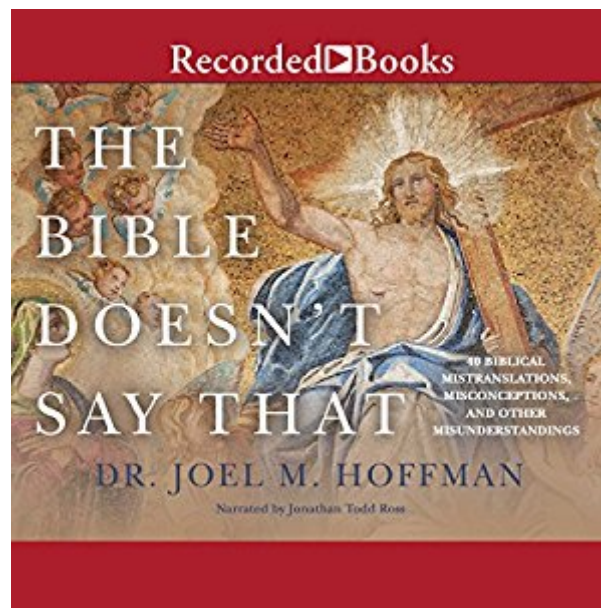


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# The Bible Doesn't Say That: 40 Biblical Mistranslations, Misconceptions, And Other Misunderstandings



## Synopsis

A vast listenership wants better access to the ancient words and ideas of the Bible. In *The Bible Doesn't Say That*, Dr. Joel M. Hoffman walks the listener through dozens of instances of mistranslations, misconceptions, and other misunderstandings about the Bible. In 40 short chapters, Hoffman covers fundamental theology, morality, lifestyle, and biblical imagery: The famous New Testament quotation "God so loved the world" is a mistranslation, as are the titles "Son of Man" and "Son of God". The Bible doesn't call homosexuality a sin, and it doesn't advocate for the one-man-one-woman model of the family that has been dubbed "biblical". Jesus had siblings, in spite of the Catholic rhetoric about the "ever-Virgin Mary". The Ten Commandments don't prohibit killing or coveting. Even many of the Bible's details end up distorted: The fruit in the Garden of Eden wasn't an apple, it wasn't a whale that swallowed Jonah, and many animals marched onto Noah's ark in groups of seven, not pairs. *The Bible Doesn't Say That* succinctly explains each misunderstanding, detailing the nature of what went wrong and offering insight into the original meaning of the world's most popular book.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours and 55 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Recorded Books

Audible.com Release Date: February 16, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01BI2VE3A

Best Sellers Rank: #44 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism #212  
in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > History & Culture #284  
in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > History

## Customer Reviews

The author, a highly respected biblical scholar, describes in this book "40 Biblical Mistranslations, Misconceptions, and other Misunderstandings". Considering the age of the Bible texts, and the complications of translation, and the very foreign cultures that produced the Bible, there are many more than 40 items the author could have addressed in his book. He's picked the ones that come

up most often in modern society. The author also highlights five reasons why only linguistic, history and theology scholars should interpret the Bible, not lay persons; these are also the five reasons there are so many mistaken meanings given to biblical passages: 1. Deep ignorance of biblical and Hebrew history, as well as the history of language and the translations of the Bible. 2. Many believe the results of historical accidents and the popular spread of misinterpretations, assuming they are in the Bible. 3. A cultural gap between the people who wrote the Bible and the people reading it today, especially concerning obscure history and language, and the allegorical stories, numerological flourishes, rhetorical tricks, and the poetry of the Bible being taken literally by some modern readers. 4. Meanings obscured by mistranslations and poetic license by translators. 5. Selective quotation and quoting out of context too often used to misrepresent biblical meanings to further a personal agenda, ignoring the many contradictions in the Bible. Since I've always understood that the Bible is a book of poetry, allegory, philosophy, religious tracts, and some history dressed up with rhetorical flourishes, this book preaches to the choir in my case.

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