

RECOMMENDED BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

Overviews of the Bible and Bible Surveys

Talk Thru the Bible by Wilkinson and Boa (A must-have)

The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi by David A. Dorsey

An Introduction to the Old Testament by Tremper Longman and Raymond B. Dillard

Encountering the Old Testament by Bill T. Arnold and Bryan E. Beyer

Old Testament Today by Walton and Hill

Survey of the Old Testament by Paul Benware (revised edition)

A Survey of the Old Testament (Second edition) by Andrew E. Hill and Walton

Introduction to the Old Testament by R. K. Harrison (Advanced and thorough)

The Pentateuch as Narrative by John H. Sailhamer

Encountering the New Testament by Walter A. Elwell and Robert W. Yarbrough

Survey of the New Testament (4th edition) by Robert H. Gundry

An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson and Douglas Moo

New Testament Introduction by Donald Guthrie (Advanced)

Nelson's Old Testament Survey: Discovering the Essence, Background & Meaning about Every Old Testament Book by Charles Dyer and Eugene Merrill¹

Nelson's New Testament Survey: Discovering the Essence, Background & Meaning about Every New Testament Book by Mark Bailey and Tom Constable

Jesus & the Rise of Early Christianity: A History of New Testament Times by Paul Barnett (Excellent, even surpassing F. F. Bruce's *New Testament History*)

Handbook on the Prophets by Robert Chisholm

Handbook on the Pentateuch and *Handbook on the Historical Books* by Victor P. Hamilton (see also *Rethinking Genesis* by Duane Garrett)

Old Testament Theology by Paul R. House

New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ by Thomas R. Schreiner (see also his *Pauline Theology*)

An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach by Bruce K. Waltke

Theology of the New Testament: A Canonical and Synthetic Approach by Frank Thielman

The MacArthur Study Bible

Interpretation (Hermeneutics) and More Bible Study Methods

Basic Bible Interpretation by Roy Zuck (A must-read)

Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation by Henry A. Virkler

¹ Keep in mind these are just multiple recommendations for the same tool. One would only need 1-2 introductions, 1-2 theology books, 1-2 Bible dictionaries, etc.

Grasping God's Word by Duvall and Hays (*Journey into God's Word* is the abridgement of this college level textbook)

How to Study Your Bible by Kay Arthur

Exegetical Fallacies by D. A. Carson

Studying, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible by Walter Henry

Methodical Bible Study by Robert Traina (Beware: it's dry, but helpful. See also works by Irving Jensen)

Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible by Howard Hendricks

Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible by Robert H. Stein

The New Joy of Discovery in Bible Study by Oletta Wald

Interpreting the New Testament Text: Introduction to the Art and Science of Exegesis edited by Bock and Fanning (Advanced)

Invitation to Biblical Preaching by Don Sunukjian and *Biblical Preaching* by Haddon Robinson

New International Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties by Gleason L. Archer Jr.

Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible by John W. Haley

Hard Sayings of the Bible by F. F. Bruce and Walter Kaiser

New Nave's Topical Bible

The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Cross-references)

Biblical Theology² and Theological Issues

God's Big Picture by Vaughan Roberts (A must-read)

According to Plan by Graeme Goldsworthy

The Promise of God by George Bristow

The Promise-Plan of God: A Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments by Walter C. Kaiser

New Dictionary of Biblical Theology: Exploring the Unity & Diversity of Scripture Edited by Graeme Goldsworthy and D. A. Carson

Progressive Dispensationalism by Blaising and Bock

Five Views on Law and Gospel by Moo, Strickland, Kaiser, VanGemeren, etc. (Great series, e.g. *Three Views of the Millennium*, *Three Views on the Rapture*, *Five Views on Sanctification*, *Five Views on Apologetics*, *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*, *Two Views on Women in Ministry*, *Four Views on Eternal Security*, *Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*, *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?*, *Four Views on Baptism*, *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*, see also *Perspectives on Election: Five Views*, *Predestination and Free Will: Four Views of Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom*, see also *Why I Am Not an Arminian* by Robert Peterson and its counterpart, or *Debating Calvinism: Five Points*, *Two Views* by Dave Hunt and James White)

Paul and the Law by Frank Thielman

Continuity and Discontinuity: Perspectives on the Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments edited by John Feinberg.

² See page 5 for a definition of Biblical theology.

Understanding the Literary Types (or Genres) in the Bible

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth by Douglas Stuart and Gordon Fee

How to Read the Bible Book by Book by Douglas Stuart and Gordon Fee

How to Read the Bible as Literature by Leland Ryken

Words of Delight: A Literary Introduction to the Bible by Leland Ryken

Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus by Klyne Snodgrass

Dictionary of Biblical Prophecy and End Times by J. Daniel Hays, J. Scott Duvall, and C. Marvin Pate

Plowshares & Pruning Hooks: Rethinking the Language of Biblical Prophecy and Apocalyptic by D. Brent Sandy (A must-read for those interested in prophecy)

How to Read the Psalms and *How to Read Proverbs* by Tremper Longman

Bible Dictionaries and Cultural Backgrounds

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary: Completely Revised and Updated Edition by Ronald F. Youngblood

New Bible Dictionary edited by Packer and Marshall

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary by Trent C. Butler (A must-have)

The IVP Dictionary Series (e.g. *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, *The Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, *The Dictionary of the Old Testament: The Pentateuch*)

The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible or *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (ISBE, updated edition)

Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps, and Reconstructions by Marsha A. Ellis Smith

Backgrounds of Early Christianity by Everett Ferguson

Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Manners and Customs: How The People Of The Bible Really Lived by Howard F. Vos

Manners and Customs of the Bible by J. I. Packer and Merrill C. Tenney

Poet and Peasant by Kenneth Bailey (Cultural background for the Gospels)

Then and Now Bible Maps: With Clear Plastic Overlays of Modern Day Cities and Countries by Ascension Press

Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps, and Time Lines by Rose Publishing

Commentaries

Most commentary sets have strong and weak volumes (especially the *Word Commentary* series). Feel free to email me if you have questions about which commentary would be best to use for your purposes.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary (2 vols.) by Walvoord and Zuck

The Bible Exposition Commentary (2 vols.) by Warren Wiersbe (Excellent, insightful, concise, devotional)

The NIV Application Commentaries (e.g. *Genesis* by Walton, *Psalms* by Wilson, *Colossians* by Garland, *Philippians* by Thielman, *2 Peter* and *Romans* by Moo, *Luke* by Bock, etc.)

The Bible Speaks Today series edited by John Stott

The New American Commentary Series (excellent for OT and NT, e.g. *Joshua* by David Howard, *Matthew* by Craig Blomberg)

The Encountering Series (*Encountering the Old Testament, Encountering Romans, Encountering Hebrews, Encountering the New Testament, etc.*)

The Pillar Commentary Series edited by D. A. Carson (e.g. *Ephesians* by Peter O'Brien, *John* by D. A. Carson, *Matthew* by Leon Morris)

The Baker Exegetical Commentary Series (e.g. *Luke* by Darrell Bock, *1 Corinthians* By David Garland)

The IVP New Testament Commentary Series or The John MacArthur Commentary Series

The James Montgomery Boice Commentary Series

New Testament Commentary Survey by D. A. Carson (Reviews various commentaries)

Word Studies

The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

New American Standard Updated Edition Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words by W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White (published by Nelson, 2003)

Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words by William Mounce

Expository Dictionary of Bible Words by Stephen D. Renn

New International Encyclopedia of Bible Words by Lawrence O. Richards

Nelson's Expository Dictionary of the Old Testament by Unger and White

Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology by Walter Elwell

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The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology edited by Colin Brown, 4 volumes (for the advanced student)

An Interlinear Bible

New Testament TransLine by Michael Magill

For **Greek and Hebrew** tools, contact Pastor Steve.

Additional Resources

The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable? by F. F. Bruce

The Old Testament Documents: Are They Reliable & Relevant? by Walter C. Kaiser

Is The New Testament Reliable? by Paul Barnett

The Historical Reliability of the Gospels by Craig L. Blomberg

How to Choose a Translation for All Its Worth by Douglas Stuart and Gordon Fee

The Journey from Texts to Translations: The Origin and Development of the Bible by Paul D. Wegner (Great resource that discusses manuscripts, translations, textual criticism, the canon, etc.)

The Canon of Scripture by F. F. Bruce

Inspiration and Canonicity of the Bible by Laird Harris

The Origin of the Bible by F. F. Bruce and J. I. Packer

The Canon of the New Testament. By Bruce Metzger

How We Got the Bible by Neil R. Lightfoot (more of an overview than a detailed discussion)

Bible Doctrine or Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem

The Moody Handbook of Theology by Paul Enns

The Gospel for Real Life by Jerry Bridges

Logos Bible Software (www.logos.com). A very helpful Bible study tool software.

Pradis NIV Bible Software

What is Biblical Theology?

Biblical theology is principally concerned with the overall theological message of the whole Bible. It seeks to understand the parts in relation to the whole and, to achieve this, it must work with the mutual interaction of the literary, historical, and theological dimensions of the various corpora, and with the inter-relationships of these within the whole canon of Scripture. Biblical theology may be defined as theological interpretation of Scripture in and for the church. It proceeds with historical and literary sensitivity and seeks to analyze and synthesize the Bible's teaching about God and his relations to the world on its own terms, maintaining sight of the Bible's overarching narrative and Christocentric focus. B. S. Rosner, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, (IVP, 2000)

Biblical theology, as its name implies, even as it works inductively from the diverse texts of the Bible, seeks to uncover and articulate the unity of all the biblical texts taken together, resorting primarily to the categories of those texts themselves. In this sense it is canonical biblical theology, 'whole-Bible' biblical theology; i.e. its content is a theology of the whole Bible, not a theology that merely has roots in the Bible, or merely takes the Bible as the place to begin. D. A. Carson, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, (IVP, 2000)

From the evangelical preacher's point of view, biblical theology involves the quest for the big picture, or the overview of biblical revelation. It is of the nature of biblical theology that it tells a story rather than sets out timeless principles in abstraction. It does contain many timeless principles, but not in abstract. They are given in an historical context of progressive revelation. If we allow the Bible to tell its own story, we find a coherent and meaningful whole. G. L. Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*, (IVP, 2000)

"In practice, then, this means that to preach on OT texts about sacrifice or the covenant, say, without explicitly preaching the direction that the Bible develops those trajectories is to preach incomplete sermons. To preach on NT texts that rely for their meaning on OT backgrounds without explicitly making the connections that the text wants us to make is to distort the text. Luke 24:27 is just one of many NT axioms that underpin evangelical biblical theology and it provides part of the rationale for recognizing that the whole Bible resonates with Christological significance and that all our preaching must aim to preach Christ in a way that reflects, and that is shaped by, the overarching biblical plotline." (www.beginningwithMoses.org)

Make sure every passage you study is brought back to the major theme of Scripture – the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Bible is about Creation, the Fall, Salvation in Christ, and Recreation. Every passage must be understood in light of the larger context of the story of the Bible.