

ADVANCE COMMENT: *FISH IN THE BIBLE*, BY CARMEN CUSACK, JD, PHD

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Fish in the Bible is a fascinating read precisely because the author does what any good fisherman would: Cusack lures the readers in with something familiar- in this instance each chapter focuses on a narrative or reference that almost any student of religion already knows- and then with a sudden shift she elevates the conversation to a totally different plane, explaining how and why various interpretations arose, and how and why one ought to fish these literary devices themselves to find the deeper meanings hidden below their seemingly clear surface waters. The Bible tells us (Proverbs, 27:19) that, “As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real person,” and Cusack's writing proves that with all of the intentional ambiguity available, a

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person's intuitive understanding of the fish narratives and how they are meant to be internalized probably reflects and says more about their own heart than about the words of the text itself.