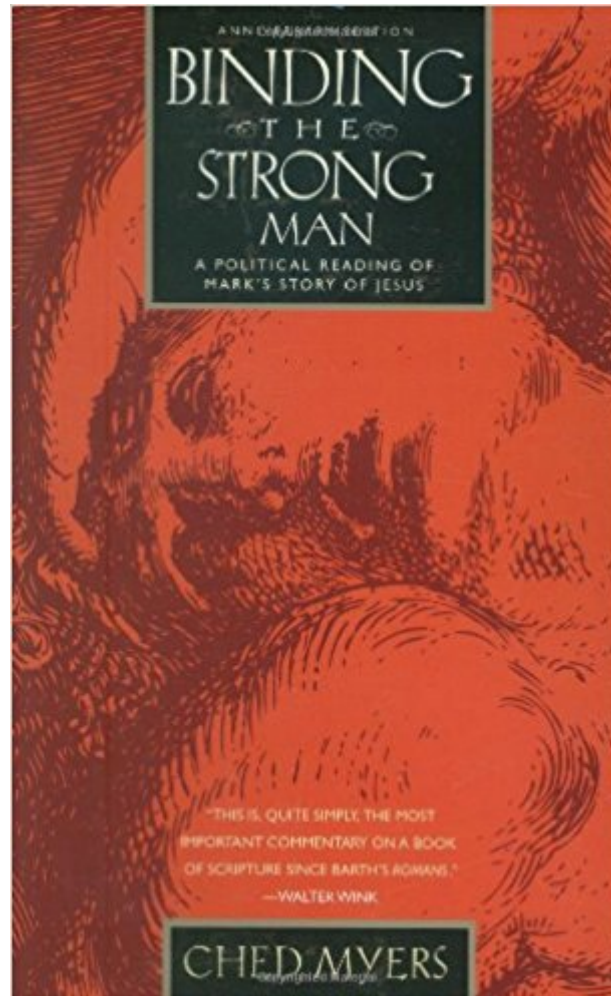




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Binding The Strong Man: A Political Reading Of Mark's Story Of Jesus



Synopsis

Since its publication in 1988, *Binding the Strong Man* has been widely recognized as a landmark in contemporary biblical criticism. Applying a multidisciplinary approach called socio-literary method, Myers integrates literary criticism, socio-historical exegesis, and political hermeneutics in his investigation of Mark as a manifesto of radical discipleship.

Book Information

Paperback: 500 pages

Publisher: Orbis Books; Anniversary ed. edition (October 30, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1570757976

ISBN-13: 978-1570757976

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #91,744 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Reference >

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Customer Reviews

This is one of the three books I wish I had read during seminary; but I have decided that in God's infinite wisdom, I was not introduced to it then because I didn't have the background to appreciate it until now. Myers finds too much Christian Bible study focused on private anguish and heaven - while our "world hangs in the balance on an imperial cross of violence and oppression." (14) In addition to his goal of forging a new methodological approach to the Gospels, Myers says his second goal was to "challenge traditional spiritualized or dogmatic readings of the Gospel in our First World churches, in order to promote discipleship as the core of Christian faith rather than either decisionism (the tendency of evangelicalism) or denominationalism (the tendency of liberalism). This he does in spades! His analysis looks at historical and sociological backgrounds, semantic fields, the ideology of Mark's form, narrative strategy of apocalyptic, the effect of narrative sites, and Mark's wonderful use of intertextual allusions to the LXX, among many other considerations. The book is dense, but delightful, and parses the Gospel in great detail. I could read only about 10 pages at a time, but it was well worth it. His socio-political analysis turns many traditional interpretations of Gospel

passages on their (deaf) ears. Having read this book, I will never read any of the gospels the same way again.

This is maze-like in its writing and outlook, but Myers offers something out of the ordinary as far as commentaries are concerned and the only comparison one might make is that it is like Barth's Epistle to the Romans insofar as it is a deep, dense, solid, passionate wrestling with the text from a liberation perspective. Recommended for those who want to think about the gospel of Mark in a new, different way. There is steak on every page!

Christians and non-Christians alike: leave your preconceived notions at the door if you are able and learn how and why Mark, the earliest of the written good news evangelists, wrote his Gospel story. And more importantly, what that Gospel says to us today. Binding the Strong Man is not for the faint of heart as it is a lengthy, comprehensively researched, exposition of Mark's Gospel which challenges most of the readings that went before. But it speaks directly to the genesis and depth of the problems that the world faces today. I sadly conclude that we in the "First World" are no more ready to hear this message than were the people when Jesus walked the earth 2000 years ago.

I haven't read all of it yet because it's more of a commentary on the gospel of Mark and really good for studying the gospel of Mark. It's slow going as it really goes into detail but very well explained. I would recommend anyone interested in studying the gospels to get it.

This brings a valuable and deep perspective to the New Testament. Anyone wanting a robust view of the complexities of the gospel of Mark would be well served by reading this book.

A scholarly look at the Gospel of Mark from a political perspective.

Great!

Well written, yet as I was perusing the material I realize that the author glossed over in part two the distinction between "the Son of Man" and "the Son of God". And several of my classmates had issue with that concept.

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