

Recommended Bible Study Aids

Bible Translations and Study Bibles

Bible Translations:

In addition to the King James Versions, I recommend the following modern translations of the Scriptures.

1. *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update*. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. (**NASB**)
2. *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. Colorado Springs: Biblica, 2011. (**NIV**)
3. *The New King James Version*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982. (**NKJV**) This is the version that Bishop Blake uses in his preaching.
4. *The Holy Bible: New Living Translation*. 2nd ed. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2004. (**NLT**)
5. *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989. (**NRSV**)
6. Kohlenberger, John R. III, ed. *The NIV Interlinear Hebrew-English Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.
7. *The New Greek-English Interlinear New Testament*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1990.

Study Bibles:

A good study Bible has background material on each book of the Old and New Testaments, commentary on important verses, and other study aids such as a concordance or dictionary. A few recommendations (publisher in parentheses) are:

1. *The ESV Study Bible* (Crossway). ESV stands for English Standard Version.
2. *The NIV Study Bible* (Zondervan).
3. *The NLT Study Bible* (Tyndale).
4. *The New Spirit-Filled Life Bible* (Thomas Nelson).

I do not recommend the following:

Dake's Annotated Reference Bible, *The Scofield Reference Bible*, the *John MacArthur Study Bible*, or any other Bibles associated with the teachings of an individual. These Bibles usually contain a great deal of theological bias.

Commentaries

1. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary with The New International Version of The Holy Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986. 12 volumes. Volumes can be purchased separately. This source is neither difficult nor easy.
2. *The Interpreter's Bible*. New York: Abingdon Press, 1953. 12 vols. This is an advanced source.
3. *The New Bible Commentary*. 21st Century Edition. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000. This is my personal favorite one-volume commentary. It is well-written and very accessible.
4. *New International Biblical Commentary*. Multi-volumes. These commentaries are based in the NIV. They are very detailed, but very easy to read. The publisher is Hendrickson. Very affordable!
5. *The New International Bible Commentary with the New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986. This is a good one-volume commentary. It is similar to (3) above.
6. *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. 18 vols. I love this series. Volumes can be purchased separately. It can be technical at times, but is usually very readable. See also, *The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. This is also a multi-volume set. These are published by William B. Eerdmans.
7. *The New Interpreter's Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994. 12 vols. This is an advanced source.
8. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990. This is an excellent one-volume commentary.
9. *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* and *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Multi-volumes. Like (4) above, these commentaries are very detailed, but very easy to read. The publisher is InterVarsity Press. Very affordable!
10. *Word Biblical Commentary*. Multi-volumes. This commentary is very advanced.

Concordances

Strong, James. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1986. This source also contains brief dictionaries of the Hebrew and Greek words.

Dictionaries

1. Achtemeier, Paul J., ed. *The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary*. San Francisco: Harper, 1996. This is a good, balanced one-volume dictionary of Biblical scholarship.
2. Douglas, J.D., ed. *New Bible Dictionary*. 3rd edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996.
3. Elwell, Walter A., ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1984. I use this source all the time.
4. Freedman, David Noel, ed. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. NY: Double-day, 1992. 6 vols. This is the scholarly standard for Bible dictionaries.

Encyclopedias

Bromiley, Geoffrey W., ed. *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979. 4 vols. Bromiley was the Ph.D. adviser of my Ph.D. adviser.

Handbooks

1. Alexander, David and Pat, eds. *Eerdmans' Handbook to the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973. Excellent for a brief and colorful look at anything biblical.
2. Unger, Merrill F., ed. *The New Unger's Bible Handbook*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Brief articles along with charts and maps. Good for beginners.

Lexical Aids (Language Studies)

I recommend *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Thomas Nelson, 1984). Also, see the following:

Old Testament

1. Botterweck, G. Johannes, ed. *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974---. 12 vols. projected. This is an etymological and theological dictionary of each Hebrew word as used in the Old Testament. You do not need to know Hebrew to use it.
2. Van Gemeren, Willem A. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. 5 vols. Used with Strong's Concordance.

New Testament

1. Brown, Colin. *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975. 4 vols. Arranged by English keyword, followed by the Greek original. This source is for serious students and scholars.
2. Kittel, Gerhard, ed. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964. 10 vols. This source is for serious students and scholars.

Introductory Books on Hermeneutics

1. D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*.
2. Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis*.
3. Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*.
4. Charles J. Scalise, *From Scripture to Theology: A Canonical Journey into Hermeneutics*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
5. Robert H. Stein, *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible*.