

RECOMMENDED STUDY BIBLES

The Bible should be the most important and precious possession held by a servant of the Lord. The Bible is to be treasured as beyond price for it is the very word of God in written form. God addresses every human being through His written word. All of the Bible is God's word and must be the one and only book servants must turn to for divine guidance. The Bible was written as the Apostle John reminds us, "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name." John 20:31 ESV. God's Word will accomplish the purposes for which God intended (Isaiah 55:11). The best suggestion anyone can give regarding the Bible is to read and study it daily and to memorize great portions of it, to meditate on it day and night and most importantly, to obey its teachings for God is speaking to us.

There are many excellent Study Bibles available today and to limit the selection to a few may not do justice to those who are not on the "list". However, the few recommended Study Bibles listed below are those, that in the opinion of the Servant's Place, should be in the outstanding category. These selections have been recommended due to their comprehensive study resources and general approach (neither too specific to one theological system nor targeted to a specific audience and not presented for a narrowly defined reason).

The MacArthur Study Bible – NASB, NKJV, ESV, NIV 2011

The MacArthur Study Bibles in the NASB updated version, NKJV, ESV and NIV 2011 include thousands of commentary notes, a concordance, many appendices, maps and charts. It is an comprehensive study resource that is in the outstanding category in the field of Study Bibles. The combination of the three versions, which are essentially literal translations, and the commentary notes by MacArthur are Study Bibles that can be considered the most essential "all in one" Bible study tools available today. The notes by MacArthur have a distinctive reformed viewpoint. MacArthur is a reformed, conservative pastor, teacher and scholar who holds to the pre-millennial and pre-tribulation rapture position and stands solidly for the Lordship Salvation doctrine.

The Nelson Study Bible – NKJV

This highly recommended Study Bible is Published by Thomas Nelson Publishers, and is edited by Earl D. Radmacher General Editor, Ronald B. Allen – Old Testament Editor and H. Wayne House – New Testament Editor. The Nelson Study Bible also contains many of the same features of the MacArthur Study Bible but with a theological viewpoint closer to that of Dallas Theological Seminary. This is an excellent Study Bible worthy of choice by anyone desiring to have an intimate knowledge of the Bible.

Thompson Chain-Reference Bible – KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV

Published by B.B. Kirkbride Bible Co. of Indianapolis, Indiana, the Thompson Chain-Reference Bibles have proven to be an invaluable study reference for serious Bible students. Along with thousands of chain references and their chain topics with Scripture verses fully printed, these Study Bibles also abound with charts, maps, individual Bible book introductions, character studies, extensive concordance and many other study tools. Although these Study Bibles do not provide commentary notes their cross references are without equal among Study Bibles and should be among the Bibles most valued by any student of God's Word.

Life Application Bible – KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV.

The KJV and NKJV versions are published by Tyndale House Publishers and the NIV and the NASB-updated edition versions are published by Zondervan Inc. The popular Life Application Study Bibles have many of the same features of the other commentary style Bibles but with a decided devotional approach. They have an index to the notes at the back of these Bibles rather than a typical concordance. They also have less cross-references than the other Bibles listed above. Yet they offer excellent character studies, individual Bible book introductions, charts, maps and many more study resources making these Study Bibles recommended for those wanting a devotional style approach.

NIV Study Bible-Revised

Published in 2017 by Zondervan Corp, the NIV revised Study Bible is similar in appearance to the MacArthur Study Bibles and the Nelson NKJV Study Bible featuring thousands of commentary notes along with extensive cross references, subject indexes, maps, charts and essays along with Bible book introductions and a large concordance. The 2017 edition and previous NIV editions are the world's top selling Study Bible. The 1984 NIV edition is still preferred by many Christians but may be difficult to obtain.

ESV Study Bible

The first edition of the ESV Study Bible, published in 2008, is a wealth of information contained in approximately 2,800 pages and has over 2 million words. The Introduction to the 2008 version states its contents are, "equivalent to a 20 volume Bible Resource library". The ESV is an essentially literal translation composed by a team of conservative editors. It has a distinctive "reformed" viewpoint with numerous articles on Biblical topics and has a useful but brief concordance. One outstanding feature by the publishers is the online version which is useful for Bible study and sermon preparation. The ESV Study Bible is non-committal with regards to the end times but many of its contributors hold to an amillennial eschatological viewpoint of the end times.

Hebrew – Greek Key Word Study Bible

The Hebrew – Greek Key Word Study Bible (various Bible versions), AMG Publishers is also recommended for those desiring to know the Hebrew or Greek word (and definition) of selected English words in the biblical text. This Study Bible uses the Strong's numbering system and includes a Hebrew and Greek dictionary of the words selected in the text of the Bible. A Strong's Concordance is recommended to be used with this Study Bible.

Other Study Bibles

There are many other Study Bibles which may be used for comparative purposes when preparing a Bible Study or as a basic background for sermon preparation. These Study Bible are listed alphabetically only, not by order of preference.

Holman Christian Standard Study Bible – Holman Bible Publishers

David Jeremiah Study Bible: NKJV

NET Bible, with notes, - The Biblical Studies Foundation

Ryrie Study Bible, Moody Publishers, KJV, NAS, NIV, ESV

Scofield Study Bible, Oxford University Press, Old and Newer Versions: KJV, NKJV, NIV