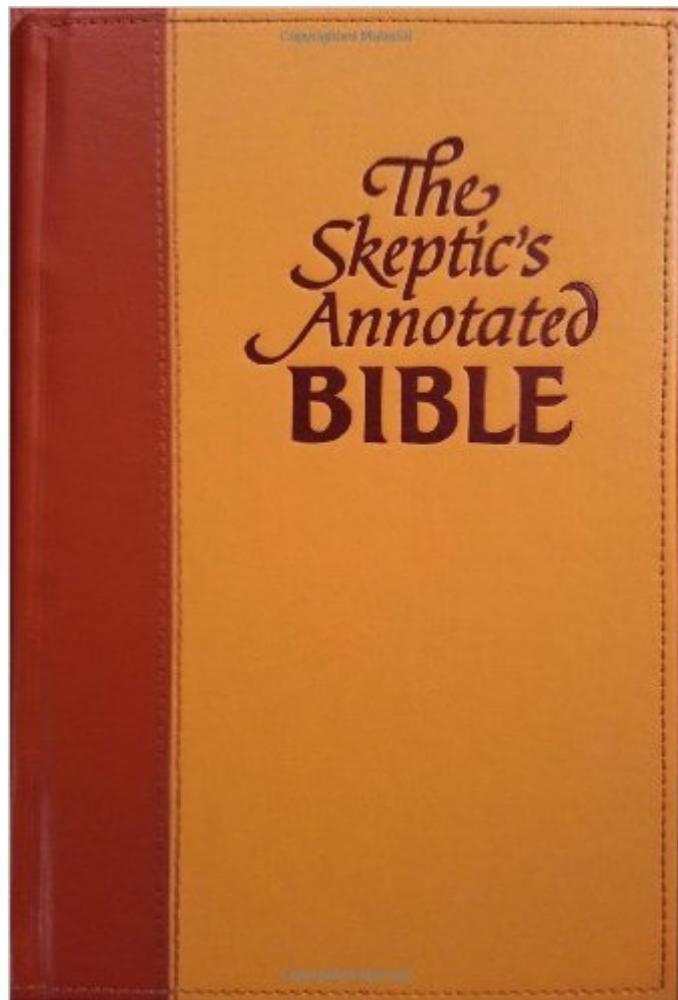


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# The Skeptic's Annotated Bible



## Synopsis

"Finally, Wells has published his famous online resource in book form. This volume belongs in every thinking person's library--and in every hotel room in America..." Sam Harris, author of the New York Times bestsellers The End of Faith, Letter to a Christian Nation, The Moral Landscape, and Free Will.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I had been contemplating purchasing a Thompson Chain-Reference to replace the "Bible-shaped hole" on my bookshelf after leaving the Christian faith over ten years ago, when I found this online. Leafing through the sample (Genesis) on the author's website, I was thrilled and immediately ordered a copy. After receiving it in the mail, I don't think I could possibly be any happier with my decision. When I was a Christian, I was the manager of the book and Bible department for a large religious chain-store, so I've had hands-on experience with hundreds of Bibles and I have to say that the author of the SAB put a lot of time and consideration, both inside and out, to the quality of this item. The leather-like hardcover is beautiful and comfortable to hold, the binding is Smyth-sewn, and the Biblical text and notes are both in attractive, readable fonts which are very easy on the eyes. But what sets this Bible apart is that it's a complete all-in-one Bible/Bible reference designed specifically for skeptics and freethinkers. Make no mistake; from cover to cover (literally!), the Skeptic's Annotated Bible dispenses with the claims of the Bible as inspired, inerrant, non-contradictory, or even a good moral guide. Contradictions (472 of them), absurdities (2178), injustices (1541), cruelties (1316), conflicts with science (428), "family values" (413), insults to

women (384), false prophecies (231), shocking language (186), sexual references (253) and homosexuality (only 25) are all referenced in side-notes next to the Biblical text with accompanying icons for easy identification. To be fair, the SAB also points out the "Good Stuff" - passages in the Bible that convey a positive message (it counts 507, and indicates them with a "thumbs-up" icon).

The Skeptic's Annotated Bible started as a web site. It is full of cross-references and HTML links, especially when it comes to the author's efforts to point out contradictions. For example, the question "Should we fear God?" brings up a whole page of answers to that important question, with the verses linked to their chapter pages so that they can be seen in context. The web site is very well-built in that way. I ordered the hard copy because I thought it would be easier to browse and flip through than the web site, but I found myself sort of annoyed to see the text "Should we fear God?" just sitting there, un-clickable. In the end, I think the digital version is better. If you want to support the author, order the CD-ROM he offers. As for the content itself -- it's pretty thoughtful. I was a Christian until recently and wanted to have a good, hard look at some of the Bible on my way out. There is not much in the commentary that would have affected or surprised me as a believer (I've been there and dealt with those objections much of the time). I found myself wanting to supplement the author's commentary with my own in the margins, which there was plenty of room to do. However, there is a Christopher Hitchens-like appeal to decency screaming from every marginal note. You're supposed to do what to a woman who defends her husband by grabbing her attacker's genitals? Cut her hand off? What? When you read the Bible as a believer, you train yourself to ignore your own observations of how weird stuff like that is, and you ignore the question of why there are such huge portions of the Bible that are not read from the pulpit on Sunday.

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