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The Bible's Cutting Room Floor: The Holy Scriptures Missing From Your Bible

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Synopsis

The Bible you usually read is not the complete story. Some holy writings were left out for political or theological reasons, others simply because of the physical restrictions of ancient bookmaking technology. At times, the compilers of the Bible skipped information that they assumed everyone knew. Some passages were even omitted by accident. In *The Bible's Cutting Room Floor*, acclaimed author and translator Dr. Joel M. Hoffman gives us the stories and other texts that didn't make it into the Bible even though they offer penetrating insight into the Bible and its teachings. The Book of Genesis tells us about Adam and Eve's time in the Garden of Eden, but not their saga after they get kicked out or the lessons they have for us about good and evil. The Bible introduces us to Abraham, but it doesn't include the troubling story of his early life, which explains how he came to reject idolatry to become the father of monotheism. And while there are only 150 Psalms in today's Bible, there used to be many more. Dr. Hoffman deftly brings these and other ancient scriptural texts to life, exploring how they offer new answers to some of the most fundamental and universal questions people ask about their lives. An impressive blend of history, linguistics, and religious scholarship, *The Bible's Cutting Room Floor* reveals what's missing from your Bible, who left it out, and why it is so important.

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Customer Reviews

The Bible you usually read is not the complete story. Depending on your denomination you may have only so-called canonical books, deuterocanonical books, apocrypha and/or other books,

letters and stories. Rather than using the fact that what we call "Bible" is an outcome of (un)intentionally cut & paste to "proof" the unreliability of the Bible, like Bart Ehrman c.s. do, Dr. Joel M. Hoffman shares in *The Bible's Cutting Room Floor* first the backgrounds of bookmaking technology. With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Nag Hammadi writings, the Books of Enoch, Life of Adam and Eve, extensions to Esther and Daniel, and Josephus history and commentaries on the Scriptures, much more teachings and insights have become available. Hoffman both takes his reader along the peculiar way the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, traded, researched and ultimately published. He elaborates in depth the way Josephus treats Old Testament texts, how the Septuagint, Vulgate and King James Version were created, and how difficult it is to translate Old Testament Hebrew and Aramaic. What do and don't we know of the Essenes or Qumran Sect that hid the Dead Sea Scrolls. After that there's room to you explore what you missed in the "modern" Bibles. What happened to Adam and Eve after they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden? What was Abraham's youth like? Do we know more of Enoch's endless life? What's the roles of the Tower of Babel? And do the different biblical positions on fundamental, universal questions like good versus evil, human suffering and afterlife, angels, and God's holiness have support in these extra-biblical writings? Hoffman's teaching respectfully with an impressive mix of history, linguistics, and religious scholarship.

If you have ever wondered, either casually or with a more scholarly bent why certain stories were included in the Bible and others weren't, or why there seemed to be gaps in what we get out of the text compared to the ancients, this is the book for you. *The Bible's Cutting Room Floor* by Joel Hoffman will hold your interest. Hoffman's work assumes a knowledge of the Bible and the ancient world. However, by no means do you need to be an Old Testament or Rabbinic scholar to understand it. Each chapter follows the pattern of stating his thesis, supporting it, restating it, and finally the conclusion. The final chapter wraps it all up nicely. The book clearly explains the political situation in Jerusalem leading up to the time of Jesus, and following. This is a real help since the Bible itself lacks a lot of material on this. It is understood that the reader just knows this stuff. Kind of like we understand 20th century American history. The following chapters discuss the Dead Sea Scrolls and their impact on scholarship and what we know of the historicity of certain events, following is a good discussion of the Septuagint (Greek "Bible"). Added to the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, and the Torah writings, we then add Josephus's work. Working through the earliest patriarchs of the Torah which forms the Old Testament in our current Bibles and is the Jewish sacred book, Hoffman examines the lives of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Enoch. Here

he references books of the Apocrypha and other Wisdom literature found in the early traditions. In an accessible fashion he points us to the story and meaning behind our Sunday School reading and teachings. These are the big questions of life: why is there evil? If God created the world, why did Adam and Eve sin? What of angels?

This title intrigued me, so I gave it a read... *The Bible's Cutting Room Floor: The Holy Scriptures Missing From Your Bible* by Joel M. Hoffman. It's an interesting look at some writings that aren't part of the "normal" Bible as many people know it. It adds some additional perspective to what and how we got here in our understanding of scripture and history. Contents: Introduction - The Abridged Bible; Jerusalem - An Eternal City in Conflict; The Dead Sea Scrolls - How a Lost Goat Changed the World; The Septuagint - How Seventy Scholars Took Seventy Days to Get It Wrong; Josephus - The Only Man to Be a Fly on Every Wall; Adam and Eve - Falling Down and Getting Back Up; Abraham - Humans, Idols, and Gods; Enoch - The Beginning of the End; The Big Picture - Finding the Unabridged Bible; Appendix - Suggestions for Further Reading; Index Hoffman is a Jewish scholar who has focused on history and religion. He examines material and additional books (such as the Dead Sea Scrolls) with a bent towards examining their story and place in history. For most people (like myself), things like the Book of Enoch consists of strange stories that kept it from being included in the Old Testament. But when placed against the backdrop of the times, it starts to make a bit more sense. It's also interesting that there are references to Enoch and his prophecies in the New Testament. It's very likely that material was familiar and accepted at one point, and at some point further down the line, others decided it was less accepted. Our perceptions are shaped by those decisions. He also does a good job in discussing how the same words in the Hebrew texts ended up being translated completely different in various places, often by minute alterations or shaping of certain letters.

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