

Marcus J. Borg

Marcus J. Borg is Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, OR. Internationally known in both academic and church circles as a biblical and Jesus scholar, he was Hundere Chair of Religion and Culture in the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University until his retirement in 2007.

He is the author of eighteen books, including *Jesus: A New Vision* (1987) and the best-seller *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* (1994); *The God We Never Knew* (1997); *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions* (1999); *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* (2001), and *The Heart of Christianity* (2003), both best-sellers. His newest books are *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* (2006), a *New York Times* Best-Seller; *Conversations with Scripture: Mark* (2009), and three books co-authored with John Dominic Crossan, *The Last Week* (2006), *The First Christmas* (2007), and *The First Paul* (2009). His current book is a novel, *Putting Away Childish Things*, (2010).

Described by *The New York Times* as “a leading figure in his generation of Jesus scholars,” he has appeared on NBC’s “Today Show” and “Dateline,” PBS’s “Newshour,” ABC’s “Evening News” and “Prime Time” with Peter Jennings, NPR’s “Fresh Air” with Terry Gross, and several National Geographic programs. A Fellow of the Jesus Seminar, he has been national chair of the Historical Jesus Section of the Society of Biblical Literature and co-chair of its International New Testament Program Committee, and is past president of the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars. His work has been translated into eleven languages: German, Dutch, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, and French. His doctor’s degree is from Oxford University, and he has lectured widely overseas (England, Scotland, Austria, Germany, Belgium, Hungary, Israel and South Africa) and in North America, including the Chautauqua and Smithsonian Institutions.

• In addition to the eighteen books he has authored or co-authored, he is the editor or co-editor of:

The Lost Gospel Q (1996)

Jesus and Buddha: The Parallel Sayings (1997)

God at 2000, co-edited with Ross Mackenzie (2000).

- *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* (1994) is the single best-selling book by a contemporary Jesus scholar.
- *The God We Never Knew* was named “one of the ten best books in religion in 1997” by *Publishers Weekly*.
- *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions*, co-authored with N. Thomas Wright, a well-known British New Testament scholar from the conservative side of the spectrum. It won the “Best General Interest Book of 1999” award from the Association of Theological Booksellers.
- *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* (2001) has made *Publishers Weekly* “ten best selling books in religion.”
- *The Heart of Christianity* (Harper San Francisco, 2003) has been a group study book in hundreds of churches.
- *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* is a *New York Times* best-selling book.

A very useful study guide for *The Heart of Christianity* is published by Woodlake Books and authored by Tim Scorer. 160 pages long, it teaches “Heart” in twelve sessions, with suggestions for small group formation and activities, a DVD that includes handouts, visuals, and some video. Similar study guides for *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* and *Jesus* are also available from Woodlake Books.

***Comments about Borg’s books include:**

From Peter Gomes, author of *The Good Book*: “Borg is one of the very few New Testament scholars of our age whose learning is so lucid that it takes the Bible back from the specialists and makes it available in all its complexity and splendor to the general reader: nothing short of a blessing, even a miracle! If Marcus Borg did not exist, we would have to invent him for we have no better guide to the recovery of an authentic Christian faith for these difficult times than this articulate and prolific public theologian.

“Writing with a simplicity that never becomes simplistic, Borg manages to convey the essence of Christianity in a way that does justice to those who do not share his views and will greatly enrich the understanding of those who do.”

Frederick Buechner, author of many books, including most recently *Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart*
“A marvelous book, *The Heart of Christianity* is both challenging and illuminating, and effecting exactly the kind of transformation that Borg describes so lucidly.”

Karen Armstrong, author of best-sellers *A History of God* and *The Battle for God*
“Marcus Borg is a key force in the emerging ‘new paradigm’ of Christian faith.”

Walter Brueggemann, author of more than thirty books on the Hebrew Bible
“With great clarity and pastoral genius, Borg offers questioning Christians a way to keep their faith without shutting down the search for truth.”

Barbara Brown Taylor, priest, professor and preacher and author of many books, including *Leaving Church* and *An Altar in the World*
“In every generation there is a handful of writers of whom it can be said, ‘Read everything they write.’ Marcus Borg is one of these today.”

Walter Wink, author of *Engaging the Powers*, *Jesus and Non-Violence*, and many others

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