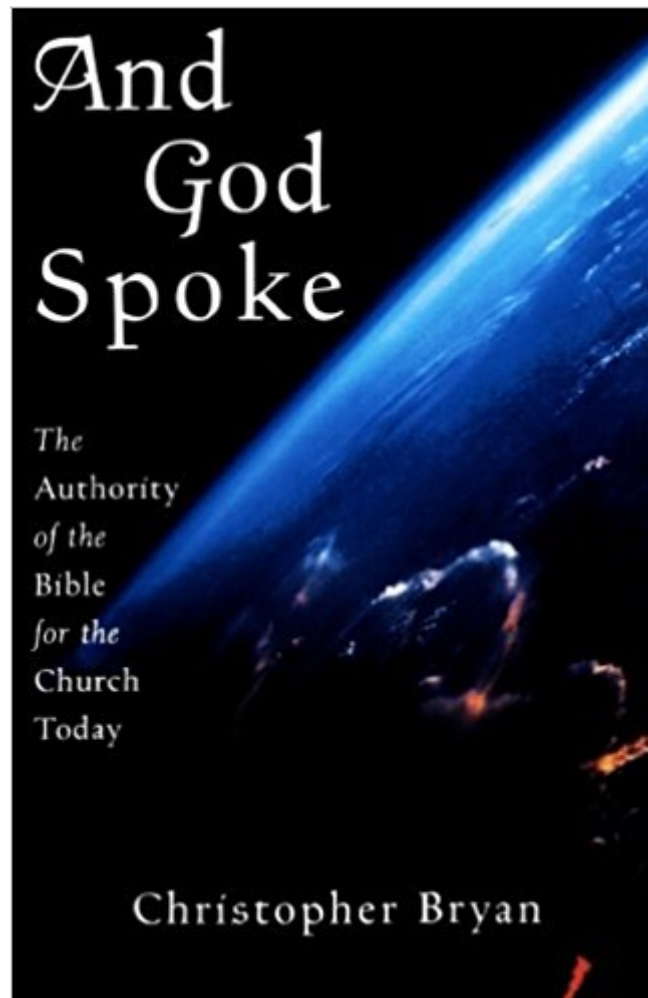




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And God Spoke: The Authority Of The Bible For The Church Today



Synopsis

His reflections on some of the ways we might answer these questions in the church today became the twelve short chapters of this book. Here scripture scholar and Anglican priest Christopher Bryan looks at the nature of the Bible's authority and inspiration and how the Bible can inform our decision-making today. He explores common questions about scripture, such as: What do we mean when we say that the scriptures are revelatory, that they are inspired, that they are the Word of God? How do we define the Bible's authority for the past and the future? What does a church that takes the Bible's authority seriously actually look like? How does it read, study, and pray with the Bible? And God Spoke offers essential guidelines for everyone who wonders about the authority of the Bible, and who wants to read it with attentiveness and understanding.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a well written, carefully reasoned presentation which will be helpful to both clergy and laity who struggle with how to interpret what they read in the scriptures in the face of the factions, sectarian and divisive, which claim an absolute authority of interpretation, usually their own. (The Anglican Journal) Bryan's lucid handling of subjects like canon, inspiration, and interpretation rests on masterful scholarship not flaunted in footnotes or marked with pretense. (Covenant) There are at least a thousand great quotations in this book. (The Episcopal Evangel) An excellent book for a class on the authority of the Bible. Can one even imagine a book on the authority and inspiration of the Bible that could be understood in simple language and Anglican too?! Well, this is it! This book

has a 'soul.' (Prairie Spirit) This is a brief but first-rate work of biblical theology for ordinary intelligent folks who hear a lector say, 'The Word of the Lord' after Sunday's readings, but have said, 'Thanks be to God' with little curiosity until now. (Covenant)

CHRISTOPHER BRYAN is the C. K. Benedict Professor of New Testament at the School of Theology at the University of the South, and the editor of the Sewanee Theological Review. He is the author of a commentary on the letter to the Romans and an introduction to the gospel of Mark.

Excellent review for Anglican readers

For people who are not afraid to ask questions. This asks the questions and helps you search for the answers.

Excellent tutorials

This work delineates with clarity the role of the Church in the ongoing Biblical saga as scripture is reexamined by each generation to learn more about our loving Father.

A very concise and engaging explanation of how the Church, through the Holy Spirit, determined which of the many writings would be recognized as true scripture.

Read this as an interlude book for EfM studies. It was an easy read, I appreciated it and liked the author's thoughts. The first 100 or so pages (part 1) establish a basis for our understanding of what the Bible is and is not. Part 2 was somewhat more confounding. The first third of the second part seemed directed more towards the ordained ministry than the laity, but the second two thirds of part two deal with application and are well constructed and thought out. It's written from a distinctly Anglican perspective (read *The Via Media*) and if one does not ascribe to that construct they could be disappointed. However, if one is looking to understand and apply the Bible to the 21st Century Bryan offers an easy path.

One of the best books on theology I have ever read. It has become a part of my personal collection. Christopher Bryan gave us a superlative exposition on the nature of God as He related to his creation. I eagerly await another volume.

The author writes well and clearly expresses his views. I especially enjoyed the references to Shakespeare and other nods to great literature. But I was disappointed in the book itself: it does not (in my view) address its subtitle "The authority of the Bible for the Church today." The issue of how to deal with disagreements was not really brought up until page 132, and then was summarily dispensed with in four pages that closed with "Where then does this leave us? It leaves us where we always were, with no resource but God, and no way to turn to God but in prayer...." I was hoping for more than that. More disappointing was that Bryan seems more interested in the authority of the Rule of Faith than the Bible. Bryan clearly makes the authority of the Rule of Faith superior to the authority of the Scriptures. This may be the correct way to go - we need *some* yardstick for judging how to interpret the Scriptures - but I wish Bryan had been explicit in stating his view, and that he had addressed some of the implications of that view. As for what the Rule of Faith actually *is*, Bryan is vague but says (pages 12-13) that the rule of faith is the "story" that "is plain and...the only thing that matters....It enshrines the essence of the Christian...proclamation." It is not the creeds, but its outline is in the creeds. As for the authority of the Bible, Bryan holds that the Bible's authority is granted, rather than intrinsic. I tend to agree with this view, but, again, I wish Bryan had been more explicit in stating his view, and that he had addressed some of the implications for that view. Finally, I disagree with the claim (p.146) that the numerous variations among the manuscripts "do not affect any point of Christian faith and practice." I offer Acts 8:37 as an example.

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