



Volume 60 | Issue 1

Article 26

4-28-2017

Horton's "Core Christianity: Finding yourself in God's story" (Book Review)

Jessica Shuck

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit <http://www.acl.org/>

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

 Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), and the [Christianity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Shuck, Jessica (2017) "Horton's "Core Christianity: Finding yourself in God's story" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 1 , Article 26.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol60/iss1/26>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolf@georgefox.edu.

Jewish observations. An interesting inclusion is the use of original Hebrew proper names provided with a helpful pronunciation guide. Use of these names in the New Testament is an intriguing feature that engages the reader. Over a hundred articles are dispersed throughout the text and have been organized into the following twelve topics or themes: Covenants, The Torah, Jewish Customs, Messianic Prophecy, The Names of God, Anti-Jewish Scriptural Interpretations, The Shabbat, Salvation and Atonement, The Holy Days of Isra'el, Jewish-Gentile Relations, The Land of Isra'el and The Tabernacle. Each article is color coded to indicate as to which theme it is related. In a brief comparison this Bible reads complementary to other modern versions. For example: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trust in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed."

General Editor, Barry Rubin gives a fitting statement in explaining the need for such a work by stating "this study Bible contains information from Jewish sources to explain a thoroughly Jewish book – the Bible – written by Jews, about Jews, initially for Jews in the Jewish land of Israel." He does not disappoint in providing a systematic Jewish perspective within a predominately Christian market of Bible study tools.

The Complete Jewish Study Bible is a unique and significant work that would make a valuable addition to a personal or academic library.

Reviewer

Jill Botticelli, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Horton, M. (2015). *Core Christianity: Finding yourself in God's story*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 171 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 978031052566

Michael Horton's *Core Christianity* is a good introduction to theology and the study of the Scriptures. It is a helpful beginning place for those who are new to the Christian faith or those who would like to study the Bible but are not sure where to start.

Horton begins the book by explaining 'the 4 D's': drama, doctrine, doxology, and discipleship. Although he claims that these will help guide the discussion of core Christianity, they became more of a distraction than an assistance. In fact, the entire book feels a little disorganized, without a clear direction. Understandably, the whole of Christianity is hard to explain in under two hundred pages. However, considering the intended audience, some areas could benefit from more clarification.

Horton admits that the Bible can be difficult to understand, acknowledging that there are things that are beyond our ability to comprehend. Nevertheless, he does a good job of explaining major themes of Christianity with chapters such as *Jesus is God*, *God Is Three Persons*, *God Made The World But We've Made a Mess of It* and *God Made a Promise*. With each idea, he provides scripture to get the reader familiarized. He also relates the stories and messages to our current culture, making it easier to understand. Based solely on the subtitle, I thought it would focus even more on present day, but as Horton states "Jesus is not swept into your story. You are swept into his" (pg. 24).

All in all, this is a very helpful, informative book. It is an easy read and gives great general overviews of the Bible story, God's covenants, and even a comparative glimpse into other religions. It introduces readers to theological vocabulary and would benefit new Christians or those who need a refresher on the basics.

Reviewer

Jessica Shuck, Cornerstone University

Sullivan, D. R. (2016). *Cultivating the genius of black children: Strategies to close the achievement gap in the early years*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press. 166 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 9781605544052

Cultivating the Genius of Black Children provides educators the theories about the unique ways that black children learn as well as practical strategies for educators to incorporate into their everyday practice that will enhance the learning of black children. Debra Ren-Etta Sullivan, EdD, is the cofounder and president of the Praxis Institute for Early Childhood Education and has over twenty-five years of experience in higher education. Although this book provides examples for educators teaching from early childhood education to third grade, Sullivan's book provides invaluable insight into African American culture and the importance of creating collaborative relationships with black families. This professional development book is separated into two main sections: one on the learning styles and cultural intelligence of black children and the second part on the practical application of successful learning techniques for black children. Sullivan provides an overview of learning styles, multiple intelligences, and personality type theories for educators to understand the complex range of learning that takes place in a classroom. Sullivan provides insight into African American culture in order for educators to understand how to utilize curriculum and teaching strategies that are influenced by a black child's cultural background and the application of these techniques into a multi-racial classroom setting. Instead of being overwhelming, Sullivan provides many examples