

Postmodern Use of the Bible: The Emergence of Reader-Oriented Criticism

Edgar V. McKnight



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Postmodern Use of the Bible: The Emergence of Reader-Oriented Criticism Edgar V. McKnight Harry Emerson Fosdick's classic volume entitled 'The Modern Use of the Bible' enabled readers in the first part of this century to make the pilgrimage into the 'modern' era and to understand the Bible in an idiom informed by critical and historical assumptions and approaches. The exchange of the historical context for the dogmatic transformed biblical study into an exciting discipline both spiritually and intellectually. The critical distancing of the text in the historical approach, however, has gradually trnasformed biblical writings into museum pieces without contemporary relevance. For contemporary readers, a satisfying approach cannot be uncritical, but it must move beyond the critical. 'Postmodern Use of the Bible' encourages a continual pilgrimage. In this book, readers are provided resources to enable them to make sense for themselves, in the light of challenges to major critical assumptions and strategies of 'The Modern Use of the Bible' The same goal is in mind-to allow the Bible to speak in a contemporary idiom. -from the Introduction Contents Introduction 1. How Have We Made Sense of the Bible? 2. Toward the Postmodern 3. Literary Perspectives and Resources for Postmodern Use: Structures, Codes, and the Readers 4. The Role of the Reader: Imaging the Sacred 5. The Role of the Reader: Actualizing of Biblical Discourse Conclusion

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