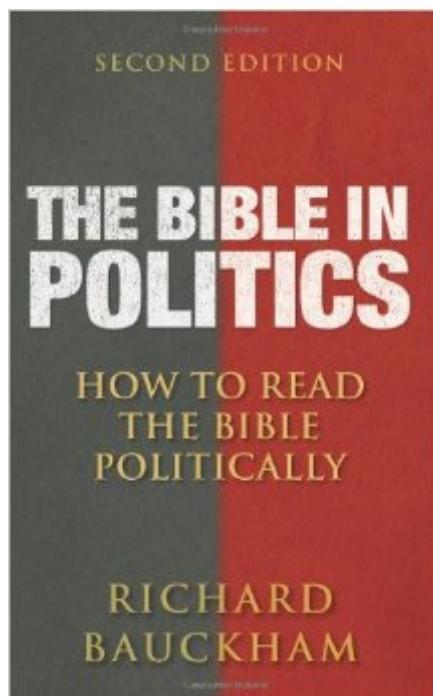


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The Bible In Politics, Second Edition: How To Read The Bible Politically



Synopsis

This second edition of Bauckham's wonderful work is essential reading for understanding the relationship between the Bible and politics. The enduring value of *The Bible in Politics* is that it teaches the reader how to read the Bible politically and to gain an understanding of the social relevance of the Bible that is more disciplined, more informed, more imaginative, and more politically fruitful than many interpreters--past and present--have achieved.

Book Information

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Summary: A thoughtful establishment of a hermeneutical process for developing biblical application of the Bible to modern politics and ethics. The process looks like this: 1. Identify what the text meant to the initial audience. 2. Determine the differences between the initial audience and believers today. 3. Develop universal principles from the text 4. Correlate the principle with New Testament teaching 5. Apply the modified universal principle to life today. (The process summary is drawn from Tidball, *The Message of Leviticus*, 29). Bauckham exhibits the outcome of this system in meditations on, Leviticus 19, Proverbs 31:1-9, Psalm 10 and 126, Jesus on taxes (Matt. 17, Mark 11-12), Exodus Revelation 18, the Book of Esther, and the Genesis Flood. "The risen Jesus is our future. He beckons us forward to the goal of creation and gives all Christian activity the character of hopeful movement into the future which God has promised. Not that we ourselves can achieve that future. Resurrection makes that clear: we who ourselves end in death cannot achieve the new creation out of death. The Kingdom in its final glory lies beyond the reach of our history, in the hand of the God

who interrupted our history by raising Jesus from death. This transcendence of the Kingdom beyond our achievement must be remembered. But in Jesus God has given us the Kingdom not only as hope for the final future but also to anticipate in the present. As the vision of God's perfect will for his creation it is the inspiration of all Christian efforts to change the world for the better. In relation to our political activity, it is a double-edged sword, cutting through both our pretensions and our excuses.

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