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## Vacario's "100 illustrated Bible verses: Inspiring words. Beautiful art" (Book Review)

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Throughout the book, Reiss contrasts his theories with those of Freud, Jung, and other well-known theorists, giving credence to his knowledge of the field of psychology. His familiarity with world religions is made known through his ability to cite the teachings and practices of multiple faith systems. After laying his foundation, Reiss uses individual chapters to explore God as an expression of basic human desires, motivation for more extreme religious behaviors such as asceticism and mysticism, and he also investigates the areas of religion which seem to contradict human nature.

The study of psychology is often viewed as being at odds with faith. Leading theorists are quick to show that religious practices such as those mentioned in the chapters on asceticism and mysticism seem to mirror the actions and thoughts of psychosis. Reiss, however, denies this and shows that individuals who pursue those areas are often acting out of their levels of need within one or more of the sixteen areas.

Reiss' writing is conversational and clear. A more complete exploration of his theory of motivation and personality is available in his previous publication *Who Am I? The 16 Basic Desires that Motivate Our Actions and Define Our Personalities*. Both books are recommended for those interested in the interaction of human behavior and religious faith.

### Reviewer

Lisa Fuller, Harding University

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Vicario, J. (2015). *100 illustrated Bible verses: Inspiring words. Beautiful art*. New York: Workman Publishing. 206 pp. ISBN 9780761185666

For those who see the Word of God as a colorful illustration of prose, this is the book for you. *100 Illustrated Bible verses* is a creative depiction of what we could envision in our minds when we think of certain scripture verses. Throughout the 206 page treasure are illustrations on every page with Bible verses from both the Old and New Testaments. On pages 48-49 the scripture in Proverbs 3:5 “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding*” (NIV) is given the visual of an acrobatic duo displaying the death defying feat of soaring through the air relying on the other to catch them. There is also the beautiful image of a heart shown as a tree with the verse from Ecclesiastes 3:11 that “*He [God] has planted eternity in the human heart*” (NLT). Janet Vicario is a well-known art director in New York and has provided input and art contributions to her colleagues in several other printed works. Illustrators Cahan and Keegan are best known for their custom design patterns and illustrative lettering. The creators of this work combined those elements with a hint

of infographic flare to some of the illustrations. Overall, this is a beautiful design of God's word and is a colorful read. The golden flecks on the front cover create an eye-catching first impression making it quite irresistible to touch.

**Reviewer**

Cynorra Jackson, Friends University

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Stevens, R. P. (2016). *Aging matters: Finding your calling for the rest of your life*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans. 160 pp. ISBN 9780802872333

Dr. Stevens offers readers a new perspective on aging which offers hope as well as spiritual and practical guidance from a Christian point of view. His approach is to view aging as a calling or vocation, reframing it as a positive experience, a privilege, a victory, not a defeat as our society often frames old age. Vocational discernment takes on even more, not less, significance in later life. The author delves into matters of calling, spirituality, and legacy in retirement to show that continuing to discern our vocation as we age facilitates remaining meaningfully engaged for the rest of our lives. Stevens' understanding of aging as a calling provides an inspiring foundation for generous reflection on a vision of final years lived generously and purposefully. This well researched book contains citations which are footnoted, avoiding flipping back and forth in the book, an index, and a bibliography for further reading. The writing is engaging and there are insightful, thought provoking discussion questions following each chapter which are tied to pertinent scriptural readings. The discussions can be used by a single reader or in a book discussion group. R. Paul Stevens is professor emeritus at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

**Reviewer**

Tami Echavarria Robinson, Whitworth University.

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Vollandt, R. (2015). *Arabic versions of the Pentateuch: A comparative study of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim sources*. Boston: Brill. 347 pp. \$149.00. ISBN 9789004289918

Ronny Vollandt offers his readers an in-depth study on the multitude of Arabic versions and translations of the Pentateuch that have arisen throughout history. The aim of this, his re-worked PhD dissertation, is to, "reintegrate the Arabic versions of the Pentateuch into the academic discourse and demonstrate how different disciplines may benefit from a basic scholarly investigation of these texts." To accomplish his aim, the book is divided into two parts covering the history of Arabic manuscripts