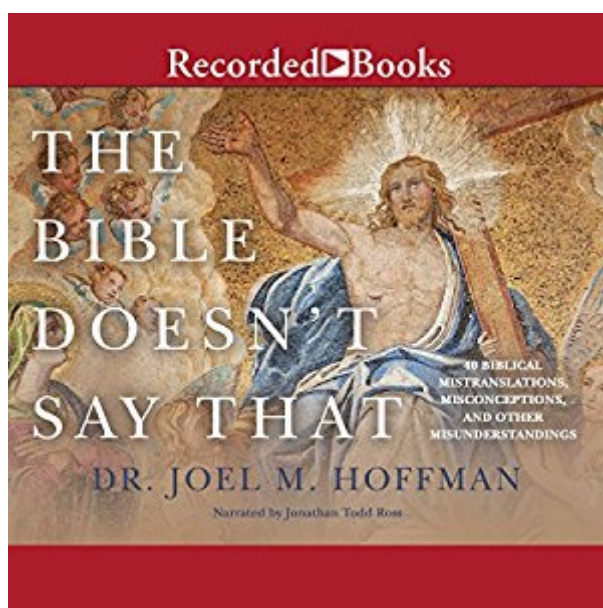


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# The Bible Doesn't Say That: 40 Biblical Mistranslations, Misconceptions, And Other Misunderstandings



## Synopsis

A vast listenership wants better access to the ancient words and ideas of the Bible. In *The Bible Doesn't Say That*, Dr. Joel M. Hoffman walks the listener through dozens of instances of mistranslations, misconceptions, and other misunderstandings about the Bible. In 40 short chapters, Hoffman covers fundamental theology, morality, lifestyle, and biblical imagery: The famous New Testament quotation "God so loved the world" is a mistranslation, as are the titles "Son of Man" and "Son of God". The Bible doesn't call homosexuality a sin, and it doesn't advocate for the one-man-one-woman model of the family that has been dubbed "biblical". Jesus had siblings, in spite of the Catholic rhetoric about the "ever-Virgin Mary". The Ten Commandments don't prohibit killing or coveting. Even many of the Bible's details end up distorted: The fruit in the Garden of Eden wasn't an apple, it wasn't a whale that swallowed Jonah, and many animals marched onto Noah's ark in groups of seven, not pairs. *The Bible Doesn't Say That* succinctly explains each misunderstanding, detailing the nature of what went wrong and offering insight into the original meaning of the world's most popular book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Great reference book

Good read. I have been a fan of this author for some time.

Excellent product.

A deft and balanced look at what the Bible doesn't say. And what it did. And does when it comes down to it. Hoffman doesn't actually challenge the Bible itself but the workings both deliberate and accidental (perhaps?) as, over time, efforts were made to spread and define its meaning spiritually and religiously (not always the same thing which I think Hoffman overall tackles extremely well without making overly deliberate and personal judgements). Thought provoking, more than a little frustrating when the Bible is such a tool for social and political agendas, and a nice historical context of the evolution of the Bible as such a tool in particular areas, this is something I would suggest to any believers, doubters or deniers of any ilk. For the most part this is fact and not opinion. If you can't look at the Bible and have questions and be willing to ask them and hear other answers, what is its point after all? Hoffman definitely provides that discourse in a way that is entertaining, sometimes amusing and best of all simply stating what was and what is.

Most who read the Bible don't know what went into producing this library of literature. That it has been written, copied by hand, translated into Greek, translated into English etc. etc. etc. And even when it was translated properly languages and meanings change. The world as we know it is a far cry from King James England, Jerusalem in the first century or Israel after the Exodus. The author has taken some passages we all "know" and love and redefined them. He writes about the meaning of Greek and Hebrew words and how they can be confused with similar sounds in English which have nothing to do with the true meaning. Imagine, the Bible does not have 10 commandments. Chapter 9 had me "google"ing Hebrew and Greek words that I hadn't known to make sure I understood the point he was making. Some of the 40 chapters discussed things I had wondered about or had come across in other Bible discussions. Chapter 13 concerning God's name was a short synopsis of things written in Dr Hoffman's previous books in greater detail. The last chapters will probably turn out to be the most controversial Homosexuality and Abortion. As in the previous chapters, the author works from language and meaning changes from the early writers until today. Dr Hoffman never makes judgments whether quoting the Hebrew Bible or the New Testament. I, of necessity, had to read this book alone to review the advanced copy. The farther I got into the book, I had a new appreciation of the Talmud tradition of two students studying together. How I wish I could have bounced my thoughts off a fellow student. I truly think one use for this book is group study. It would work in either synagogues or churches where people kept an open mind regarding new knowledge. I was happy to receive free ARC copy to read in return for an honest review.

This book takes a really good look at the translation issues from the original texts of the Torah and Christian writings that have been manipulated, mistranslated, misconstrued or just plainly read incorrectly to achieve various aims. For those who accept the general believed narrative then this book will be a little confronting and possibly not acceptable with its interesting approach. To those openly questioning it provides logical rational views of text that makes the ideas contained within religious writing much more acceptable and logical.

This is a book I'd recommend to virtually anyone. It's accessible and thought-provoking, and many times it uncovers histories of translations and interpretations of which most people are completely unaware. It also addresses many timely issues and isn't just little tidbits of Bible trivia. This would be a fun Sunday School or small group reading and discussion book. The only thing keeping me from giving it 5 stars (and maybe I should, anyway), is that some of the things "the Bible doesn't say" turn out to be the author offering competing interpretations that aren't necessarily any more or less well-founded than the interpretation being contested. Turns out I usually agreed with the author, but still - just because I interpret a given passage a certain way and have good reasons for it doesn't mean that "the Bible doesn't say" whatever the other interpretations might be. I felt like the author was on much more solid ground when he could point to specific linguistic and/or historical issues that have landed us where we are, and thankfully, there is plenty of that material. And even the other less "concrete" items are still really useful and thought-provoking reading.

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