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Annotated Bibliography: A Bible Study Reference Bookshelf

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Annotated Bibliography:

A Bible Study Reference Bookshelf



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Librarians are often asked which resources they prefer in a variety of different venues; and for smaller academic libraries the cost of new books may prohibit the buying of a large number of resources. The following is a listing of books to assist librarians in beginning a basic Bible study references collection which includes a variation of handbooks, dictionaries, atlases and more. The selection of books is based on the reference sources most used within the Ida Dockery Owen Library at Yellowstone Christian College by students, pastors, lay people and others.

Armstrong, J.J., (Ed.) (2013). *Commentary on Isaiah: Eusebius of Caesarea*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press Academic.

As part of a larger set, this volume shares the complete commentary on Isaiah by Eusebius of Caesarea. The purpose of the set is to publish the works of some of the first Christian theologians in their entirety or in as complete a way as possible. The works give scholars an inside view into the early church and the theology discussed by well-known Christian leaders and scholars of the time. This set is a complementary edition to the *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*.

Brisco, T.V. (1998). *Holman Bible atlas*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman.

This well-indexed atlas is a colorful addition to any collection. It includes color photographs and maps, archaeology notes, charts, building diagrams and an extended narrative of the major Bible time periods. The maps are large enough to be easily read and contain limited information for quick searches and simple location of individual sites.

De Hamel, C. (2001). *The book: A history of the Bible*. London: Phaidon.

Beautifully illustrated with both color and black and white photographs, this history of the how the Bible came into being is easy to read and covers the creation of the book from the beginning to modern day. Chapters are in chronological order which demonstrates the progression of printing technology, as well as the different controversies over scripture selection.

Douglas, J. D. (1974). *The new international dictionary of the Christian church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

For students needing a quick information search on over 4,800 people, places, events or theologies; this dictionary gives solid introductions by a variety of scholars. This book is especially helpful in searching subjects not usually covered in other works or making connections between lesser known persons who are indirectly involved in greater events.

Elwell, W. A. (1996). *Evangelical dictionary of biblical theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

This dictionary is a collection of key theological themes from both the Old and New Testaments, presented from an evangelical perspective. Countries, persons, concepts and ideas are entries covered in small or great detail as the entry warrants.

Hays, J. D., & Duvall, J. S. (2011). *The Baker illustrated Bible handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.

This handbook has interesting highlights on such subjects as the “Cult of Artemis” and “Theophany: Direct Encounters With God”. It is an excellent resource for newer scholars with colorful photographs, maps, charts and illustrations. The additional articles by evangelical scholars are also helpful to students looking for more information than a dictionary provides, but not wanting large amounts of information.

Levine, A.-J., & Brettler, M. Z. (2011). *The Jewish annotated New Testament: New Revised Standard Version Bible translation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The authors of this unique look at the New Testament list their purposes for composing this volume as threefold. Firstly, they present information which explains much of the customs, literature and interpretations of biblical texts; secondly, the book highlights the link between Jewish (including rabbinic) literature and the New Testament; and finally, the authors address issues the Jewish community has within the New Testament (p.xi). This book is an interesting source for New Testament scholars seeking information from the Jewish perspective.

McKim, D. K. (2007). *Dictionary of major biblical interpreters*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press Academic.

For those who do not understand the beginnings of biblical interpretation, this unique dictionary includes six period-specific essays on its origins; along with individual essays on the contributions of the most well-known interpreters of the scriptures to the field. Biographies featuring historical information on a variety of individuals, are also presented to assist users in understanding the nature and background of the interpretation they chose to use.

Martin, R. P., & Davids, P. H. (1997). *Dictionary of the later New Testament & its developments*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

One of eight volumes in the set, this dictionary covers the literature written outside the Pauline epistles and the Gospels. The authors use bibliographies, cross-references, and an extensive abbreviations section (which also may serve as a list of references for scholars researching a particular topic) to create detailed entries on a variety of subjects.

Skolnik, F. & Berenbaum, M. (Eds.). (2007). *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Detroit: Thomson/Gale.

Containing twenty-two volumes, this updated edition contains excellent information on everything from lesser known scholars to the Holocaust. Illustrated with photographs, maps, and charts; the final volume also contains a thematic outline and complete index. Students may benefit from the different perspectives presented in the articles, as well as enjoy the information included on subjects not normally covered in other resources.

Tenney, M. C., & Douglas, J. D. (1987). *The new international dictionary of the Bible: Pictorial edition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

Full of both color and black/white illustrations, this dictionary is based on the NIV Bible with a cross-referencing to the KJV translation. It includes 5,400 individual entries, along with maps, charts, and a complete scripture index.

Water, M. (2004). *Encyclopedia of Bible facts*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

This fact book about the Bible includes other helps such as: a brief explanation of different translations, a section on Bible languages, information on cities, and other facts not generally found in other sources. The book is well outlined for easy reference and each area contains a detailed table of contents.

Wilson, N. S., & Taylor, L. C. (2001). *Tyndale handbook of Bible charts & maps*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

For those who love charts, maps, illustrations and diagrams, this monograph is full of information in quick reference formats. The chapters are in order according to the Old and New Testaments which makes locating information easy to find. A CD is included as well to replicate maps, charts and other information in color. The licensing arrangement permits the user to print and photocopy maps, charts and other information for individual or group use. Educators may find this information valuable for classroom use.

Zodhiates, S. (1992). *The complete word study New Testament with parallel Greek: King James Version*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

For Bible scholars interested in the original Greek language of the New Testament, this book contains multiple helps, including a Greek concordance, a translational reference index and an introduction to each of the New Testament books. Scholars may appreciate the exegetical notes, lexical aids and grammatical codes as well.

Annotated bibliographies can be on any topic for which a library represented in the ACL membership will purchase material. Topics can range from juvenile literature to theology, from the Olympics to special education. If you have a topic of interest that you would like to provide an annotated bibliography on, please contact one of our Associate Editors, Joshua Avery at: javery@gs.edu; or Jeannie Ferriss at: jferriss@yellowstonechristian.edu. †

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