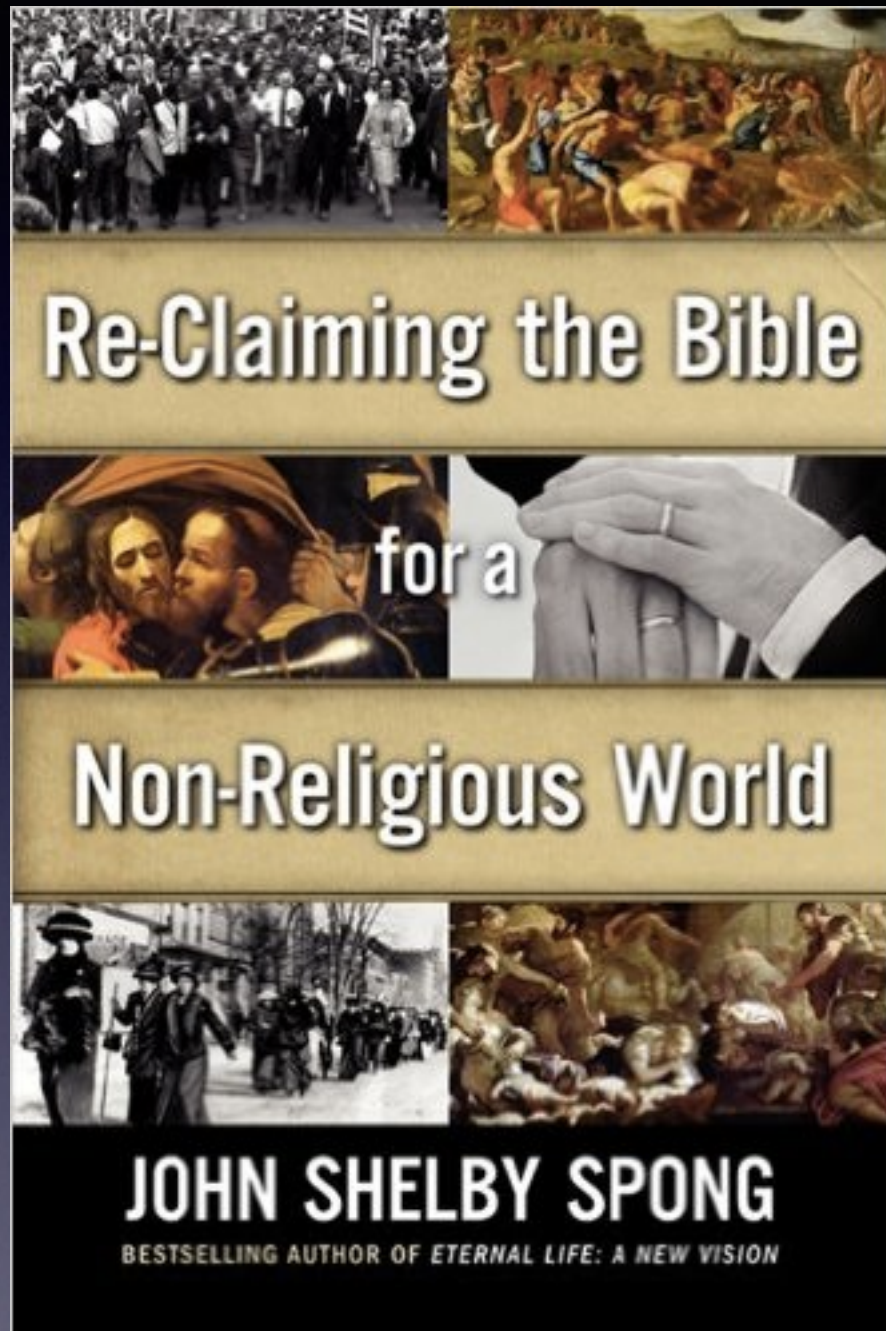


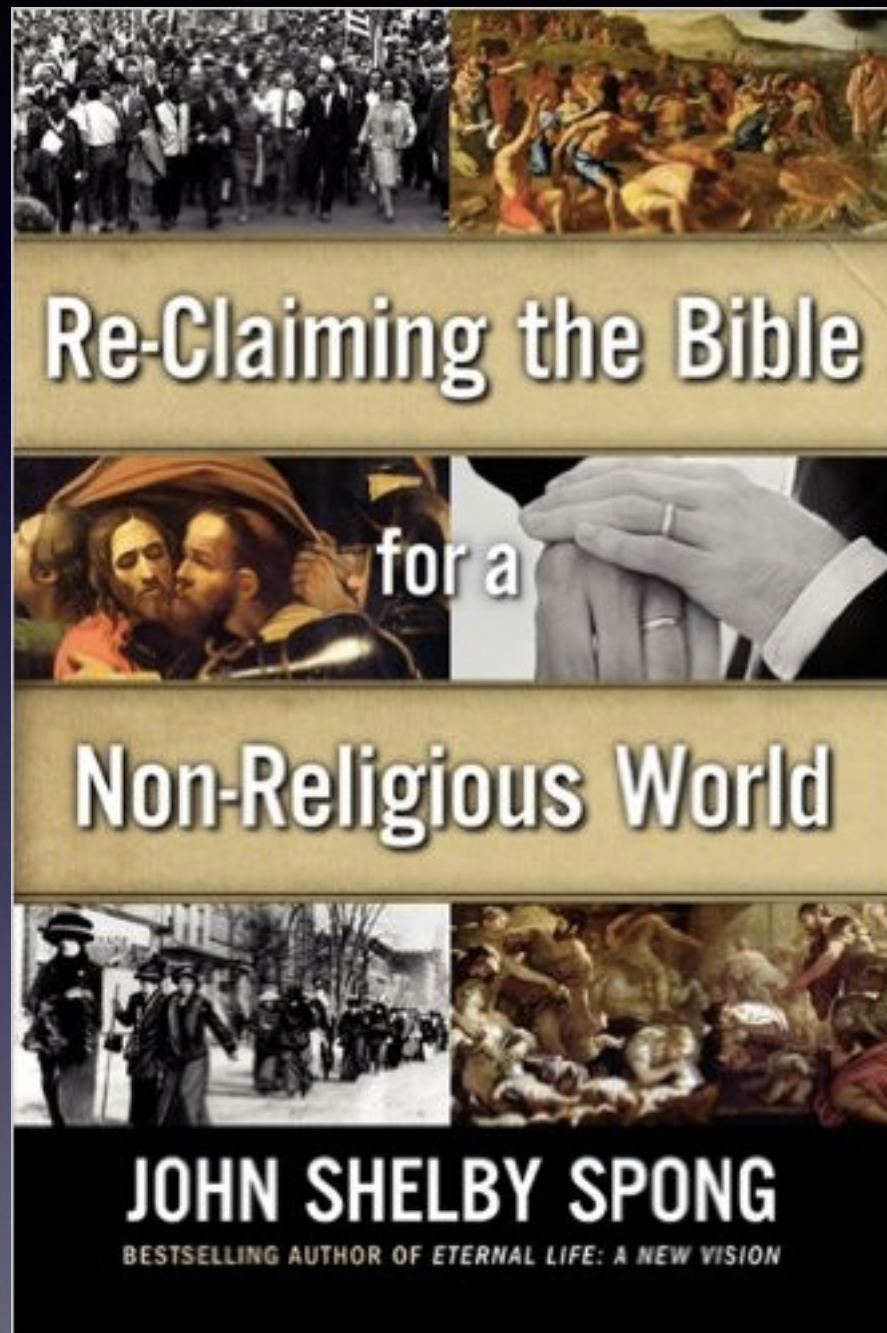
Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World

ACTS
Fall 2016

St David's United Church
Calgary



Reclaiming the Bible



Session # 2

- Opening
- Guidelines
- Questions
- Video
- Overview 1-6
- Break
- Discussions
- Closing

Class Guidelines

1. Come to class having read the evening assignment.
2. Respect other people's time
3. As you read, review, reflect, discuss - formulate questions
4. Additional resources are available - online, church library, etc.

Opening

Ken Kittridge

Part 1 - Video

Excerpt from
NOVA PBS Documentary (1:52)
The Bible's Buried Secrets
Moses' Torah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zw2TH7pWf4>
21m32s



Part 2 - Setting the Stage

What is the problem Spong wishes to address in this book?

Helping us to move from a Sunday School understanding of the Bible to a mature, adult awareness of what the Bible means today.

Our concern is to find a meaningful, intelligent middle way between "biblical fundamentalism" and one that "disparages" the Bible and religion as outdated and naive.

A Personal Comment

Reflecting on 50 years of ministry

Serving as a church pastor for 25 years
- from theological college to congregation

Teaching at the university for 25 years
- learning from "reality" and the "opposition"

Integrating formal theology with real life
- adult spiritual development ministry at St.
David's

A Personal Comment

Integrating formal theology with real life
- adult spiritual development ministry at St.
David's

Insights from working with intelligent and
committed laity at St. David's continues
to shape me into the person I am today
and helps me share my thoughts with you..

Beginnings

The Formation of the Torah

Genesis through Deuteronomy -
The core of the Hebrew Bible

The Law and the Prophets - constitute
the "completeness" of Hebrew scripture

We start with "The Law"

Beginnings

Opening up the core documentation with Spong

Graf-Wellhausen (Germany; late 1800's)

Development of a "critical approach" to the Bible
Viewing the scriptures as a human construct but
with sacred meaning for scientifically trained
people

Four Sources of the Torah

Developed in many different settings over time.

Ultimately woven into one text as we know it today.

Y - Yahwist (original)

E - Elohist (expansion)

D - Deuteronomistic - strand 3 ("second law")

P - Priestly - strand 4 (edited/reformed/
restored tradition)

Basic Characteristics of the Four Editions

All attempt to answer the question ' "Who are we?" ' at different stages of Jewish historical development.

The core Torah continues to guide Jews today.

Interpretive Folklore

“Not History but Testimony”

Yahwist & Eulogist

Judah and Israel
Northern and Southern
versions of the Jacob story.

Deuteronomist

"New Book of Moses"
Jewish Reformation

The traditions edited/rewritten to
emphasize "chosenness" and "land"

Priestly Code

Seeking a "unified people" with a "restored temple"

Three Jewish distinctives:

Sabbath

Diet

Circumcision

Jewish identity - "We've been doing this from the beginning"

Priestly Code

The Priestly Code was the last editorial work appearing.

Written into the existing P/E/D documents
Rewoven into a new whole.

Extensive writings, filling much of the
current Torah

The Torah

A story covering thousands of years.
The current form developed over a
period of several centuries.

Follows, a 30 sec bit of a modern Bat
Mitzvah - the Torah Reading.



Break

Discussion Questions

1. Spong says history is only written when a nation becomes established. Really?
2. Does knowing the 2 stories 2 gods 2 histories backgrounding the Torah change our readings in church?
3. What is your understanding now of the “word of god”?
4. What value has our Christian claim on the Torah?

Next Readings

Session 3 -

PART III - THE RISE OF THE PROPHETS

Chapter 7 - 9

PART IV - INTRODUCING THE WRITING PROPHETS

Chapter 10 - 14

Study Website

<http://rtb.stdavidscalgary.net>

Closing

Frans Heynen