

The History of the Bible INTERPRETATION

The only true meaning of Scripture is the author-intended / Spirit-intended meaning of Scripture.

Four Keys To Biblical Interpretation

1) Literal

The Bible means what it says and says what it means.

Scripture is not written to confuse us. It is written to enlighten us. Thus, the clear sense is the true sense. This does not deny that the Biblical writers used figures of speech and other literary tools like metaphors. But such literary devices can be identified and understood plainly.

3) Grammatical

To know what the Word means, learn what its words mean.

Grammatical interpretation is the study of individual words and phrases in the Bible. It is helpful, but not required, to learn these words in the original languages. Resources like Bible dictionaries, lexicons, word studies are helpful, while a good study Bible is an invaluable resource.

2) Historical

The text cannot mean what it never meant.

Scripture was reader “for” the modern reader, but it was not written “to” the modern reader. Approaching the Scriptures through historical interpretation will often challenge long-held misconceptions about well-known passages.

4) Contextual

Every text has a context.

We must ask the questions: who wrote this? to whom was it written? when was it written? what was the purpose? The nearest context (what is immediately before and after) should be given the most weight, however the meaning must be consistent with the whole chapter, book and the totality of scripture.

THE GENRES OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

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NARRATIVE

Narrative shows us God’s work in human history.

Genesis
Exodus
Numbers
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 & 2 Samuel
1 & 2 Kings
1 & 2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Daniel 1-6
Matthew
Mark
Luke
John
Acts

STUDY TIPS:

(1) Read it like a story. Look for the big-picture concepts that point you to God’s work, rather than immediate personal applications.

(2) Remember the characters are humans, like you. Don’t paint them black or white.

WISDOM

Wisdom literature addresses our hardest questions.

SOLOMON’S WISDOM:

Proverbs—“How do I become wise?”
Ecclesiastes—“What is the meaning of life?”

POETIC WISDOM:

Psalms—“Where can I take my joy and my grief?”
Song of Songs—“How should I view sexuality?”
Lamentations—“Can I approach God with my pain?”

NARRATIVE WISDOM:

Job—“Does God have the right to my life?”

EPISTLE

Epistles show us how to live in light of who God is.

Romans
1 & 2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 & 2 Thessalonians
1 & 2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 & 2 Peter
1, 2, 3 John
Jude



REMEMBER:

You’re reading someone else’s mail, and you only have half the correspondence! Start with the classic questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how.

PROPHECY

Prophecy changes our perspective on all of life.

MAJOR PROPHETS:

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel
Daniel 7-12

MINOR PROPHETS:

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

OTHER PROPHETS:

Revelation



LOOK FOR THE LAYERS:

Layer I—historic context
Layer II—current application
Layer III—future events

LAW

God’s Law gives us a picture of His character.

CIVIL CODE:
Exodus 20-23
Numbers 5-6, 15, 28-30



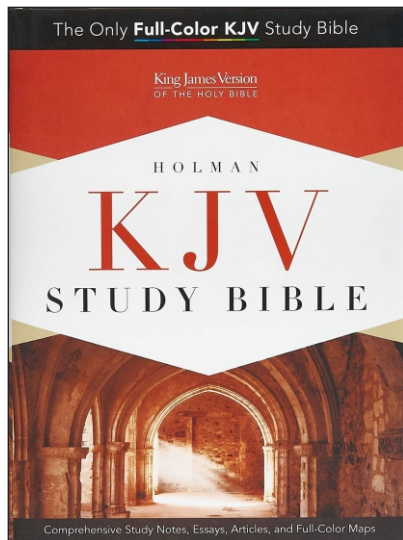
QUESTION TO ASK:
“What does each command show me about who God is?”

CRIMINAL CODE:
Leviticus

CONSTITUTIONAL CODE:
Deuteronomy

“You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word. Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments. . . . The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.”

Psalm 119:65-66, 72



HCSB Study Bible

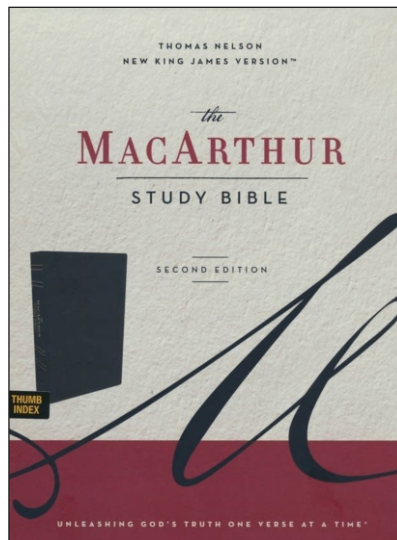
Also known as: Holman Study Bible or Christian Standard Study Bible.

Publisher: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010

Editor: Edwin Blum

Features: Book introductions, articles, outlines, timelines, illustrations, concordance and cross-references. Over 15,000 study notes, 16 charts and 59 maps - all in full color.

Availability: available in most common versions, including KJV.



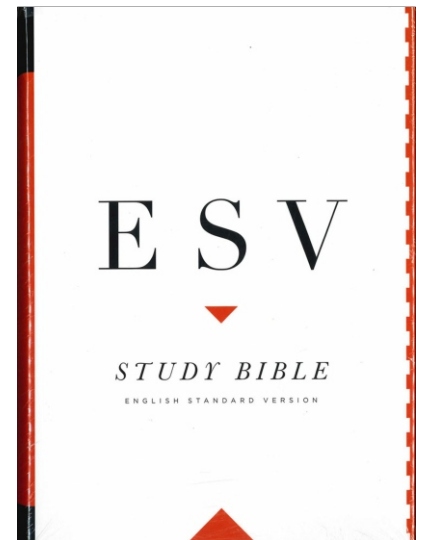
MacArthur Study Bible

Publisher: Thomas Nelson, 1997

Editor: John MacArthur

Features: Book introductions, outlines, timelines, concordance, harmony of the Gospels and cross-references. It has 25,000 study notes, 177 charts, 87 maps.

Availability: NKJV, ESV, NIV, NASB



ESV Study Bible

Publisher: Crossway, 2008

Editor: Wayne Grudem

Features: Book introductions, outlines, timelines, concordance, original artwork. It includes 19,500 study notes, over 200 charts and more than 200 maps.

Availability: ESV