



Time and the Word: Figural Reading of the Christian Scriptures

Ephraim Radner

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This book by Ephraim Radner constitutes the first significant theological account of the foundations and methods of the figural reading of Scripture. Radner's reintroduces contemporary scholars to a traditional approach to biblical interpretation that dates back to Jewish practice from before the time of Jesus. Figural interpretation continued in prominence through the early church, the Middle Ages, and into the early modern period before it was forcefully rejected with the rise of historical criticism.

Embracing "spiritual" and "allegorical" ways of understanding the Bible, figural reading once offered a broad approach to reading Scripture—an approach that Radner here engages through a foundational theological lens. Radner first uncovers the theological presuppositions of figural reading, historically and philosophically, focusing especially on the Christian understanding of time and the divine. He then moves from the theoretical to the concrete, looking at examples of how figural reading of the Bible gives rise to specific doctrinal claims about God and showing how it can still fruitfully inform Christian teaching and preaching today. The book concludes with four sample figural sermons from across the centuries.

Time and the Word: Figural Reading of the Christian Scriptures Details

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Author : Ephraim Radner

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Tyler Holley says

Great book! Such a refreshing read in light of the hegemony that the historical-critical school has over our work. Add some theology to your interpretation life, and get this book.

Micah says

Let me state upfront that Radner's prose is insane. It is as if he learned to write from Kant himself. His sentences are almost always needlessly confusing, and it can be dizzying to read large sections at a time. That being said, I find it impossible to deduct any stars from this work. Radner embarks on the ambitious project of providing a metaphysic of scriptural reading and, wonder of wonders, actually succeeds. This book helps makes Scripture thicker, and certainly helped to open my eyes to its intense power and beauty.
