

Notes on the Chinese Translation of This Book

The First and the Second pages under the Front Cover: (11-12-2021)

Progressive Christianity.org and Marxism understanding of history and science.

Readers: This book 《Rescuing The Bible from Fundamentalism》 1991, was a great book written by Bishop John Spong after his careful study and deep thinking. It had been translated into all the other languages in the world, except being translated into Chinese language, until 2021. Therefore, why would the Bible be needed for rescue under Fundamentalism? We must go back 1600 years to the 4th century under the Roman Empire. Most people do not know that, including Jesus, tens and thousands of the original Christian leaders had been persecuted and killed during the first three centuries (Please see the addendum on the list of 73 of them). But the King of the Roman Empire noticed that the number of the Christians had increased from about one million to about six millions during those three hundred years. Thus, the Romans decided to force the people into the faith of their Romanized Catholic religion, with the King of the Romans being the New Pope. The Romanized Bible became the combination of the old and the new testaments, saying that God had written every word in it, and that no one is allowed to doubt or change any of it.(Read this book). The Pope in the Vatican had the right to kill those who claimed otherwise. And the money donated by all Catholic churches in the world must be sent to the Vatican. Although after the change in the New China in 1949, those Chinese churches no longer need to send donations to the Pope, the new constructions of churches in China are still built under the Roman style today. These buildings have nothing to do with Jesus. And the Romanized belief in the Bible by these Christian Fundamentalists, neither follow the truth in the History, nor follow the current understanding of science today.

They don't know that the old testament had been written by Jewish priests in Hebrew, mostly about 600 years before Jesus was born, and the four Gospels in the New Testament were written from 40 to 70 years after Jesus was killed. Yet none of those Gospels were written by eyewitnesses. For example, Matthew wrote the birth story of Jesus 80 years after the birth of the child.

In May, 2018, in order to hold a National Memorial for the 200th year of Karl Heinrich Marx, Chairman Xi Jinping gave an important speech. He said, “As it turns out, the life of Marxism has already become the life of China and the Chinese Communism, and it has tightly bound up with our own lives. Its scientific truth has been fully tested in China since 1949.” He quoted Friedrich Engels saying, “A Nation must stand on the top of Scientific truth; She cannot for one minute abandon the logic of Science”. Chairman Xi also said, “We must completely master the dialectical materialism and the historical materialism in their world view and their methodology.”

Therefore, our book 《Rescuing The Bible from Fundamentalism》seems to abide by the Marxism understanding of history and science.

Cover Page has kept the original cover page in English:

Chinese Translation of Bishop John Spong 《Rescuing The Bible from Fundamentalism》

Page 3 under inside cover

The Chinese Title is: 《如何拯救圣经》 (How to rescue the Bible)

Note: Fundamentalism = 基要主义 in Chinese; but no one in China understands that word. Everyone is a Fundamentalist who claims to be a Christian in China.

The sub title under the Chinese title : “要用历史与科学研读圣经” = (We must use history and Science to study the Bible)

Page 3. John Shelby Spong = 约翰 萧笔 思鹏恩 in Chinese

The rest of this page is the translated inside cover of the original book.

Page 4: 魏樂 The Translator, Eugene Lo Wei (An American Presbyterian Elder)

The representative of ProgressiveChristian.org in China

Page 5: I have used the last part of the original preface: “I save onr person for special mention.Wanda Corwin Hollenbeckin large script.

Dedication to Christine Mary Spong

Page. 7: Contents

Including the Preface ,

All 14 chapters in the original book plus the Epilogue .

Plus the Addenda (附录)

Page 8 to Pages 13(The book p. 1 to p.6) Translation of the original Preface.

Page 14 (Book p. 7) God is a Spirit

God didn't write the Bible. The authors of the Torah were not written by Moses; they were written by the Jewish priests, mostly around 600 BC, or about 600 years before Jesus was born, after the Babylonians captured the Jews (BC597~ 538).

Then the New Testament books were written many years after Jesus had died; and they were put together by some of the surviving disciples of Jesus in the second century.

Page 15 to 26(Book 8 to 19th) Chapter 1 of the original.

Page 26 (Book 20) Translated from (The Underlying Issues: Language and Concept) The first paragraph only. In large scripts.

Page 27 to 40 (Book 21 to 34) Chapter 2

Page 41 (Book 35) The story of Galileo in 1632, when he published 《Concerning the two systems between Ptolemy and Nicolaus Copernicus》 and discussed the three questions in his book: 1. His proof of the earth in motion; 2. Supplemented the theory of Copernicus; 3. The Earth's tides. Then Galileo announced the bankruptcy of Ptolemy's theory on the Earth Center. Since this new book had actually shaken up the Authority of the highest Church, the Pope ordered a long term prison for Galileo. Then in 1991, the Pope finally apologized. All of this in large script.

Page 42 to 52 (Book 36 to 46) Chapter 3.

Page 53 (Book 47) Most of the Biblical scholars have agreed to place the initial writings in the Old Testament in Jerusalem right after the death of King David, or around BC 960. Bishop Spong says, "If this were true, then everything concerning Torah, Moses, and the first five books of the Bible would be dated to about three hundred years prior to Moses's time."

Unfortunately, most of the Fundamentalists still believe in the tradition of the old Hebrew stories.

In comparison, BC 960 was about 400 years before Confucius. However, the Chinese Bone Oracles had been started about 1600 BC.

(All this is in large scripts.)

Page 54 to 71 (Book 48 to 65) Chapter 4

Page 72 to 84 (Book 66 to 78) Chapter 5

Page 85-95 (Book 79 – 89) Chapter 6

Page 96-109 (Book 90–103) Chapter 7

Page 110-126 (Book 104-120) Chapter 8

Page 127-143 (Book 121-137) Chapter 9

Page 144-161 (Book 138-155) Chapter 10

Page 162-176 (Book 156-170) Chapter 11

Page 177-197 (Book 171-191) Chapter 12

Page 198-212 (Book 192-206) Chapter 13

Page 213-229 (Book 207-223) Chapter 14

Page 230-233 (Book 224-227) Epilogue

Page 234 and (Book 228) The Start of the Addenda

Page 234 and (Book 229) Introduction of Eugene the Translator

Page 235 and (Book 230) The Representative of ProgressiveChristianity.org in China, Elder Eugene Lo Wei

Page 236 and (Book 231) Copy Right of this Book in China

Page 237-240 (Book 232-235) 1. My Comment to Rev. Brandan Robertson 06032021.

2. My comment to the “Revisitation to China” by Bishop John Spong.

Page 241-258 (Book 236-253) My letter to the State Administration of Religious Affairs of PRC in Beijing. (January 2019)

Page 259-271 (Book 254-266) Under PtogressiveChristianity.org, we must use history and science to look at Jesus and his work/ life

Page 272-278 (Book 267-273) My attempt to answer:

“Why did Jesus send his disciples out to preach with neither food, nor extra clothing, nor a second pair of shoes, nor any money ?”

Later Additions

Page 279-298 (Book 274-291) Digester: Bishop Spong 2011 年 03-03 《研究耶稣受难的故事之一》 to 《研究耶稣受难的故事之七》 (The Real Story of the Crucifixion of Jesus in Seven series) Translated by Eugene Lo Wei.

A HISTORY OF MARTYRDOM:

Page 299-329 (Book 292-322) In addition to Jesus, we have the names of 73 other disciples who had been persecuted and killed in the first century.

We know more than thousands of Christian disciples were killed by the 4th century. This must have caused the Roman Empire to begin its Roman Catholic religion which evolved into the Christian Creed today.

Page 333-337 (Book 323-330) The Map of Israel

Page 338-340 (Book 331-333) List of 25 books published by Bishop John Spong

The Memorial of Bishop John Shelby Spong

Page 341-349 and (Book 334-342)

Back Cover of this Book, Five examples plus the picture of Bishop Spong

With Chinese “耶稣生于公元前四年，他是人民的英雄。他被犹太教的祭司认为是亵渎神，但是却被罗马帝国的兵丁杀害，孤独而死”

(Jesus was born in BC 04 and died in AD 30. He was a Hero of the People. He was tried by the Jewish Sanhedrin)