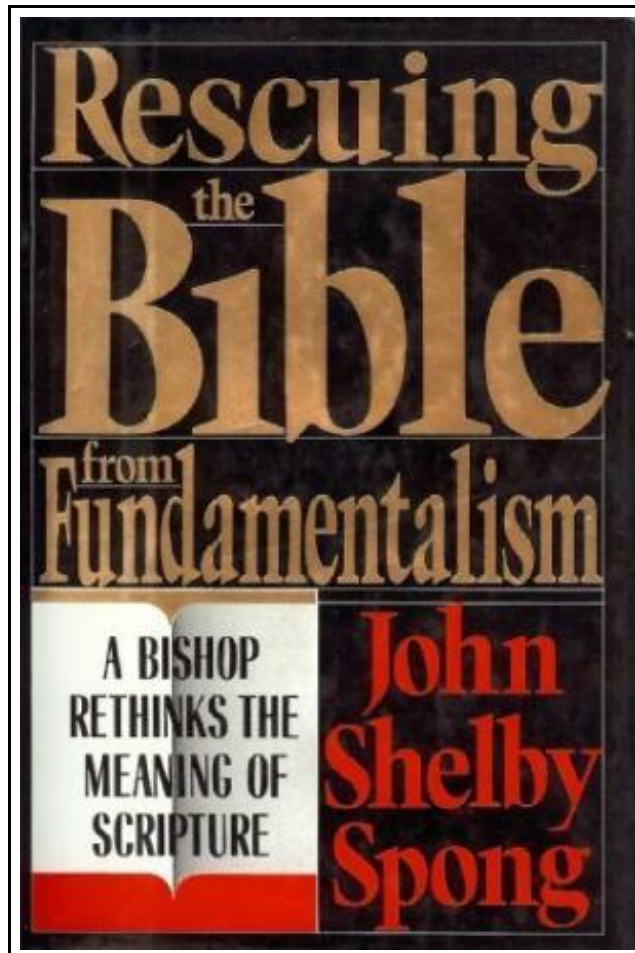


## Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture



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Harpercollins, 1991. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: Chapter One A Preamble: Sex Drove Me to the Bible Sex drove me to the Bible! This statement is literally true, but not in the sense that most would interpret it. In 1988 my book entitled *Living in Sin? A Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality* was published by Harper and Row. In that book I was led to question traditional religious attitudes and traditional religious definitions on a wide variety of sexual issues, from homosexuality to premarital living arrangements. There was an immediate outcry from conservative religious circles in defense of something they called biblical morality. Proof Texting and Prejudice This appeal to the Bible to justify and to sustain an attitude that was clearly passing away had a very familiar ring to me. I grew up in America's segregated South with its rich evangelical biblical heritage. Time after time I heard the Bible quoted to justify segregation. I was told that Ham, Noah's son, had looked on Noah in his nakedness, and for this sin he had been cursed to servitude and slavery along with all his progeny (Gen. 9:25-27). It did not occur to those quoting this Scripture to raise questions about what kind of God was assumed in this verse, or whether or not they could worship such a God. Since they could not identify themselves with those who were the victims of this cruelty, the God to whom they ascribed this victimizing power did not appear to them to be seriously compromised. It also did not seem to matter that this corporate condemnation of millions of people to servitude because of their ancestor's indiscretion might also contradict other parts of the sacred text. The prophet Ezekiel, for example, writes: "What do...

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