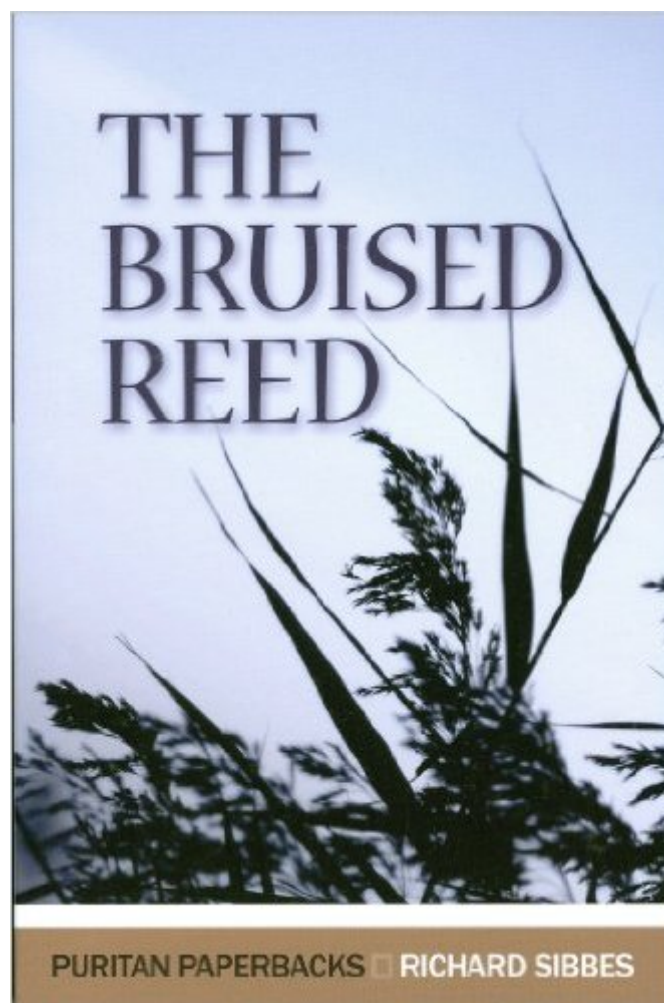


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# The Bruised Reed (Puritan Paperbacks)



## Synopsis

Richard Sibbes (1577-1635), one of the most influential figures in the Puritan movement during the earlier years of the seventeenth century, was renowned for the rich quality of his ministry. 'The Bruised Reed' shows why he was known among his contemporaries as 'the sweet dropper'. 'The Bruised Reed' is now issued for the first time in a smaller format in the Puritan Paperbacks series. Some of the language and punctuation have been modernized to make the work more accessible.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (82 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Richard Sibbes was born in Suffolk in 1577 and started his studies at Cambridge in 1595. In 1632 he was sentenced to banishment to New England due to his strong Puritanical tendencies, but he died before the sentence could be carried out. He was one of the most influential Puritans in the early seventeenth century and was renowned for his powerful and eloquent preaching. He wrote many essays and books but he will always be remembered for writing *The Bruised Reed*. First published in 1630, it has now been reprinted numerous times and has comforted and reassured many a Christian soul. The book centers around the third verse in Isaiah 42. It reads, "A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth." Breaking that verse down, Sibbes does a masterful job of comforting and encouraging Christians in their walk with Christ. The great Anglican theologian, Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones, wrote of *The Bruised Reed*, saying it was a "balm to my soul at a period in my life when I was overworked and badly

overtired, and therefore subject in an unusual manner to the onslaughts of the devil...The Bruised Reed...quietened, soothed, comforted, encouraged and healed me."What to like: Widely recognized as a classical piece of Christian literature, The Bruised Reed shows Christians why Isaiah's comparison of us to a bruised reed and a smoking flax are accurate. We are bruised. We are in a body that constantly wars with God's Spirit. And our faith can hardly be compared to a fire, for often we barely give off enough heat to smoke. Yet Sibbes shows us this is no reason to be discouraged.

Concerning Richard Sibbes, Charles Spurgeon claimed "Sibbes never wastes the student's time, he scatters pearls and diamonds with both hands." With the same profundity and richness that typically characterizes Puritan works Sibbes, in The Bruised Reed, masterfully and beautifully deals with things like brokenness, humility, mercy, and grace all wrapped up in the greater subject of hardships, whether they be brought by persecution or one's own sin. In a time where hedonism seems to reign supreme and commandeers the hearts of sinners and confused Christians alike, The Bruised Reed delivers a good dose of sobriety to those who would revel in their good circumstance. Might it be if one is not under affliction of one sort or another that he has not been bruised, broken, or brought to the end of himself? And if not, has he, in his pride, been given over to his depraved mind, unable to hear the thunder of God's voice which grants a man repentance? May it not be for you, me, or anyone! The wise Puritan writes, "This is such a one as our Saviour Christ terms 'poor in spirit' (Matt. 5:3), who sees his wants, and also sees himself indebted to divine justice..." and God lowers us "levelling all proud, high thoughts, and that we may understand ourselves to be what indeed we are by nature." Let the sinner see his suffering as God's kindness which leads to salvation. Let the saint see his suffering as the means by which God perfects grace in the heart of His servant, mortifying the flesh. With simple language and Biblical saturation, Sibbes encourages the Christian to take comfort in tribulation while looking to victory, to show grace to the weak, and to believe in Christ's goodness to us despite afflictions undergone.

The Bruised Reed, by Richard Sibbes I decided to postpone reading Gospel Powered Parenting until February because of the fact that Sarah is reading it, which was not bad news at all. I was looking forward to reading Richard Sibbes' classic "The Bruised Reed" for a while now, and I decided to take this as an opportunity to read it this month. So here we are. First of all, I must say that the book is not what I expected it to be at all. I expected it to contain much more "fire and brimstone" than it had. This thinking was prompted by every other Puritan writer that I have ever read. For instance, Joseph Alliene's "A Sure Guide to Heaven" gave me nightmares... I

affectionately call John Owen my friend who "kicks my butt and makes me feel stupid"... and of course, who could forget Jonathan Edwards' classic sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." After seeing the name, and anticipating the genre of the book, I was very pleasantly surprised to see how much "The Bruised Reed" was genuinely filled with grace. The entire book is based off of Isaiah 42:1-3, which says "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax he shall not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth." Basically, we are the bruised reed. We have been bruised because our eyes have been opened to the sin in our lives, and our pride is crushed. But Jesus shall not break the bruised reed. He has compassion on us and is gentle towards us.

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