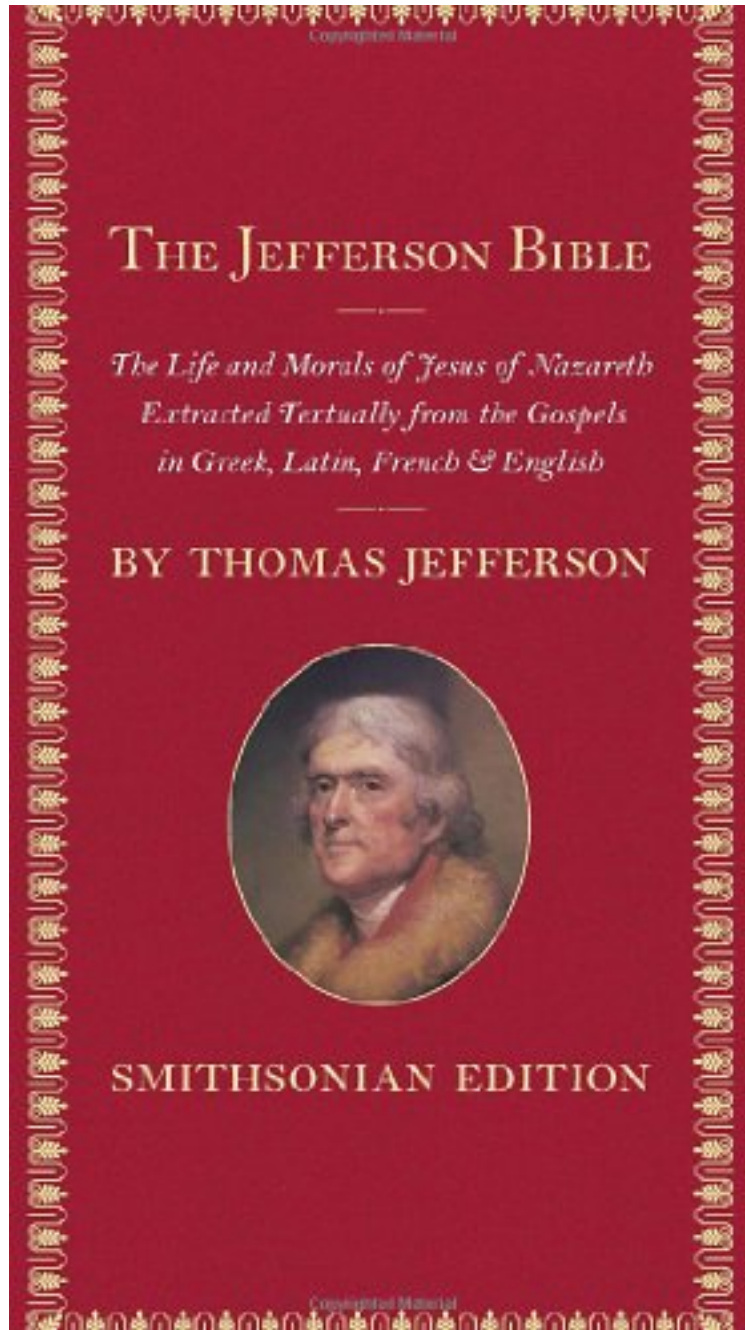


The Jefferson Bible, Smithsonian Edition: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth

Thomas Jefferson

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#35565 in Books Smithsonian 2011-11-01 2011-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.28 x 1.09 x 4.951, 1.09 #File Name: 158834312X200 pages The Jefferson Bible, Smithsonian Edition: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth by Thomas Jefferson The Jefferson Bible is an exquisite full-color reproduction of his famous, much-edited version of Jesus life and teachings, cut and pasted from eight Bible two each in

English, French, Latin and Greek. Includes his hand-written margin notes, chapters on his Enlightenment views, and a review of the painstaking process to preserve the original. An introduction by Smithsonian curators Harry Rubenstein and Barbara Clark Smith explains Jefferson's intentions in creating the volume and the ways that his endeavor reflected his Enlightenment ideals and Revolutionary spirit. Smithsonian conservator Janice Stagnitto Ellis's essay on conservation reveals surprising insights into how Jefferson crafted the book so precisely. Faithful to the unique artifact so painstakingly created by Thomas Jefferson himself, *The Jefferson Bible, Smithsonian Edition* makes the thoughts of a great American mind accessible for generations to come. | File size: 49.Mb

Thomas Jefferson : The Jefferson Bible, Smithsonian Edition: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Jefferson Bible, Smithsonian Edition: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Exactly as advertised. By J. Bristow. The Smithsonian's reproduction of TJ's remade bible is a welcome volume in my library of Founding Fathers' writings. Its deteriorated condition meant major conservation work--all carefully explained in the preface sections--and, assuming an accurate reproduction, now makes this work available to non scholars and interested readers. Unlike some in previous reviews, the source of printing did not bother me--it is the ideas presented that are the important work. I found the book to be sturdy and well printed. The introductory sections on the history of the book and the conservation efforts undertaken were interesting (to me) and worked well with an online course I was taking at the time of acquisition. The introductory remarks followed by a thorough reading of the abridged bible, give a unique look into Jefferson's very private and almost unshared views on his religious beliefs. This was a worthwhile purchase. Disclaimer: it is (apparently) the same physical size as TJ's original but I find the reproduced type very small for these older eyes. Needs to be read with a good light over the shoulder. While I do not really want a large print edition, one or two points of type size would have made this a "5".

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. beautiful addition to any library. By w109. amazing to hold a facsimile of Jefferson's work in my hands. the book itself is beautiful and inside you can actually see the time and work he took with this very personal project. an insight into his thinking/reasoning. i love all things old and historical and for that reason alone it would make this a great purchase, but it is also the Smithsonian edition and that makes it even more special. a great addition to any library.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Impressive. By Matt Barnett. Here's what you need to know right up front: This is a magnificent facsimile edition of "The Jefferson Bible." Scholar, church-goer, believer, non-believer, layman .. this book is amazing and belongs on your shelf. The actual Jefferson Bible was disassembled and the pages photographed with a Hasselblad H4D-50, a 50 megapixel DSLR and a Zeiss 120mm macro lens. In other words, the actual pages were photographed at extremely high resolution and sharpness and have been reprinted in this volume. You will hold, in your hands, the closest replication of "The Jefferson Bible" yet produced. Now, there is a "History of the Jefferson Bible" where the curators give their opinion as to what Jefferson meant in assembling his Bible. I could do without that. There is enough material out there that we can read to form our own opinions of Jefferson and what his religious beliefs were or were not. Let's not get into that debate. Aside from that, there is also a section on the restoration of the Jefferson Bible which is interesting. Then you have the actual Jefferson Bible itself. I was literally stunned at the highly detailed the replication. Even more stunning is the price: \$19 here on . I bought two. Some have a beef with it being printed in China. I don't but it's your call. My advice? Buy this book.

The Jefferson Bible, or *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth* as it is formally titled, was Thomas Jefferson's effort to extract what he considered the pertinent doctrine of Jesus by removing sections of the New Testament containing supernatural aspects as well as perceived misinterpretations he believed had been added by the Four Evangelists. Using a razor, Jefferson cut and arranged selected verses from the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in chronological order, mingling excerpts from one text to those of another in order to create a single narrative. After completion of *The Life and Morals*, about 1820, Jefferson shared it with a number of friends, but he never allowed it to be published during his lifetime. The most complete form Jefferson produced was inherited by his grandson, Thomas Jefferson Randolph, and was published in 1895 by the National Museum in Washington. Once published in black-and-white facsimile by the Government Printing Office in 1900 as a gift for new members of Congress, the Jefferson Bible has never before been published in color in its complete form. *The Jefferson Bible, Smithsonian Edition* is an exact facsimile reproduction based on the original copy in the Smithsonian collections. *The Jefferson Bible, Smithsonian Edition* is as beautiful an object as was so painstakingly crafted by Thomas Jefferson himself.

LIBRARY JOURNAL, Starred This is a painstakingly produced full-color facsimile of the original volume that

Jefferson created, now at the Smithsonian, where it received top-level conservation treatment prior to its high-resolution reproduction here. Jefferson created his version of the New Testament by cutting and pasting from Greek, Latin, French, and English printed texts of the Gospels, which he placed in four parallel columns and accompanied with his marginal notes. This edition also contains two essays: "The History of the Jefferson Bible," in which curators at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History explain Jefferson's intent and his methods, and an essay on the volume's extensive conservation. The passages that Jefferson selected and pasted together present a much-edited, single chronological account of Jesus's life, teachings, and death ending with Jesus's burial and avoiding redundancies. The passages are those that Jefferson deemed to be supportable by reason. The "History" essay draws parallels between the way Jefferson revised Virginia's laws and the way he revised the Bible. VERDICT Jefferson's Bible has been published before, but never in full facsimile with all its contents. With great cultural importance for all readers from preteens through scholars in American studies, biblical studies, or the Enlightenment, as well as general readers. Also a handsome gift. Carolyn M. Craft, formerly with Longwood Univ., Farmville, VA BOOKLIST The most famous single book in America was recently taken apart and put back together to retard its further deterioration. In the process, it was digitally photographed cover to cover, which is why this edition exists. Better than those based on normal photography, this full-color reproduction of *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth Extracted Textually from the Gospels in Greek, Latin, French English*, as its compiler, Thomas Jefferson, calls it on the handwritten title page, shows what it really looks like. As the three authors of the accompanying essays on the history and the conservation of the DIY parallel-text edition concur, its tidiness is a tribute to the third president's steady hand and keen eye at age 77. Intellectually, it embodies his rationalist respect for Christianity as a moral system, not a religion. Excluding everything miraculous in the Gospels, thereby sifting, Jefferson said, diamonds from a dunghill, it establishes that one Founding Father, at least, was not a biblical inerrantist. A lovely addition to thoroughgoing Americana collections. Ray Olson CHOICE In 1820, former president Thomas Jefferson completed *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. Popularly known as "Jefferson's Bible," it comprises 82 pages, each with the Greek, Latin, French, and English texts of the New Testament passages that Jefferson viewed as authentic purveyors of Jesus's life and ethical teachings. Jefferson literally cut and pasted this material onto blank sheets of paper. Casting out all passages that were, in his opinion, contrary to reason, he ended up with the one form of religion in which he believed. The largest part of this 2011 book is an exquisitely reproduced full-color facsimile of this older work--the result of painstaking efforts by conservators at the Smithsonian and elsewhere, described in considerable detail in a chapter titled "Conservation." A preceding chapter, "History of the Jefferson Bible," puts this work within the context of Jefferson's life and the lives of contemporaries such as Benjamin Rush, Thomas Paine, and Joseph Priestley. Everything in this volume shows great care and erudition, and it deserves a place in almost every library. Nonetheless, readers might wish that more attention had been paid to the overall teachings of Jefferson's Bible and their influence on subsequent generations up to today. Summing Up: Recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through researchers/faculty; general readers. --L. J. Greenspoon, Creighton University

About the Author THOMAS JEFFERSON, third president of the United States, most wanted to be remembered as the author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and father of the University of Virginia. The author lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.