

Bestselling biblical historian, Jean-Pierre Isbouts, weaves the origin stories of Christianity and the Lord's Prayer into a reinvigorating and urgent rallying cry for unity in the modern church

How can we set our doctrinal differences aside and together, as Christians, embrace the core teachings that Jesus left us?

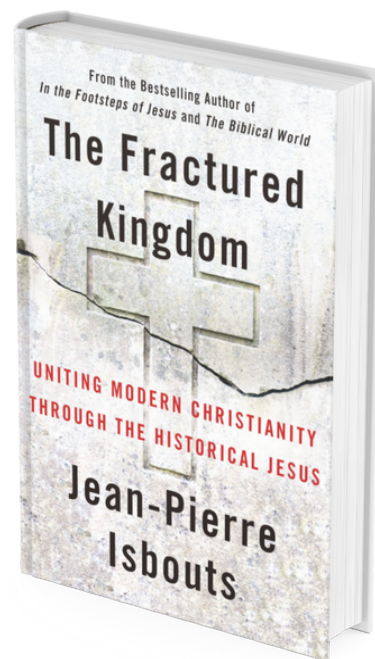
Modern Christianity is in the midst of a veritable schism along the fault lines of society's culture wars. Only if we understand the origins of this split can we find our way to unity. Though few may realize it today, Jesus's ministry unfolded in a crisis very similar to the one society is now battling. In fact, were it not for the truly catastrophic conditions in early 1st century Galilee, his reimagining of the three quintessential virtues of the Torah – social justice; compassion toward one another; and an abiding love of God – would have likely failed to attract a wide following.

Brilliantly tracing Jesus's vision for the "Kingdom of God" from its origin up through modern times, bestselling biblical historian Dr. Jean-Pierre Isbouts, leads us to a possible antidote for the fiercely partisan moment in which we find ourselves: the Lord's Prayer, or the Our Father. Isbouts explains in the introduction to ***The Fractured Kingdom: Uniting Modern Christianity Through the Historical Jesus***, "The prayer formed the wellspring of Christian faith from the very beginning and continues to this day. Although Christianity's 2.4 billion followers are splintered over countless traditions and sharply different views on doctrine, the one thing that all confessions share is the Our Father."

The Fractured Kingdom takes readers on a historically exhilarating tour of the Lord's Prayer and shows us why the only doctrine Christians agree on might be our last hope for forging a more equal, compassionate, and loving society. What results is an eminently readable and undeniably essential work that addresses some of the most pressing issues now confronting communities of faith around the world.

"Across the centuries, we have allowed our doctrines and dogmas—whether on the left or the right—to diverge so much that we have lost sight of what Jesus' ministry was about, and what he taught us to do: building the kingdom of God," writes Isbouts. "Nowhere is that purpose more clearly stated than in the beautiful verses of the Our Father.

That is why this book will reach out to all Christians, regardless of their affiliation, by organizing its story across each of this prayer's verses—and show how these can help us to restore a world ravaged by the greatest plague in modern times."



The Fractured Kingdom: United Modern Christianity Through the Historical Jesus

Jean-Pierre Isbouts

9781640656437

Hardcover, \$28.95

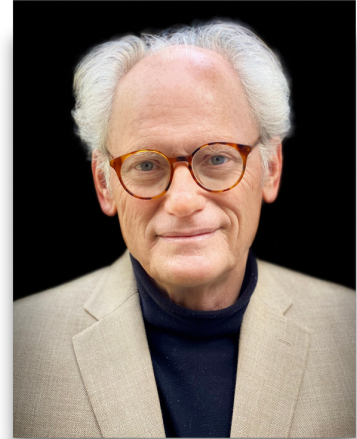
Release: June 2023

Morehouse/Christian Publishing Group



Jean-Pierre Isbouts

Prof. Jean-Pierre Isbouts is one of the leading biblical historians writing today. A humanities scholar, award-winning filmmaker, and bestselling author, he has written numerous National Geographic books on biblical history, with an approach that examines Judeo-Christian traditions through a strictly non-denominational lens. He gained worldwide renown with his 2006 book *The Biblical World*, which became an international bestseller.



A Professor Emeritus in Human Development at Fielding Graduate University, Dr. Isbouts is a frequent Smithsonian lecturer and his teachings with The Great Courses, *Searching for the Historical Jesus* and *The History and Archaeology of the Bible*, are among the most popular.

Prof. Isbouts has been featured on a number of radio and television shows, including a BBC TV special on Leonardo da Vinci, and a documentary, *The Mona Lisa Code*, for PBS.



Media



To schedule an interview, please contact:
Karen Campbell, karen@karencampbellmedia.com or
Judy McDonough, judyekarencampbellmedia.com



Suggested Interview Questions and Statistics

- You write that, “America is facing an extraordinary moment: the challenge—and the opportunity—to rebuild our nation ravaged by Covid, torn apart by political partisanship, and deeply cleft along the fault lines of social and economic inequality.” How can we rise to the occasion?
- Historically, Christianity has been wrought with division. What needs to happen for us to unite once again?
- Why and how is the Lord’s Prayer, or *Our Father*, the solution to healing our division?
- How can each side, whether liberal or conservative, claim to follow in the footsteps of Jesus? And how can Christians come together to heal this great divide, and together rebuild our nation as Jesus showed us?
- How was the crisis during Jesus’ time similar to the crisis we’re in today?
- What is one thing Christians can do to stop the division?
- Jesus was alive during economic crisis, instability, and experienced and saw first-hand inequality. What can we learn from him?
- Why don’t Christians always act like Christians?
- Looking at the Lord’s Prayer through an historical lens will help bring unity.
- Do we really know what we’re pledging when we recite the Lord’s Prayer?

Important Statistics

- Pew Research: Since 2007, the share of Christians in the general population has dropped from 78% to 63% today, according to a January 2023 report by the Pew Research Center.
- When we look at Congress, however, the opposite is true. Christians make up no less than 88% of all voting members, the vast majority of whom are Protestant (303), followed by Catholics (148), Baptists (67), Methodists (31), Presbyterians (25), Anglicans (22) and Lutherans (22), among others.
- The House has a Protestant majority of 57%, while in the Senate 56% of are Protestants. When we break it down by party, 69%—seven in ten—of Republicans in Congress identify as Protestant, whereas 31% are Catholic.
- Associated Press survey: 81% of voters who describe themselves as evangelical or born-again Christians voted for Trump, compared to 18% who voted for Biden. Catholics came in at 49% for Biden and 50% for Trump.

To schedule an interview, please contact:
Karen Campbell, karen@karencampbellmedia.com or
Judy McDonough, judyekarencampbellmedia.com



What People Are Saying About *The Fractured Kingdom*

"Dr. Jean-Pierre Isbouts hits the mark beautifully by pointing all of us living in an all-too divided nation to a different and better way forward, a way of love that is grounded in the familiar prayer that Jesus taught us. Readers will find a foundation for healing and wholeness in these pages." —**Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church and author of *Love is the Way* and *The Power of Love***

"I never cease to be amazed at the extraordinary insights and expansive knowledge of Jean-Pierre Isbouts. *The Fractured Kingdom* speaks to not one generation, but many—past and future—about the perils of religious division. But, instead of leaving us there, Isbouts invites us to grab hold of the promises that an authentic, godly, and life-giving faith can offer the great divides of our time. With the craftsmanship of a gifted maestro, Isbouts' book is a symphony of possibility that reaches a crescendo of hope." —**Russell J. Levenson Jr., author of *Witness to Dignity: The Life and Faith of George H. W. and Barbara Bush***

"The one subject Jesus spoke about more than any other was the Kingdom of God. In *The Fractured Kingdom*, Jean-Pierre Isbouts, using the Lord's Prayer as a lens, vividly explicates what Jesus meant by God's Kingdom. I believe this is a book for all of us who call ourselves Christians, regardless of what branch of the Church we call home. Isbouts shows us that what unites us is bigger than what divides us and that Jesus needs all of us to be about the work of Kingdom building." —**Randolph M. Hollerith, dean of the Washington National Cathedral**

To schedule an interview, please contact:
Karen Campbell, karen@karencampbellmedia.com or
Judy McDonough, judyekarencampbellmedia.com

