

Elizabeth Fiorenza, *The Power of the Word: Scripture and the Rhetoric of Empire* (2007)

In *The Power of the Word: Scripture and the Rhetoric of Empire*, Elizabeth Fiorenza shows an elegant connection between the power of words and how words are put into the service of those with power. She puts herself to the task of confronting a potentially devastating question: What kind of power does scripture exercise? Fiorenza notes that, in a historical sense, the Bible's inheritance as an artifact of the Roman Empire is palpable in its usage as a source of legitimacy by the Christian Church for its colonial exploits. She counters the Bible's historical legacy with a feminist, hermeneutical reading of the Scriptures. This provides Schussler provide a platform for a Biblical denouncing of colonialist expansion, racist exploitation, and heterosexist discrimination. Moreover, this reading divulges an aperture in Scriptural studies: what direction will the scholarship takes if the Bible is viewed as a document of liberatory potential?