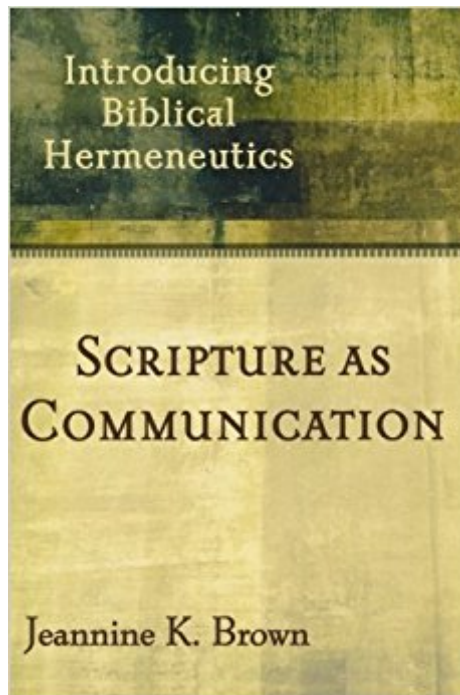




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Scripture As Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics



Synopsis

Is the Bible just a book of ancient Israelite and Christian history and practices to be read? Or are we engaging in a more interactive practice when we study God's word? Jeannine K. Brown believes that communication is at the heart of what we do when we open the Bible, that we are actively engaging God in a conversation that can be life changing. By learning about how Scripture communicates, modern readers can extract much more meaning out of the text than they could if simply reading the Bible as though it was a list of rules or a collection of stories. In *Scripture as Communication*, Brown offers professors, students, church leaders, and laity a basic guide to the theory and practice of biblical interpretation, helping them understand our engagement with Scriptures as primarily a communicative act.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A helpful introduction to biblical interpretation that begins in the right place--the question of the nature of the text--and stays in focus throughout. Brown's emphasis on meaning as communicative act enables her to take the best from several models of interpretation and to do justice to author, text, and reader alike. Moreover, because it strikes a judicious balance between attending to issues and particular New Testament texts, this book combines the best of both the theoretical and the practical hermeneutical worlds."--Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School"Jeannine Brown has proven herself to be a reliable guide for those committed to serious engagement with Christian Scripture. Complex issues are clearly explained. Controversial issues receive fair-minded

treatment. Talk about interpretation is coupled with examples of interpretation. Scripture as Communication will be attractive both to students beginning the journey of biblical interpretation and to those already well on the way."--Joel B. Green, Asbury Theological Seminary

"This book contributes substantially to the current conversation within Christianity on interpretation theories and biblical hermeneutics. By grounding her communicative model in the incarnation, Brown convincingly combines truth and interpretive method, and she does so with impressive clarity and ease. Without any loss of depth, she clarifies complex ideas with the help of excellent illustrations that make this book accessible to anyone from pastors to students to experts in the field. A significant achievement!"--Jens Zimmermann, Trinity Western University

"In an engaging and conversational style, Jeannine Brown addresses the complexities of hermeneutics and explains how an understanding of those complexities can help readers develop a healthy hermeneutical self-consciousness as they read Scripture, God's communicative act. She defines important terms and addresses major hermeneutical theories, providing a realistic appraisal of hermeneutical challenges while also offering positive, practical guidelines. Above all, Brown reminds us that reading Scripture is learning to discern a communicative act initiated by God."--Peter Enns, Westminster Theological Seminary

"Brown has written an excellent text for hermeneutics classes that is clear and well organized and reveals a superb mastery of the material. Understanding texts as a form of communication rather than as art is a helpful correction to recent trends in interpretation."--Robert H. Stein, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Jeannine K. Brown (Ph.D., Luther Seminary) is associate professor of New Testament and associate academic dean at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. She is the author of *The Disciples in Narrative Perspective: The Portrayal and Function of the Matthean Disciples* and contributed to *The Baker Illustrated Bible Commentary*.

I read this for a CCEF class I took on hermeneutics. For such a small book, it's wonderfully dense. I feel bad for giving it four stars instead of five, so let that be a reflection on me instead of the book. Brown does a great job of surveying different theories of communication and bringing out the best qualities of each while noting their deficiencies. I have zero background in the theories she brings up, so in some respects, I felt I was learning a foreign language. There were many concepts and related terminology that were introduced to me, and to her credit, Brown is a very clear writer who is more than able to define and illustrate these concepts. My problem was just remembering all of these things as I moved through the book. Each chapter builds upon the previous chapter, so that

does help with integration. If you have some background in speech-act theory or related theories, you'll have an easier time. If you don't, I think this would serve as a really good introduction, but you'll have to move slowly to take it all in.

Though difficult concepts are introduced to those of us who are not literary scholars, I found persevering with this book very satisfying. As a result have read her next one with colleagues on *Becoming whole and Holy*. Both books testaments to the rigorous scholarship of thoughtful courageous women, who wish to challenge us to read with our minds and hearts open and vulnerable to change and transformation. Wonderful.

Recommended book for my Herm. Course. Highly recommended to gain a short, introductory overview of Herm.

I have enjoyed this book and highly recommend it. She has looked at the different theories in communication which affect the interpretation of scripture and has helped us to understand how these can be used in our personal study. Just the book I was looking for. P.K.D.Lee

I love it!

Helped me and others. Highly recommended. Helpful tips, insightful ideas. One of my textbooks. This is the one that I recommend.

An excellent book.

I had to read this for a seminary class and the best and worst of seminary are true of the book. The author is surely a wonderful sister in the Lord and would be welcome in my home anytime, but the book is overloaded with details and name dropping to massive extents. I don't really care about 20 other scholars' opinions on this or that or the other thing, although this book (especially the first half) is full of those kinds of references. The most valuable thing in the book are her examples which generally really do make her point well. If she would have provided very brief descriptions of issues and used her examples to drive home the content the book would have been a far easier read and much shorter. In fact, 80% of the best content could have been covered in about 40 pages rather than the 300 or so in this volume and that would be a book I'd be highly recommending.

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