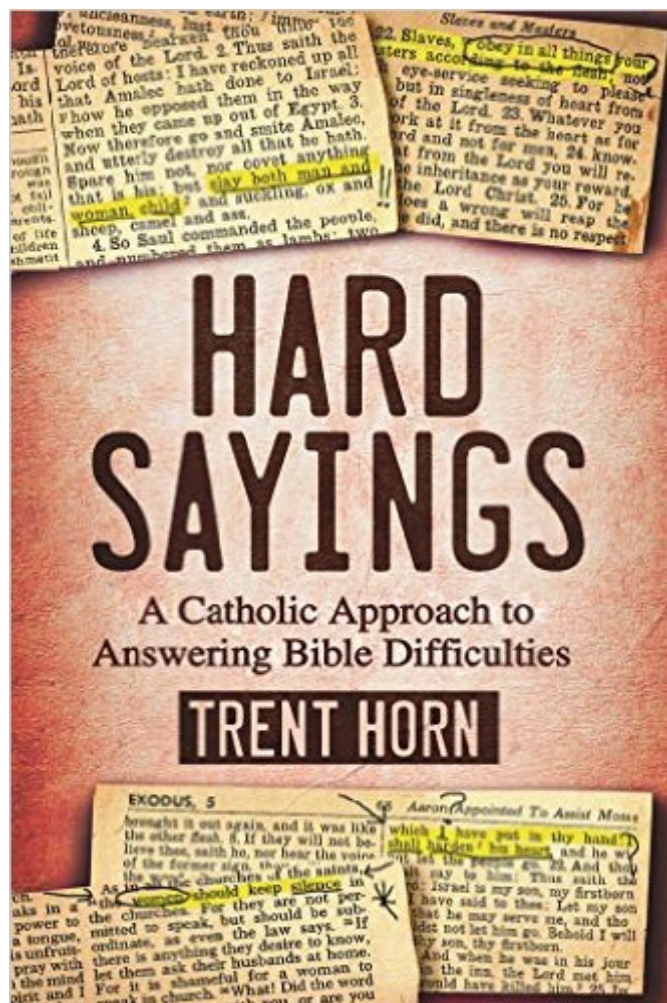# Hard Sayings: A Catholic Approach To Answering Bible Difficulties

Synopsis

Have you ever read something in the Bible and just scratched your head, or been challenged by a skeptic to explain a seemingly scandalous verse? You re not alone. The Bible contains more than a few hard sayings (John 6:60): ancient idioms, apparent contradictions, myth-like events and figures, and passages that seem to be embarrassingly out of step with modern culture or science. Trent Horn can help. In Hard Sayings, Trent looks at dozens of the most confounding passages in Scripture and offers clear, reasonable, and Catholic keys to unlocking their true meaning.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an intelligent, well-nuanced response to all those critical of Christianity's claim that the Bible is completely free from error.In the course of just over 300 pages, Horn takes the reader through a tour-de-force of biblical difficulties. In the process of answering these difficulties he illuminates 17 rules for Bible reading that will keep us from reaching wrong interpretive conclusions as well as pointing the way to answering questions posed by others.What kind of matters does Horn tackle? The work is divided into answering three kinds of objections raised against Scripture:1) External difficulties - where the Bible appears to make statements at odds with today's science or independent historical records. Examples:Genesis' seven days of creation are at odds with the theory of evolutionIn Leviticus 11:13-19 bats are mistakenly identified as a type of birdsThe Bible teaches the existence of mythical creatures such as unicorns (Job 39:9-10).Lack of archaeological evidences disproves the Exodus narrative.2) Internal difficulties - where one passage of the Bible

seems to contradict another passage. Examples:Differences between the different gospels' accounts of Jesus' baptism and resurrection.Differences in the lists of the twelve apostles (Matt 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16).Did Jesus expel the money changers from the Temple at the beginning (John 2:11-25) or end (Matthew, Mark, Luke) of His public ministry?The Bible's use of anthropomorphic language, such as attributing a human emotion, jealousy, to God.3) Moral difficulties - where God appears to command or endorse a moral evil.

Whenever Trent Horn of Catholic Answers releases a new book I am always eager to read it. This time around he writes about Bible difficulties taking a systematic approach to approaching these difficulties and hard sayings.Hard Sayings: A Catholic Approach to Answering Bible DifficultiesI have read some books in this area, but as Trent Horn notes there is generally little by Catholic on the subject in recent times. I read and enjoyed Free from All Error: Authorship Inerrancy Historicity of Scripture, Church Teaching, and Modern Scripture Scholars from the late Fr. Most. Still this is an area that continuously needs to be addressed especially as the new atheism takes a fundamentalist jab at scriptural passages.What I most like about this book is that it builds up a series of rules to use in interpretation and then recaps these 16 rules at the end. This book does not start out at the gate at looking at â œcampaigns of genocideâ •, but starts out looking a the Catholic view of scriptural interpretation. This is a necessary start which flows to the rest of the book. Understanding the canon of scripture and how it developed along with the various genres scripture uses.This book does not attempt to go through every supposed difficulties but develops the rules using many well-known difficulties and the paths to resolve them. As is often the case there often multiple paths in understanding scripture and ways to resolve what at first seem to be stumbling blocks. Using these rules you are provide a template in resolving apparent contradictions. This does not mean that you might personally come up with a solution to such passages that you will perfectly satisfying. But it does help to see more in such paths to understanding.

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