

Dusting Off The Good Book: Building your Basic Bible Study Library

Most importantly get a good Study Bible such as . . .

* **The ESV Study Bible** – Easily the best out there right now! ISBN=1433502410

The Zondervan NASV Study Bible ISBN=0310910927 or **The NIV Study Bible** ISBN=0310929555

An Exhaustive Concordance . . .preferably one with Strong's numbers in your Study Bible Version . . .

The Crossway Comprehensive Concordance of the Holy Bible, ESV ISBN=1581343868

(But perhaps you should wait till an ESV Concordance comes out with Strong's)

The Strongest NASB Exhaustive Concordance ISBN=0310262844

The Strongest NIV Concordance ISBN=0310262852 (Zondervan also has a *New International Bible Dictionary, NIV Encyclopedia of Bible Words, and the New International One Volume Bible Commentary*)

A Bible Dictionary . . .

* **New Bible Dictionary** by I. Howard Marshall ISBN=0830814396

The New Unger's Bible Dictionary by Merrill Unger

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (RSV) (Multiple Volumes) 1952 is still popular.

For Word Studies

Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words by Vine, Unger and White (Keyed to Strong's Numbers) ISBN=0785211608 (The best word book to start out with!)

The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates and

The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament by Warren Baker use the KJV.

Geography and Customs

* **Holman Bible Atlas: A Complete Guide to the Expansive Geography of Biblical History**

by Thomas C. Brisco ISBN=1558197095 (Looks like the best)

Also **Oxford Bible Atlas, Harper's**; and the old standby, **Baker's Bible Atlas**

* **Manners & Customs in the Bible: Daily Life in Bible Times** by Victor H. Matthews

ISBN=159856059X There are quite a few books on this subject! Browse Amazon. This one gets great reviews.

Bible History

A Biblical History of Israel by Provan, Long, Longman and Long ISBN=0664220908

* **A Survey of Israel's History** by Leon Wood (Rev. ed) ISBN=031034770X

* **New Testament History** by F.F. Bruce ISBN=0385025335

The New Testament: Its Background and Message by Lea and Black ISBN=0805426329

Old and New Testament Introductions

An Introduction to the New Testament by Carson and Moo ISBN=0310238595

An Introduction to the Old Testament: Second Edition by Longman and Dillard ISBN=0310263417

A Basic Doctrinal Reference

Concise Theology by J. I. Packer or **Essential Truths of the Christian Faith** by R. C. Sproul

See also the books by Pipa and Sproul on the **Westminster Confession of Faith** in the Bibliography which follows.

And perhaps One Volume Bible Commentaries:

New Bible Commentary (NIV) (Some prefer the older 3rd Ed), **Wycliffe Bible Commentary**, **New International Bible Commentary** (NIV), **The Biblical Expositor** (get it used), And then there is **Matthew Henry's!!**

Dusting Off The Good Book:

A Survey of the Bible's Literature with Principles for Interpretation

Life Together at Crosspoint Church, Lynnwood, Wa. - Fall 2008 Taught by Barry McWilliams

A Bibliography of further reading. Some of these are easily read by laymen and others are more scholarly – so browse the reviews on Amazon. Many are fairly inexpensive as used books. The books in this Bibliography are linked to Amazon on line at: <http://www.eldrbarry.net/clas/gb2008.htm>

Part 1: Basic Principles for Interpretation

The Clarity of Scripture: Reading the Bible "Literally"

- **Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible** by J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays ISBN=0310259665 This is an excellent textbook for learning how to study and interpret the Bible, complete with exercises. A separate Workbook is also available. ISBN=0310243041
- **How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth** by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart ISBN=0310246040

Suggestions for further Scholarly Reading on Hermeneutics:

- **The Hermeneutical Spiral** by Grant R. Osborne ISBN=0830828265
- **An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics** by Walter C. Kaiser and Moises Silva ISBN=0310279518
- **Evangelical Hermeneutics: The New Versus the Old** by Robert L. Thomas ISBN=082543839X
- **Protestant Biblical Interpretation: A textbook of Hermeneutics** by Bernard Ramm ISBN=0801020832

Some helpful summaries of Christian Teaching and Doctrine:

- **Westminster Confession Of Faith Study Book: A Study Guide for Churches** by Joseph A Pipa Jr. ISBN=184550030X (Includes The Catechisms, The Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism and the Canons of Dort)
- **Truths We Confess: A Layman's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith** By R. C. Sproul **Volume 1: The Triune God** ISBN=159638039X; **Volume 2: Salvation and the Christian Life** ISBN=1596380403; **Volume 3: The State, The Family, The Church, and Last Things** ISBN=1596380411
- **Concise Theology** by J. I. Packer ISBN=0842339604
- **Essential Truths of the Christian Faith** by R. C. Sproul ISBN=0842320016
- **Goldsworthy Trilogy: (Gospel and Kingdom, Gospel and Wisdom, Gospel and Revelation)** by Graeme Goldsworthy. ISBN=1842270362. Excellent models for understanding the structure of Scripture bringing into focus the kingdom of God in Jesus' ministry.
- **Stranger on the Road to Emmaus** by John R. Cross. ISBN=1890082147 This book presents the entire Bible and its primary message chronologically, drawing the whole Bible together -- pointing out the major themes. A spiral bound **Workbook** and an E-book are available <http://www.goodseed.com/products/str-eng-book-ebook>

Part 2 : The Diversity of the Literature in the Bible

How to Read a Letter: The Epistles and The Book of Acts

- **Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free** by F. F. Bruce ISBN=0802847781
- **St. Paul the Traveller and the Roman Citizen** and **The Cities of St. Paul** and **Letters to the Seven Churches** by William M. Ramsay

How to Listen to a Story : The Narrative Books

- **He Gave Us Stories** by Richard L. Pratt, J. ISBN=087552379X
- **The Art of Biblical Narrative** by Robert Alter ISBN=046500427X
- **A Biblical History of Israel** by Iain W. Provan, V. Philips Long, Tremper Longman and Philips V. Long ISBN= 0664220908

Witnessing Jesus and His Teaching : The Four Gospels

- **The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah** by Alfred Edersheim is a tremendous study, putting Jesus teaching and ministry into the cultural contexts of its day. ISBN=0943575834
- **The Training of the Twelve** by A. B. Bruce a great study of Jesus' ministry ISBN=160206539X
- **The Master Plan of Evangelism** by Robert Coleman ISBN=0805410589
- **Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey** by Craig L. Blomberg is a thorough academic work on the Gospels written at the college level. ISBN= 0805410589
- **Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus** by Joachim Jeremias gives a detailed description of its economic and social structures. ISBN=0800611365
- **A Harmony of the Gospels: New American Standard Edition** by Robert L. Thomas and Stanley N Gundry puts the parallel accounts side by side with notes. ISBN=006063524X

Catching the Point of Jesus' teaching: The Parables

- **The Method and Message of Jesus Teaching** by Robert H. Stein is recommended. ISBN=0664255132
- **Hard Sayings of The Bible** by Peter H. Davids, F. F. Bruce, Manfred T. Brauch and Walter C. Kaiser is helpful for those difficult verses and sayings. ISBN=083081423X
- Among numerous books on the Parables are books by James Montgomery Boice ISBN=0802401635, David Wenhem ISBN=0830812865, Craig Blomberg ISBN=0830812717, and Simon J. Kistemaker ISBN=0801063914.

Hebrew Poetry : Part 1 - The Psalms

- **The Art of Biblical Poetry** by Robert Alter, ISBN=0465004318 (A Jewish scholar, who also has a translation and commentary on The Psalms ISBN=0393062260).
- **How to Read the Psalms** by Tremper Longman ISBN=0877849412
- **A Treasury of David** by Charles Spurgeon is considered his best work! ISBN=0664255132
- **Expository Commentary on Psalms:** by James Montgomery Boice
Volume. I ISBN=080106578X **Volume II** ISBN=0801065852 **Volume III** ISBN=0801065860
- **Tyndale Old Testament Commentary on Psalms** by Derek Kidner
Psalms 1-72 ISBN=0830842152 **Psalms 73-150** ISBN=0830842160

Part 2 - Wisdom Books

- **How to Read the Proverbs** by Tremper Longman ISBN=0877849420, who also has a commentary on **Ecclesiastes**
- **The Wisdom of Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes** by Derek Kidner ISBN=0877844054, who also has commentaries on **Proverbs** ISBN=0877842663 and **Ecclesiastes** ISBN=0877842868

Principles for Living : Law in Scripture

- **Five Views on Law and Gospel** by Wayne G. Strickland, Walter C. Kaiser, Douglas J. Moo, Willem A. VanGemeren, and Stanley N. Gundry ISBN=0310212715
- **Toward Old Testament Ethics** by Walter C. Kaiser ISBN=0310371112
- **God's Design: A Focus on Old Testament Theology** by Elmer A. Martens ISBN=0941037517
- **Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament** by G. K. Beale and D. A. Carson ISBN=0801026938
- **Old Testament Ethics for the People of God** by Christopher J. H. Wright ISBN=0830827781

Forth-telling the Character of God : The Writing Prophets

- **My Servants, The Prophets** by Edward Young ISBN=0802816975
- **Interpreting the Prophetic Word** by Willem A. VanGemeren ISBN=0310211387
- **The Prophets as Preachers: An Introduction to the Hebrew Prophets** by Gary V. Smith ISBN=0805418601
- **An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophetic Books** by C. Hassell Bullock ISBN=0802441548

Viewing God's Pictures : Biblical Symbolism:

- **Dictionary of Biblical Imagery** Edited by Leland Ryken, Jim Wilhoit , Tremper Longman , Colin Duriez, Douglas Penney, and Daniel G. Reid ISBN=0830814515
- **Typology of Scripture: Two Volumes in One** by Patrick Fairbairn ISBN=082542643X
- **Typology in Scripture: A Study of Hermeneutical Typos Structures** by Richard M. Davidson ISBN=0943872340

Bible Study Software Programs

- **Bible Explorer 4** is a great bargain with a good library of 15 Bible Translations and 125 hand-picked reference works <http://www.wordsearchbible.com/be4.php> A free download program with lots of free books is also available <http://www.bible-explorer.com>
- **WORDSearch 8** is a more sophisticated Bible Study program by WORDSearch and is available with a variety of libraries. Many more add on books can be purchased. <http://www.wordsearchbible.com>
- **LOGOS Bible Software** is a good, but more expensive program, also with a large library. <http://www.logos.com>
- **BibleWorks** Software is an expensive program especially useful for scholarly exegesis and study in the original languages. <http://www.bibleworks.com>
- **The Essential IVP Reference Collection: The Complete Electronic Bible Study Resource (available for both the PC and the Mac)** features the new Libronix Digital Library System(TM) and 18 Intervarsity Press Reference works including: *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, Dictionary of New Testament Background, Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Developments, Hard Sayings of the Bible, IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament, IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament, IVP-Pocket Dictionaries: Study of NT Greek, Biblical Studies, Apologetics & Philosophy of Religion, King James Version Bible, New Bible Atlas, New Bible Commentary, New Bible Dictionary, New Dictionary of Biblical Theology, New Dictionary of Theology*