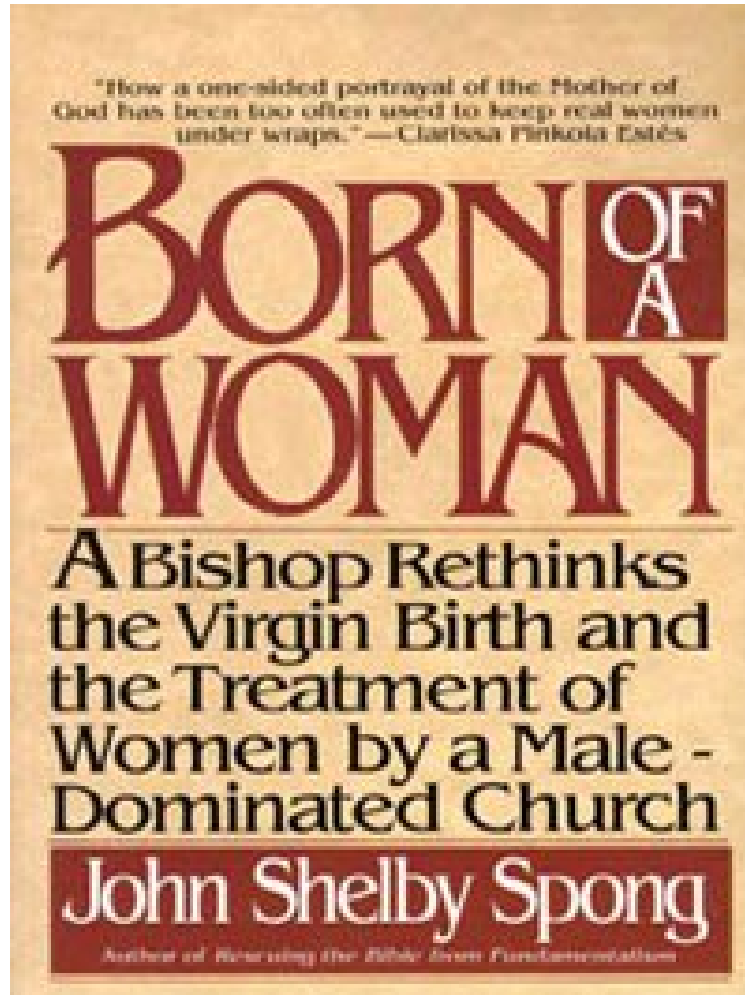


(Free pdf) Born of a Woman

## Born of a Woman

Von John Shelby Spong  
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**Von John Shelby Spong : Born of a Woman** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Born of a Woman:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Hard questions to face, necessary to expand one's faithVon W.D. PeckenpaughThis will be a very difficult book for some people. Even I, as an Old Catholic [Old Catholics do not place as much emphasis on Marian devotion as do our Roman Catholic brethren], was initially uncomfortable with the notion of a non-virgin Mary. Wasn't that essential to the essence of who Jesus was?Bishop Spong answers an emphatic "No," and then does much more. He gives, in an abbreviated manner, an introduction to the problems of strict literalism when reading the Bible (a condensed version of his book Rescuing the Bible From Fundamentalism). Further, he explores the radical changes in attitude toward women that occurred in the very early church: Hebrew law and custom treated women as little more than property;

Jesus treated women as equals (gasp!), and called them to full participation in the Kingdom of God; the early post-Jesus church had, by necessity, many women in positions of authority and leadership; the "later early church" manages to once more put women back in "their place," and Mary becomes the "poster girl" for womanly submission and obedience to male authority. One area many people will have trouble with is the debate over Mary's perpetual virginity, from Jesus' conception to her death. From Spong's works, as well as other readings and study, I envision something similar to St. Paul's "circumcision of the heart": Mary's "virginity of the spirit." The historical fact of Mary retaining perpetual virginity is less important (unimportant, actually) than the spiritual character she retained. In this way, I can agree with many of Spong's observations, yet still find meaning and truth in Marian devotions (the Rosary, for example). A useful book, and I recommend it. It's time women once again took their rightful place in the Church, as Jesus (witnessed in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles) intended.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Revealed: A way to interpret Biblical meaning Von Ein Kunde This book gives insight into an interesting way of interpreting the meaning of Biblical content and also provides its authors conclusions. I think that the title "Born of A Woman" characterizes the theme of the author's research pathway regarding the origins of Jesus of Nazareth, the man, as told in the gospels. The title does not reveal much about his conclusions regarding the negative effects of masculine church leadership and perpetuation of the 'Virgin Mary' myths which have dominated the Christian churches since their original formulation. The reader of this opus does not have to agree with the author's conclusions. For those, like me, who feel the need to embody Christian principles in real life as important contributions to human(e) endeavor but feel skeptical in the face of literal interpretation of Biblical stories, Spong provides a lens to view the information authored nearly two thousand years ago that is refreshing and revealing. Undoubtedly, his perspective is not totally original but it is very useful to me and I think it will be to many others. I have seen just a bit of the orthodox and fundamentalist critics of Spong's work. I can understand their points intellectually but I cannot agree with some of their intolerance toward adjusting our understanding of Biblical meaning and Christian faith as civilization unavoidably marches on. For insight as to my thoughts as I read this book: I believe in the approach to the Bible that emphasizes seeking an answer to "What does the story mean?" Personally, I am not very interested (any more) in "Why did it happen?" or "Is it literally true?" Spong's book is aimed at impressing folks who recognize the differences among these questions and want to seek answers to all of them.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. How to read this. Von Ein Kunde If we are men, do we not think of our mothers as sacred and virginal (pure)? As women we shall think likewise, or aspire to become one, even if we live in the shadow of a patriarchal society. Remember how during the Passion, Jesus insisted that we practice tolerance and forgive those who offend us, even if we are on the verge of death? Our customs, Church history, and Church orthodoxy have not led us in this path. Instead, we are bigots, intolerant, racist, paranoid, cannot accept someone else's opinion, xenophobic and egocentric. To sum it up, we're typical Americans. BRAVO Bishop Spong, you are an enlightening force, sowing the change with great courage and love!

Kurzbeschreibung John Shelby Spong, bestselling author and Episcopal bishop of Newark, NJ, challenges the doctrine of the virgin birth, tracing its development in the early Christian church and revealing its legacy in our contemporary attitudes toward women and female sexuality. From Library Journal Spong, an Episcopal bishop and best-selling author ( *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism* , HarperSanFrancisco: HarperCollins, 1991), provides a courageous look at the biblical stories of the birth of Jesus, and their implications. Spong is careful to acknowledge previous scholars and to distinguish fact or knowledge from speculation. He encourages a midrashish or imaginative approach to the Gospels and points out how literalism of scripture and creed in the Virgin Mary references led to sexism in church teaching. This book is a marvelous combination of scholarly, speculative, and imaginative reflection written in language accessible to the theologically unsophisticated. Highly recommended. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. Pressestimmen How a one-sided portrayal of the Mother of God has been used to keep real women under wraps. (Clarissa Pinkola Ests, author of *Women Who Run With the Wolves*) Spong restores a flesh-and-blood humanity to the mother of Jesus. (Ron Hansen, author of *Mariette in Ecstasy*) A marvelous combination of scholarly, speculative, and imaginative reflection written in language accessible to the theologically unsophisticated. Highly recommended. (Library Journal)