



A Hobbit Devotional: Bilbo Baggins and the Bible

Ed Strauss

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If you enjoy J. R. R. Tolkien—even if you're new to his classic stories—you'll love *A Hobbit Devotional* featuring 60 humorous, challenging, and encouraging devotionals. Soon to be a major motion picture, *The Hobbit* has fascinated readers for more than 70 years. Now, this tale of humble folk who overcome fear, discouragement, and despair through steadfastness, courage, and hope forms the basis of a brand-new devotional book. Each reading sketches a scene from *The Hobbit*, relates it to a contemporary life situation you might experience yourself, and brings in the teaching of a relevant Bible story or verse.

A Hobbit Devotional: Bilbo Baggins and the Bible Details

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From Reader Review A Hobbit Devotional: Bilbo Baggins and the Bible for online ebook

Nora St Laurent says

My family is a huge fan of the Lord of the Ring movies. This caught my eye as a devotional my whole family could enjoy and relate to. The Hobbit is the prequel to The Lord of the Ring series of books I like that the devotions start with a quote from the book. One of the devotions that touched my heart was titled Forgetting the Forest. It starts off with a quote from chapter 8 of The Hobbit. "It was not long before they grew to hate the forest...But they had to go on and on, long after they were sick for a sight of the sun and of the sky."

The devotion starts out,"they followed the path through Mirkwood and had also loaned them ponies to ride to the forest's edge....The path was narrow, and the depths it would through were dismal and gloomy even by day, and pitch black at night.....Day after day, they trudged in and out among the trees....They pushed dispiritedly through dimness, longing for a glimpse of sun and sky. It wasn't long before they hated the forest...."

"..God sometimes calls us to tasks where there's a measure of danger or financial insecurity, and it takes faith and courage to stick to the path. Other times, however, He calls us to jobs that provide much more financial security but little to challenge us At such times, it takes strong resolve (and a positive attitude) to stay the course."

The author goes on to quote Gandalf's advice to the dwarves. The author then states the Bible gives similar advice in Hebrews 10:35-36 NKJV He has the scripture there for you to read in the devotion.

I liked how this author talks about the book and movie to drive home a point using scripture. He also leaves readers with a great way to get our minds thinking on what is pure, holy and applicable to our daily walk with God.

If you are a Lord of the Rings fan. I highly recommend this devotion for you and/or your family.

Disclosure of Material Connection:

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St. Laurent

TBCN Where Book Fun Begins! www.bookfun.org

The Book Club Network blog www.psalms16.blogspot.com

Book Fun Magazine www.bookfunmagazine.com

Abigail says

Wonderful reflections throughout. A great snippet of fiction and faith each day.

Kathy Worrell ? says

I love this devotional and it's beautiful cover.

I am a huge fan of The Hobbit; to combine the hobbit with daily devotions was a great idea.

Jennifer says

Enjoyable and well researched.

Kathleen Dixon says

I've used a number of quite different books as Devotionals over the years, and occasionally am studiously regular with them. The ones that I like are the ones that don't preach at me, or that aren't too, too sweet and encouraging. The Hobbit Devotional is neither of those - and that's good!

Ed Strauss has a good number of titles to his name - many aimed at the younger market and using a sense of humour. Books like Bible Freaks & Geeks and Seriously Sick Bible Stuff show the intended market immediately. I guess that's why the publisher's blurb for this mentions humour, but it seems to me that Strauss has been stereotyped. Either that, or there's an incorrect assumption being made about the type of people who love The Hobbit.

I'm 54 years old (well, I may be older when you read this review) and have been a Hobbit fan for over 40 years. This is not an "Oh, I loved that book when I was a child" sort of fandom, but an everlasting "What? You haven't read / don't love the Hobbit?!!" The Hobbit isn't simply the precursor to The Lord of the Rings, and it matters not one whit that Tolkien originally wrote it for children - it's a classic that appeals to all ages.

All this is to say that if I had read the blurb before reading this book, I may have not bothered. So I hope that the marketing people get it right and manage to reach a wider range of readers, because this is a book worth reading and using for devotions.

Strauss begins each segment with a short text from The Hobbit, followed with an overview of the situation. He does this really well, and then he brings some texts from the Bible into it - sometimes just one link, but often more than one. Next, he relates it all to everyday life, which he tackles in a down-to-earth manner.

The review copy that I'm reading is on my Kobo e-reader and comes without any illustrations (that's probably the age of my Kobo that has caused that), but I imagine that this Devotional is illustrated throughout. Any illustrations will enhance the whole experience, but even without them I have found this to be a fine example of a Devotional. It's very readable, it doesn't fall into any of the traps that some of them do, and it follows a book that I love. On top of this, it's relevant to each and every one of us who see our lives as a journey.

Karen says

So many of these devotions were written "just for me". I think you will find they are written "just for you" as well. Enjoy the journey!

Iola says

I have no idea if Tolkien intended for *The Hobbit* to have quite so many biblical parallels, but he was a Christian and a very educated man, so it is entirely likely. Regardless, each of the sixty daily devotionals are well thought out, providing a brief quote from *The Hobbit*, followed by some information around the background to the quote, then the biblical principle that is being illustrated. As the devotional progresses, we move with Bilbo and the dwarves through their journey, facing the trials along with them.

Yes, it's a bit of a gimmick, a cash-in on the upcoming movie release. No, it's not the most theological of devotionals. It's a light devotional, not a heavy Bible study. But, for what it is, it's good - readable, entertaining and thought-provoking, and suitable to be used with children of all ages. Recommended for Tolkien fans, or anyone who wants to consider the Christian background to the movies.

Thanks to Barbour and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

Eustacia Tan says

Confession: It took me 17 years before I picked up *Lord of The Rings*. Previously, I was too intimidated by the size (and bored by the hobbits) to pick it up, but now that I have read it, I can't get enough of it. So when I saw "*A Hobbit Devotional*" by Ed Strauss on NetGalley, I had to pick it up.

A Hobbit Devotional centres around the book *The Hobbit*, although since all books take place in Middle-Earth, you could still enjoy it if you've only read *Lord of The Rings*. The book is broken down into 60 chapters (so I guess you could use it as a two month devotional) and is a book best enjoyed slowly. There are also quite a few references to the *Lord of The Rings* trilogy, so if you haven't read it, you may find them spoilers.

Each chapter uses on point of the plot in *The Hobbit*, draws out the moral lesson from it and shows the reader what the Bible has to say about it. There are as many references to the Bible as there are to *The Hobbit*, which means that the author isn't just blindly drawing out moral lessons. And as a conclusion, the author shows how this particular lesson can be applied in our lives. The chapters are all fairly short (a few pages long), which makes them good devotional material.

Since *The Hobbit* is about quests and adventures, there is a lot devoted to stepping out in faith, and stepping beyond your comfort zone. I think that this book distills the moral lessons found in *The Hobbit* very well and shows how it can be applied to our everyday life.

There's not much else I have to say except that I highly recommend this book. Especially for fans of Middle

Earth (and Bilbo!). Personally, I'd like to see this book being used in a Sunday School class (with a book discussion of The Hobbit going on at the same time).

Disclaimer: I got a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a free and honest review.

First posted at IntoTheBook

Karoline says

Fun, but occasionally redundant. Also, seems like a children's devotional in spots, but then speaks to issues like paying bills.

It's clear the author did a lot of research and is passionate about The Hobbit, but sadly, I'm not a fan of this devotional. It's too bad, because I really wanted to love this.

enyanyo says

*Great adventures often involve tough choices and lonely stands for what we know to be true.
They may require forging on when it would be so much easier to turn back.*

My inner Tolkien fangirl was super happy to get this devotional—the first one I've ever read through to the end. Enjoyed it!

Jill Williamson says

Here is a book that's fun for the whole family—if you've read The Hobbit, of course. Each of the 60 devotionals are about 2-3 pages long and take a scene from the book and relates it to an every-day-life situation. A Hobbit Devotional gives readers a fresh way to enjoy Tolkien's classic tale and practice spiritual growth. If you're looking for a fun devotional book, what a way to start the day.

Jessika Santulli says

[Tolkien wrote Gandalf as an ang

Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

For all you J.R.R. Tolkien fans and Christians looking for a great new devotional just in time with the release of the movie, The Hobbit, comes Ed Strauss' The Hobbit Devotional: Bilbo Baggins and the Bible. I was so thrilled to see what this book would contain, I knew I had to review it. Being a Christian, I was more than

excited to see how chapters of the book *The Hobbit* would be blended together in 60 different devotional lessons that could be completed once a week.

Each devotion begins with a reading from a chapter in the *Hobbit* and ties in such great teaching with the Bible such as one such lesson on wisdom. In the book, the *Hobbit*, the elves are the race of beings that the Hobbits or even Gandalf will consult because they are basically immortal, so their wisdom comes from being around so long and their life experience. The devotion picks up and tells the reader how wise it is to use the sage wisdom that comes from parents and grandparents not because things are so different between their time and ours, but because they have been seasoned by life's experiences. It teaches us that not everything is so easily learned in our age of technology.

Sound scripture from the Bible accompanies each chapter, story and shows how in our current lives these lessons are still vital to the Christian walk. One such chapter "Checking Things Out" deals with the secrets hiding within the caves from the Hobbits and how vital it was for the party to thoroughly search the cave before deciding to stay the night. One never knew if there was danger lurking nearby or perhaps a trap set, and one time the dwarves Kili and Fili reported back they had found the perfect dry cave. Even Gandalf himself searched the cave and was assured they were good for the night. Suddenly in the middle of the night, goblins rushed out and seized the travelers and their ponies and vanished back inside the mountain.

The lesson goes on to teach how easy it is to be fooled by our present day circumstances, while some are easy to see others are difficult to expose. Con artists lurk not only in the financial world but also in religious settings. Jesus likened these deceivers to wolves in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15) and Paul cautioned Christians not to be "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." The lesson goes on to warn the readers that some traps are capable of fooling even the veterans and we have an obligation to warn others to watch out for it.

This book is filled with great lessons for the die hard *Hobbit* or J.R.R. Tolkien fan and is bound to be a great discussion point for youth group and church leaders as well as we near the release date of the *Hobbit* on the big screen. This book is bound to make learning from the Bible fun in a completely new way and makes the life lessons more relevant when you can relate them back to not only the story of the *Hobbit* but back to the Bible as well.

I received *The Hobbit Devotional: Bilbo Baggins and The Bible* by Ed Strauss compliments of Barbour Publishing and Net Galley for my honest review. My entire family have had so much fun sharing biblical insights along with our love for the Lord of the Rings Trilogy as well as the *Hobbit* and I can easily rate this one a 5 out of 5 stars. This book is available in paperback and eBook formats from your favorite book retailer.

Megan Hillard says

That's why we all need a Gandalf to come along every now and again to stir us up, to inspire us to take part in some great adventure, and to remind us that there's a wide, needy world out there beyond our doorstep.

I'll be honest: this is the first devotional-ish book that I've ever read completely; before, my attempts at carving aside daily literary time for God had the intention but not discipline, and they quickly crumbled. However, I decided that one of my New Year's resolutions for 2019 is to read the entire Bible, and I knew

that I'd be setting myself up for failure if I didn't get in the habit of some sort of biblical reading every day.

Also, y'all all know I love Tolkien. So it was, pardon my pun, a match made in heaven.

Overall, I really enjoyed my experience with this book. I usually read somewhere between 1-2 (sometimes 3 or 4, occasionally 0 -- whoops) per day, and it was exceedingly manageable. In fact, I would set my alarm ~15 minutes earlier than I needed to, and that proved to be plenty of time for my readings.

I really appreciated the fact that the devotions were short, making them easy to fit into a busy schedule. However, that was also one of my criticisms: it sometimes felt that Strauss was jumping to conclusions throughout the course of certain selections. I do understand that he was limited by the necessity of connecting the Bible to The Hobbit, but I feel that a little bit of time spent fleshing out these issues and giving nuance to these connections would have made a more enriching reading experience.

But yeah: that's a very minor thing, and I feel that in general he made very good connections and made the experience quite fun, which is nothing to sneeze at. Overall, I'd definitely recommend this book to fans of God and Tolkien!

A HOBBIT DEVOTIONAL was often little, but provided a big message -- much like Bilbo himself.

Caleb M. says

So I was doing some light goodreads stalking a while back and was looking at my friend Celeste's page and the books she read and finished and enjoyed. I came across this one that she had rated 5* and didn't have a review on it, which is super rare for her, maybe even nonexistent with any of her current reads. So I decided to give it a shot.

This is why sometimes you have to stalk peoples pages and see what they enjoyed because I found great pleasure in this book, and there is no way I would have heard about it had I not gone looking. It was a perfect little devotional to pick up every night before I would go to bed. Read a little excerpt from "The Hobbit" and then the author would dive in and explain how a certain portion of the book would then relate to the Bible. It would take maybe 5 minutes to read and it was a lot of fun. Some chapters were pretty heavy, while others were a lot more lighthearted (but still on point), while others felt like they were stretching a bit. But the author, Ed Strauss did a significant amount of research, or so it seems, and nailed this book. This is a devotional that is perfect for the nerd that wants to grow closer to God. I highly enjoyed it. Thank you Celeste, I'm glad you rated this little gem.
