

Johns, Cheryl Bridges. *Re-Enchanting the Text: Discovering the Bible as Sacred, Dangerous, and Mysterious*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023.

PHC > COG (Clev, TN) > PHC / *Pedagogy among the Oppressed / Menopause*

- Practical Theology: Prophet (Feminism, Racism, Exceptionalism), Ecumenist, Married to Jackie!

## CHAPTER 1 STRANGE SILENCE OF THE BIBLE - DISENCHANTMENTS

“Americans are in danger of losing the imaginative and linguistic world of the Bible” (Burge, 3).  
“The modern version of the Bible is a different sort of Scripture than in ages past. Its words do not haunt us, filling our days with images and stories. It does not satisfy our longing for mystery. ... It is a disenchanted text” (3).

### SECULAR DISENCHANTMENT:

- “N. T. Wright notes that ‘**the Enlightenment** (whose leading thinkers included Hume, Voltaire, Thomas Jefferson, and Kant) was in fact, for the most part, an anti-Christian movement.’ (3–4) & “Acts of God (Taylor, 5).
  - BUT (not so fast) - Positive developments: science, medicine, ease, comfort, communication.
- **OBJECTIVITY**: The Universe no longer enchanted becomes the object rather than the subject (6).
- **REASON**: Descartes: “I think therefore I am.”
- **DEISM**: Perhaps deism says less about God, because humans don’t need God.
- Discuss: implications of new charges against **Neoplatonism** (6)
- **INDUSTRIALIZATION / BEAUCRACY**
  - Weber: “He understood that creation of the secular state had called humanity out of the ‘enchanted garden,’ filled with mystery and wonder, into a more bureaucratic, secularized place, where there was little room for such things.” (9)
- **SCIENCE**:
  - Weber (1917) ‘The fate of our times is characterized by rationalization, and above all, by the ‘disenchantment of the world,’” If students want to be scientists, noted Weber, then they must learn to bear the burden of disenchantment. They must abandon the old superstitious beliefs of religion. True scientists are to be astute, logical, and disinterested in religion. They should learn to trust only in scientific reasoning and take their place as makers of history without the supernaturalism of days past. ... During the ensuing years, many eager Christian students faced the terrible choice between Christianity and science.’ (9)

## **CHRISTIAN – and Pentecostal – DISENCHANTMENT**

- “Conservatives disdained the supernatural as much as if not more than secularists” (13).

## **LIBERALISM / HIGHER CRITICISM**

- “What is often missed is that this great effort to be scientific led to the rise within Protestantism of both fundamentalism and liberalism. ... The scientific era offered liberals and conservatives alike the intoxicating power to reduce truth to its ‘factual essence.’ ... scholars turned to the Bible to find ‘proof’ and ‘evidence’ of their belief in the validity of the Scriptures.” (11)

## **REJECT NEW SCIENCE – Darwinism.**

## **FUNDAMENTALISM / INERRANCY**

- Scopes Monkey Trial
- Synoptic Problem – Harmony of the Gospels
- McDowell, “Evidence” / Creation
- Jonah
- Authorship of Pentateuch

**CESSATIONISM** “‘Counterfeit Miracles,’ ... Warfield lamented that Athanasius’s *Life of Anthony* had such a romantic effect on Christianity. ... In Warfield’s estimation, Scripture was the infallible witness to Christ. It was the perfect historical witness, a scientific record of truth. Warfield’s Christianity needed no more miracles.” (14)

- TODAY – McArthur – Cessationist Conference – OCT 2023 – Really.

## **DESACRAMENTALIZE**

- – PCCNA / USCCB planetarium experience
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PENTECOSTALS become a friend and a foe.

We are dangerous

We are enthusiastic, anti-intellectual.

We read the Bible differently (Pentecostal Hermeneutics – remember Geoff Sutton)

We were poised for postmodernity.

YET – We are caught in this web.

## **JOHNS’ PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL: INDUCTIVE BIBLE READING**

- Wilbert W. White (1863-1944) – Biblical Seminary, NY. (Eugene Petersen grad)  
“The Church produced the Bible.... And the Bible produced the church.”  
They bear both our human and the divine hands.