

The Bible – September 2023

Books newly added to our collection are marked with an asterisk

In the library section called “Bible” you will find copies of different translations of the Bible, concordances, commentaries on different parts of the Bible and general background information. Here are some you might wish to read:

Bailey, Kenneth – The Good Shepherd: A Thousand-Year Journey from Psalm 23 to the New Testament

An in-depth look at the image of the Good Shepherd, so popular among early Christians, from the earliest reference to the figure in Psalm 23 through to the use of the metaphor in the New Testament, against a background of the real experience of shepherding in the Middle East both historically and now.

Baldock, John – Women in the Bible: Miracle Births, Heroic Deeds, Bloodlust and Jealousy

Short articles on women from both Testaments, illustrated by classical art.

Barclay, Rabbi Michael – Sacred Relationships: Biblical Wisdom for Deepening our Lives together

Barclay examines the core theme or teaching about God and our relationship to Him and each other in the light of that theme found in the Ketuvum, which includes Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, and Chronicles. This book is useful in giving Catholics a better awareness of parts of the Bible that are generally less well-known to us.

Brown, Raymond – A Crucified Christ in Holy Week: Essays on the Four Gospel Passion Narratives

A close analysis of the accounts of the Passion as a prelude to a much more detailed examination that Brown planned to write on the death of Jesus. Questions include ones on the authorship of the Bible, its historical accuracy, its literal truth, and its relationship to the beliefs of the Catholic Church.

Brown, Raymond – Responses to 101 Questions on the Bible

Brown characterizes this as a “people’s book” not a “scholar’s book,” reflecting the most common questions Brown has been asked in years of lecturing on the Bible.

The Children’s Bible

There are several copies of this book in the library. Heavily illustrated, it is written at the level of reading of upper elementary school students.

Chittister, Joan – Friendship of Women: The Hidden Tradition of the Bible

An exploration of the nature of friendship between women, the characteristics of which Chittister illustrates with examples of women in the Bible. In some cases, little is mentioned about these women in the Bible so the reader may feel that the author’s extrapolation from what is written is a bit forced. Still, the book may be of interest to women who feel their issues have been dealt with inadequately in our culture.

Chittister, Joan – The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman’s Life

An interesting evaluation of the elements of the story of Ruth looking at the applicability to the life of women nowadays in their struggle for recognition as equals to men., and in their development in their relationship with God.

Collegeville Bible Commentary: Old Testament

A fairly new commentary on the Old Testament using the New American Bible. A considerable number of the articles are written by women, which is not the case in earlier commentaries.

Collegeville Bible Commentary: New Testament

Same format as the Old Testament volume, but with predominantly male writers.

Collegeville Bible Handbook

This aims at giving new readers to the Bible a convenient summary of themes and contents of each of the Bible’s books, with a commentary for more advanced readers.

Collegeville Bible Time-Line

A pamphlet with a brief history of the Israelites from Genesis to Revelation with a pull-out time-line of major dates.

Cruden, Alexander – Cruden's Complete Concordance to the Old and New Testaments: With Notes and Biblical Proper Names under one Alphabetical Arrangement

A useful book if one wants to see all the appearances of a particular word in the Bible.

Del Mastro, M. – All the Women in the Bible

The first section of the book is an alphabetical dictionary of names, identifying the women with reference to the place in Scripture where they are mentioned. The second section is called "The Book of Stories" which are imaginative recreations of the Biblical account of the women, from Abigail to the woman taken in adultery.

Dollen, Charles – Prayerbook of the King: The Psalms

Useful analysis of all the psalms, with references to comments on them from the Church Fathers and other figures. The overall aim of the book is to enhance understanding of the psalms which are a major part of the Church's prayer and liturgy.

Dowley, Tim – The Essential Bible Atlas

Using the same format of others in the "Essential Bible" series, this gives explanatory text with lots of illustrations and maps.

Feiler, Bruce – Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land through the Five Books of Moses

A fascinating travel story to places in the beginning of the Old Testament beginning with Mount Ararat, the reputed touchdown place of Noah's Ark.

*Francis, Pope – The Gospel of Matthew: A Spiritual and Pastoral Reading

The Gospel of Mark: A Spiritual and Pastoral Reading

The Gospel of Luke: A Spiritual and Pastoral Reading

All three books present thoughts of Francis arising from the Gospels presented in the chronological order of the particular gospel, some new material, some taken from previous writings or speeches.

Fuchs, Lucy – We were There: Women in the New Testament

Meditations on the women in Jesus' life who are models of holiness, ministry and leadership. With discussion questions.

Gateley, Edwina – Soul Sisters: Women in Scripture Speak to Women Today

Beautifully illustrated by paintings by Louis Glanzman, these are poems addressed to various women from the New Testament, named like Elizabeth or unnamed like the Samaritan woman, which attempt to penetrate their thinking and relationship to Jesus.

Gaubert, Henri – Abraham, Loved by God

The aim of the book is to give the geographical context and human framework to the story of Abraham, using the latest (as of the date of publication, 1968) historical and archaeological research.

Geoghegan, Jeffrey – The Bible for Dummies

Following the general pattern of the "Dummies" series, this an easy-to-read quick reference to the Bible, its creation, contents, and the differences between the Jewish Bible and the Christian one. Don't expect in-depth explanations, but as a beginning overview, it is okay.

Gnuse, Robert – The Authority of the Bible: Theories of Inspiration, Revelation and the Canon of Scripture

Gnuse first talks about inspiration as a general model for the material in the Bible and then examines five different models of Biblical authority including inspiration, holy history, existential, Christological and limitation models.

Gospel Parallels: A Synopsis of the First Three Gospels, 4th edition

Parallel texts from Matthew, Mark and Luke given so one can compare similarities and differences in accounts. Also given are parallel references from a variety of non-canonical texts not accepted into the canon of the Bible by the Church.

Gottwald, Norman – A Light to the Nations: An Introduction to the Old Testament

An older detailed look at history and development of the Old Testament as a collection of documents, the physical and political world of the Middle East, and the history of the Jewish people up to the Common Era.

Gower, Ralph – The Essential Bible: Manners and Customs

Money-changing to seine net fishing to the Jewish calendar – quick answers to all you wanted to know about Jewish life in the time of Jesus and before. Lots of helpful illustrations and photographs.

Great Events of Bible Times: New Perspectives on the People, Places and History of the Biblical World

Two-page articles, with maps and illustrations, on a wide variety of topics from Canaanite culture through to the victory at Merom Waters to the payment of tribute to the Romans.

Grelot, Pierre – Introduction to the Bible

Though not the latest word in Biblical studies, this is a really useful book on background to the Bible, the developing religious understanding of the Jewish people, and the general cultural milieu of the times. Organized in short sections for easy access.

Hahn, Scott – Spirit & Life: Essays on Interpreting the Bible in Ordinary Time

Essays collected to encourage Biblical literacy among members of the Church and a deeper understanding of the integral connection between Scripture and the liturgy of the mass.

Haught, Nancy – Sacred Strangers: What the Bible's Outsiders can Teach Christians

An easy read, looking at the stories of Hagar, Rahab, Naaman the leper, and the New Testament stories of the Samaritan woman at the well and the Syrophenician woman, as examples of how sometimes outsiders have a surer idea of God than supposed insiders to the faith. Haught looks at the lessons we can learn from these figures.

Hebblethwaite, Margaret – Six New Gospels: New Testament Women Tell their Stories

A book that looks at Jesus through the eyes of women mentioned in the Gospels. Their stories, though fictionalized, are based on some few references in the New Testament which are given as running commentary below the fictionalized account.

Heinrichs, Steve, editor – Unsettling the Word: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization

A wide variety of people involved in Indigenous-White relations recast familiar Bible passages to reflect Indigenous concerns and a breaking down of exclusive White interpretations of these passages. As the editor says, “for the oppressed to experience a Jubilee of reparation, the Bible itself...will need to be liberated.”

Hillyer, Norman – The Essential Bible Dictionary

Very short definitions of terminology, people, places and creatures found in the Bible.

Holy Bible: Good News Translation

A modern language version of the Bible, illustrated with stick drawings.

Hone, William – Lost Books of the Bible

A collection of accounts from the first few centuries that were judged to be spurious fictionalized accounts by the Church magisterium in the fourth century when the accepted contents of the New Testament were set.

The Jerome Biblical Commentary, 2 volumes in one

Though the preface says this book is a “compact” commentary on the whole Bible – it truly is enormous and comprehensive and certainly a “go to” source of information. Written by Catholic scholars according to the principles of modern biblical criticism, this book is aimed at educated readers who wish to study the Bible seriously.

The Jerusalem Bible, Reader’s edition

Another modern translation of the Bible in easy-to-read full-page printing layout.

Keck, Leander and Victor Furnish – The Pauline Letters

Background information to reach a better understanding of Paul, his thought and the further development of his thought in those letters not written by him but attributed to him.

Kuyper, Abraham – Women of the Old Testament: 50 Devotional Messages for Women's Groups

Not only feminists may find the descriptions of the women in this evangelical publication a bit hair-raising. See for example, the description of Eve as being more susceptible to temptation than Adam because she was “more peculiarly a child of nature...constitutionally less well adapted to offering resistance” to temptation.

Kysar, Robert – John, the Maverick Gospel

For beginning students to Biblical studies, an introduction to the thought and symbolism of the Gospel of John, stressing its uniqueness in the New Testament but also seeing it in a wider context of a universal search for God.

Laffey, Alice – An Introduction to the Old Testament: A Feminist Perspective

An exhaustive look at the undeniably patriarchal bias of the Old Testament, Laffey organizes her critique first around sections of the Testament such as the Pentateuch, and the Deuteronomistic history, and then, within these divisions, gives the themes and texts from a feminist perspective.

Leon-Dufour, Xavier – Dictionary of Biblical Theology

This second edition includes some forty new articles. The book attempts to define traditional terms like ‘decatalogue,’ some words related to subjects of articles like ‘devil’ or ‘road,’ some current terms like ‘eschatology’ and some broad terms like ‘healing.’ Copious references to the Biblical sources and to other entries.

Link, Mark – These Stones will Shout: A New Voice for the Old Testament

A look at the themes of Biblical prehistory, peoplehood, nationhood and exile, and the remnant community in the Old Testament. The author contrasts two approaches to reading the Bible – literal (held by some Protestants) and contextual (held by most Catholics). Based on classroom teaching, much of the book is in quotations

and accompanying questions to the reader – this could lead to thoughtful consideration of the Bible, but perhaps also to confusion.

Lukefahr, Oscar – A Catholic Guide to the Bible

Lukefahr gives the basics of biblical scholarship, including such elements as the historical background, information on the author and literary style of the particular book of the Bible and interpretation of some key passages, in order to ease the reader into a deeper understanding and relationship with the Bible.

Maloney, George – Singers of the New Song: A Mystical Interpretation of the Song of Songs

An analysis of the Song of Songs stressing the passionate love of God for us as expressed in Jesus. As explored by the author, the problem for many with the Song is believing that God truly desires our love, rather than being just a dispenser of love to us. Also problematic is our reluctance to read beyond the literal level of the text.

McKenna, Megan – Not Counting Women and Children: Neglected Stories from the Bible

Reinterpretations of biblical stories from the perspective of feminism and preferential option for the poor. For example, McKenna looks again at the story of Sarah and Hagar in an exploration of who is our mother in faith and why.

Meves, Christa – The Bible Answers Us with Pictures

A psychotherapist looks at Biblical symbols and relates them to dreams of modern people to show the relevance of the Bible to the present day. So, the Fall in Genesis is reinterpreted in terms of expulsion as motivation for maturation, or the stories of Jacob and Joseph as stories of psychic transformation.

Miller, John – Meet the Prophets: A Beginner's Guide to the Books of the Biblical Prophets

After a general overview of what prophecy was in the Old Testament world, Miller looks at the prophets within two main historical periods, the Assyrian period and the Babylonian/Persian period. Under each prophet, he gives a description of the prophet, the background and historical setting of the message, and its significance for the Jewish experience of God.

Miller, Stephen – Who's Who and Where's Where in the Bible

An interesting quick reference source for what the title says. Nice illustrations and maps.

Montague, George – The Holy Spirit: Growth of a Biblical Tradition

A commentary on the principal texts in both the Old and New Testaments dealing with the Holy Spirit. The approach is giving the texts relating to the Holy Spirit and then giving the specific explication of them. The overall effect is to show the developing understanding from the Genesis references to the breath of God through to the New Testament approach to understanding of the Third Person of the Trinity.

Murdy, Kay – What Every Catholic Needs to Know about the Bible: A Parish Guide to Scripture

Introductory overview of the Bible from a Catholic perspective, the nature of divine revelation, and the use of Scripture in the life of the Church.

Murphy, Richard – Background to the Bible: An Introduction to Scripture Study

Part One of this book deals with a definition of the Bible, what it contains, who wrote it, and its development historically. Part Two deals with tools for understanding the Bible – methods of approaching the text, the languages used, the contribution of archaeology to understanding the milieu of events and persons, and the relation between faith, reason and the Bible.

Murphy, Roland – The Tree of Life: An Exploration of Biblical Wisdom Literature

The latest edition of the standard introduction to the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. A serious read for those wishing to explore such themes as the Jewish "fear of the Lord," the concepts of the universality of the human/God experience, creation, and spiritual/moral growth.

Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome – Paul the Letter-Writer: His World, His Options, His Skills

This book focuses on the mechanics of letter-writing, including such elements as the use of secretaries or co-authors, the organization of the material in a letter,

types of writing styles, the classical rhetorical elements in speeches, and the eventual collection of the essays making a coherent statement of belief.

Myers, Ched – Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark's Story of Jesus

A challenging view of Mark's Gospel as a document reacting to the socio-historical environment of the time thus creating a picture of Jesus as a revolutionary figure. This has implications for present application to our reactions to political questions we face.

A New Catholic Commentary on Holy Scripture

Of the same format and vintage as the Jerome Biblical Commentary, there are, in addition to articles on the individual books, useful general articles on such topics as the religious institutions of Israel and the pagan world in New Testament times.

O'Grady, John – According to John: The Witness of the Beloved Disciple

An in-depth look at the content and emphases of this gospel that makes it different to the three Synoptic gospels and the community out of which and for which the gospel was written.

Packer, J.W. – The Acts of the Apostles

Part of *The Cambridge Bible Commentary on the New English Bible*, this book looks at the Acts... in terms easily accessible to the general reader, assuming no specialized theological knowledge and no knowledge of Greek and Hebrew.

Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles: Journeys in Greece

Primarily a geographical and historical description of the places Paul visited with some statement of what he said and did in these areas.

Perspectives on Scripture and Tradition

Talks given on aspects of the relationship between Scripture and tradition, in other words, on the differing emphases given in the Catholic and Protestant worlds on the interpretation of Scripture.

The Psalms and the Song of Solomon

With text and accompanying commentary, this book looks at the religious message and theology of the Psalms and their use in the Church, and the rather anomalous

book, the Song of Solomon, which has been interpreted backwards from Christian experience as being about the love relationship between God and man.

Psalms for Morning and Evening Prayer

A four-week cycle of psalms and canticles arranged for morning and evening prayers.

Reader's Digest Atlas of the Bible: An Illustrated Guide to the Holy Land

Considerable amount of text explaining the maps.

*Rohr, Richard – Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount

A close reading of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel, including the beatitudes and other sayings, which outline Jesus' counter-cultural view of life and society. Rohr refreshes our understanding of what Jesus meant by the "Kingdom of God."

Rohr, Richard – Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality

Based on a series of talks on the major themes of Scripture, Rohr traces themes from the beginning of the Bible through to the New Testament, in order to effect a conjunction between personal inner understanding and the outer authority of Church and scholarship to develop mature Christian action.

Rohr, Richard and Joseph Martos – The Great Themes of Scripture: New Testament

A useful book for understanding repeated themes used by the Gospel writers. For example, a basic theme in the Gospel of Matthew is the reign of God, in Mark and John, Jesus as Lord, in Luke and Acts, the gift of the Spirit, in Paul's writing the new creation.

Schillebeeckx, Edward – Paul the Apostle

Highly illustrated, this book has a section on the verifiable facts of Paul's life and teachings, particularly the tension in him between his Judaism and his Christianity. The second major part is a selection from Paul's own writings and those of near contemporaries to reconstruct his life chronologically and the development of his thought.

Schreck, Nancy and Maureen Leach – Psalms Anew: In Inclusive Language

Psalms rewritten in inclusive language in order to free them from “their patriarchal bias.”

Schubert, Judith – 101 Questions & Answers on Women in the New Testament

Answers to questions apparently asked of the author during her teaching career. Some of the questions strike one as only there to bring up the number to 101, however, they may provide useful answers to some readers.

Soards, Marion – The Apostle Paul: An Introduction to his Writings and Teaching

An attempt to consider simultaneously what is known with certainty about the life of Paul, the letters believed to have been written by him rather than by students or followers of him, and his theology particularly in the light of his expectation of the immanent return of Jesus.

The Story of the Bible

Copiously illustrated, this is an account of what we know of the writers of the various parts of the Bible.

Stuhlmüller, Carroll – New Paths through the Old Testament

Written for a general audience, this book looks first at the contents of the Old Testament, the arrangement of the books, then gives a close look at Exodus and Isaiah again in terms of arrangement of the contents. There is some discussion of the emphasis on holy places and ritual. The historicity of the material is explored as well as the Messianic foreshadowing and prediction.

Tuckett, Christopher – Reading the New Testament: Methods of Interpretation

Directed to serious students of the Bible, this book looks at various ways that scholars analyze the New Testament, including genre criticism, source criticism, form and redaction criticism, and the influence of sociology and structuralism.

Tully, Mary Jo – Psalms: Faith Songs for the Faith-filled

A look at psalms as exhibiting the full gamut of adult reactions and relationships with God, followed by instructions for adult sessions studying the psalms from the point of view of those experienced in life.

Unger, Merrill – The Essential Bible Handbook

Following the format of other volumes in the “Essential Bible” series, this is a quick reference book of events appearing chronologically in each of the books of the Bibles, excluding the Apocrypha.

Vine, W.E. – Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

A dictionary of Biblical vocabulary which is particularly useful in giving the connotations of Greek words that are easily missed by the non-scholar in Greek but which illumine the meaning of the text. For example, there are two and a half pages of variants for “bring, bringing, brought” with the verse/chapter references for particular usages.

Von Rad, Gerhard – Deuteronomy: A Commentary

Von Rad, an expert on Deuteronomy, discusses in his introduction the literary form of Deuteronomy, the contents peculiar to the book, and the origin and purpose of the book, coming as it does out of a long traditional of Levitical study. The major part of this book is a verse-by-verse commentary.

Williams, David – New International Biblical Commentary: Acts

A close reading/explication of *Acts*, valuable because it gives us a picture of the Church in its earliest form before it became more institutionalized as time passed without the expected return of Jesus.

Winward, Stephen – A Guide to the Prophets

The historical/biographical background is given for each prophet and a discussion of the main themes of the prophet’s message.

Winzen, Damasus – Pathways in Scripture: A Book-by-book Guide to the Spiritual Riches of the Bible

This book offers the traditional monastic way of meditation on Scripture – a careful study of the literal sense of the Scripture, meditation on its deeper meaning, and a consequent desire to act upon the understanding.

Word on Fire Bible: The Gospels

A recent translation of the New Testament, highly annotated with background information and commentary, illustrated.