

12 Bible Lessons They Don't Teach You in Sunday School

adapted from *Re-Claiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World*

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1. Moses had been dead some 300 years before the first word of the Torah, called the "Books of Moses," was written.
2. None of the authors of the books in the Bible wrote thinking that they were writing the "Word of God." That was something decided much later by someone else.
3. David did not write the Psalms.
4. The gospels are not the works of eyewitnesses. They are neither history nor biography, but rather interpretive portraits written by Jewish followers of Jesus.
5. The story of Paul's conversion told in the book of Acts was written about 30 years after Paul's death and is hardly history.
6. Paul was not a Christian. Neither was Jesus.
7. All of the authors of the Bible were Jews, including Mark, Matthew, and John, who were Jews by birth, and Luke who was a Jew by conversion.
8. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" may well have been a deeply repressed homosexuality.
9. Paul seems never to have heard the story of Judas Iscariot or even the idea that the traitor was one of "the twelve."
10. Many biblical characters may be literary creations, including Judas Iscariot, Lazarus, the Samaritan woman at the well, Nicodemus, Barabbas, the "Beloved Disciple" of the Fourth Gospel, and even Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus.
11. In the Bible itself, there are no camels in the story of the wise men, no stable in which Jesus was born, and no animals that populated the non-existent stable.
12. Jesus never preached the "Sermon on the Mount" or spoke the "seven last words" from the cross.