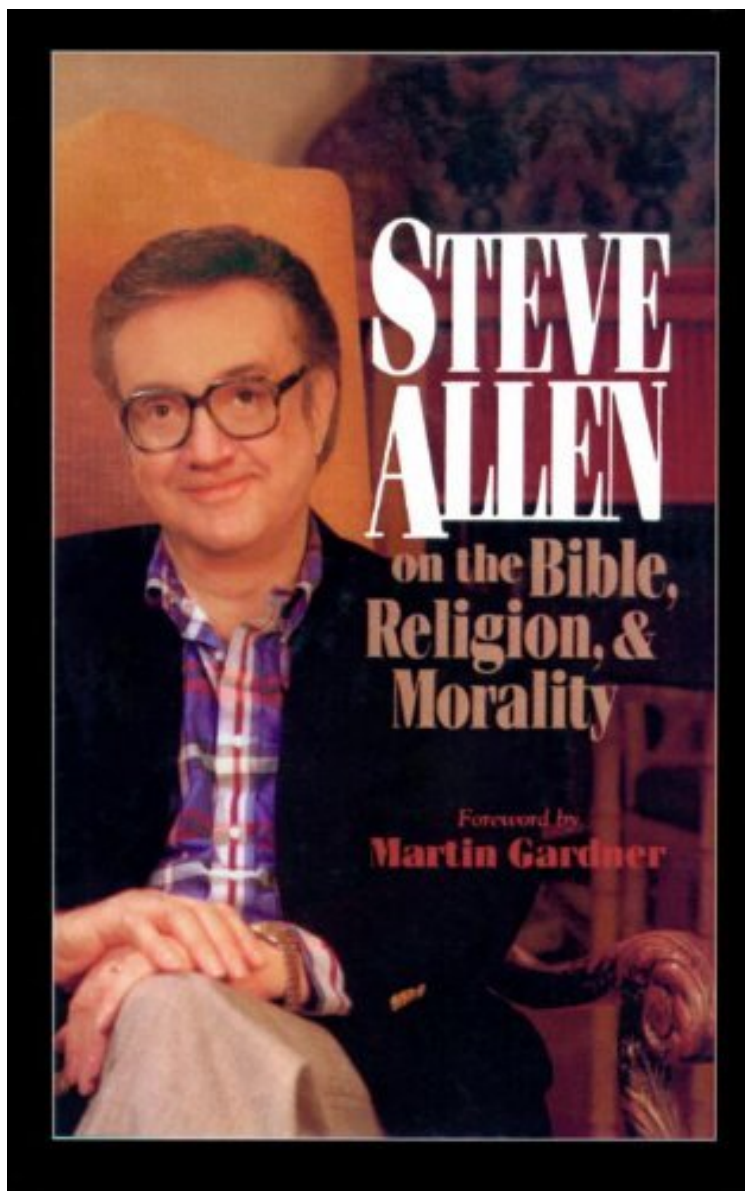


[Download pdf] Steve Allen on the Bible, Religion and Morality

## Steve Allen on the Bible, Religion and Morality

*Von Steve Allen*

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**Von Steve Allen : Steve Allen on the Bible, Religion and Morality** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Steve Allen on the Bible, Religion and Morality:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A brilliant book by a brilliant man!Von Ein KundeSteve Allen is America's own Man For All Seasons: There's very little

that he has not done. Now, he enters some rather controversial territory by taking a scholarly look at what must be the most misunderstood group of documents of all time -- the Bible. Using logic (and a healthy dose of skepticism) rather than childish/unquestioning/dogmatic orthodoxy, he examines various aspects of Christian so-called "ethics" and "morals"; pointing out instances (in the entry "WAR", for example) where the ideals espoused by people who call themselves "Christians" tend to fall by the wayside when circumstances would seem to demand that they keep to those ideals even more. He also gives detailed analyses of a number of individual books within the Bible, some of which are devastating in their criticism. (His look at the rape and murder of the Levite's concubine in Judges 19 is especially thought-provoking even in its harshness.) This reader wishes that he would publish a third tome in this vein as soon as possible!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Decent book on the Bible's indecency  
Von abdo@adan.kingston.net

In the introductory notes, Allen says that he hurried this book to press because the rise in fundamentalism had been especially active at the time of publication. I wish that he had spent a little more time on it, to clarify and reorganize his thoughts on some topics. Often, a paragraph seemingly unrelated to the surrounding matter seems to pop up for no reason. The essays themselves are interesting, and at times thought-provoking. (Especially for anyone who has never put any serious thought into the Bible.) For readers already familiar with the errors and inconsistencies in the Bible, Allen's book is interesting, but not particularly ground-breaking. Overall, a good book, simply because it describes in clear language the insurmountable problems that face Biblical Literalism. Too bad that Allen didn't structure the book as an argument instead of as an encyclopedia -- by the end, the force of the subject matter gets somewhat muted by its repetitiveness and scattershot layout. -- Marc.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Enjoyable Critical Analysis  
Von arne@clubnet.net

If the Bible and Christianity really is/are "the religion for the rest of us," then every thinking person should get a shot at writing about these topics in a similar motif. Sometimes Allen's text can be disjointed, other times marvelously insightful; overall the two volumes are a very engaging read. Particularly fun are the author's discourses on the Old Testament Scriptures vs. current Fundamentalist views. I must mention that Steve Allen's courage in publishing his opinions is somewhat remarkable; as he really has something to lose and little to gain. Will the Southern Baptists now boycott copies of "Ramparts Street Parade" or burn tapes of the original Tonight Show? If you like logical expression, and enjoy surprising conclusions about well worn religious ideas? Get both books. This guy just keeps on being entertaining!

Kurzbeschreibung

America's dean of intelligent comedy doesn't think the Bible is a laughing matter. His good look at the good book is a closely reasoned examination of Scripture, designed to encourage rational analysis of the most influential document of Western civilization. Although the Bible has been consulted for more than twenty centuries, Allen asserts that there remains an extensive degree of common ignorance about it. Noting that most people today rarely read the Bible, Allen is convinced that the millions who do read it are not able to understand certain passages at all.

Steve Allen on the Bible, Religion, and Morality took form when Allen began his own exploration of the Bible, marking passages that struck him as extraordinarily beautiful, or those that were profoundly confusing. Spellbound by the very mystery of it, he perceived that much of the text leads directly to controversy. And, he urges, it is of greater importance now than ever before that all Americans be conversant with the Bible, partly because of those who would use Scriptures as a weapon to force their views on others.

Allen presents his ideas as a series of alphabetically arranged essays on characters, events, and books of the Scriptures, as well as on such controversial topics as abortion, anti-Semitism, capital punishment, death, evolution, and original sin. He draws on the expertise of biblical scholars, theologians, and philosophers to demonstrate that fundamentalist assumptions about the reliability and authenticity of the Bible as the inviolable Word of God simply have no rational or factual basis.

Allen highlights the errors, inconsistencies, and self-contradictions of the Bible. While not denying the value of many biblical passages, he argues that Americans can and should critique the Bible as they would any other historical document.

While Allen finds much in the Bible with which one can take issue, his examination also reveals that much is meaningful. Allen's goal - to make people think reasonably about Scripture - is achieved through remarkable clear, readable, and insightful prose.

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