



Wisdom from the Bible's Most Scandalous Passages: Part I

In the course of five Wednesday evenings spread over five weeks, we will read together some of the most perplexing passages of the Bible and discover that the Bible is a surprisingly reliable guide even where it appears most strange. All meetings will last exactly one hour and will be held over Zoom at 7:30PM. The only preparation required will be for participants to read each story in advance of our gathering (or at least some of it) and come ready to talk about it. If you cannot come to all sessions, know that you are welcome to drop in wherever you can.

The Rev. Dr. Paul Kolbet

Schedule, Part 1:

February 24: Introduction: Let the Bible Teach You How to Read It

March 3: Origin Stories: Creation and “Fall”, Cain’s Murders of Abel, Tower of Babel
Prereading: *Genesis* 1:1-4:16, 11:1-9

March 10: Biblical Genocide?: Joshua’s Holy Wars and the Language of Violence
Prereading: *Joshua* 1-13, 18:1-10, 20, 23-24; *Judges* 2:1-5

March 17: Desiring the Common Good: Sex and Gender Roles in Scripture
Prereading: *Genesis* 3:1-21, *Judges* 4 & 5 (Deborah and Jael), *Leviticus* 18, 19:29 (Sex rules), *Romans* 16:1-16 (look for women’s names, including “Apostle Junia”), 1 *Corinthians* 5:1-8, 6:9–11, 7:1-6, 11:2-16 (a letter of Paul to a Greek congregation arguing among themselves about all this and Paul tries to help them find a path forward),

March 24: The End is Near: Much Misunderstood Apocalyptic Literature
Prereading: *Daniel* 7-8, *Revelation*

A second slate of passages will likely appear as Part II later this year and include the questionable morality of the patriarchs in *Genesis*, the love poetry of the *Song of Songs*, strange actions by prophets, and hard sayings of Jesus.