

## Recommended Bible Study Aids

### Bible Translations and Study Bibles

#### Bible Translations:

In addition to the King James Version, four of my favorite modern translations are:

1. *The Holy Bible: New International Version* (**NIV**)
2. *The New King James Version* (**NKJV**)
3. *The Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (**NLT**)
4. *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version* (**NRSV**)

#### 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 Life Application Study Bible* (Tyndale). Several Bible Translations Available.
3. *The NIV Study Bible* (Zondervan).
4. *The NLT Study Bible* (Tyndale).
5. *The New Spirit-Filled Life Bible* (Thomas Nelson). This is my personal favorite.

### 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 accessible to the general reader.
2. *The New Bible Commentary*. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2000. This is my personal favorite one-volume commentary. It is well-written and very accessible.
3. *New International Biblical Commentary*. Multi-volumes. These commentaries are based on the NIV. They are detailed, but easy to read. The publisher is Hendrickson. Very affordable!
4. *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.

5. *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.
6. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990. This is an excellent one-volume commentary.
7. *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* and *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*. Multi-volumes. Like (4) above, these commentaries are detailed, but easy to read. The publisher is InterVarsity Press. Very affordable!
8. The Wycliffe Bible Commentary is a bit dated, but an excellent resource, nonetheless. You can read this commentary online here: <https://www.biblestudytools.com/wyc/>.

### **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.

### Online Sources

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

[www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com)

[www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com)

[www.olivetree.com](http://www.olivetree.com)

### Devotionals

Too numerous to mention! Check out my devotions at <https://www.wilfredgraves.org/category/daily-inspiration/>.