BIBLICAL DICTIONARIES AND ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Don L. Meredith
Harding School of Theology
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Contains signed articles (most with bibliographies) by an international group of the most significant biblical scholars of the time. Reflects advanced higher criticism of the late 19th century. Articles, gauged for the "serious" Bible student, cover proper names in the Bible, every book of the Bible and O.T. Apocrypha, things, events, and concepts. Full text available on Internet at http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupid?key=olbp14092

Contains signed articles (some with bibliographies) representing early 20th century biblical scholarship. Contributors are predominantly British and represent a more moderate viewpoint than Cheyne & Black. Articles cover all biblical persons & places; antiquities and archaeology of the Bible; ethnology, geography, natural history; biblical theology & ethics; and obsolete & archaic words. Contains see references. The extra volume contains 37 articles on background topics and indexes (author, subject, Scripture, Hebrew & Greek terms) for the set.

This "first Catholic biblical encyclopedia in English" represents traditional pre-Vatican II biblical scholarship. For the "clergy and well-instructed laymen" it contains "biographical, geographical, archaeological, and dogmatic articles" about all men and women, places, and truths in the Bible.

Contains signed articles (with bibliographies) reflecting a "reasonable conservatism" by about 250 international and interdenominational scholars. Gauged for the more advanced student and also "the average pastor and Bible student." A completely reconstructed encyclopedia from the previous edition with more articles in the field of dogmatic history. Contains articles on every person & place in the Bible and Apocrypha; terms that have theological & ethical meaning; the Bible, its transmission, study, and interpretation; and subjects on the background of the Bible. Contains cross-references, illustrations, and maps.

Contains signed articles (with bibliographies) by 253 international scholars "identifying and explaining all proper names and significant terms and subjects in the Holy Scriptures, including the Apocrypha, with attention to archaeological discoveries and researches into the life and faith of ancient times." Gauged for a wide audience from general reader to scholar. Represents liberal to moderate viewpoint. Includes cross-references, maps, and illustrations.

Contains signed articles (with bibliographies) by 271 authors. Articles represent additions to articles in the original set or new articles on topics not treated in the original set. New archaeological discoveries account for many of the new articles.

Contains 7,100 signed articles (with bibliographies) by over 900 contributors. “Covers all the persons and places mentioned in the Bible,” with a “full range of articles on the cultural, religious, and political contexts of the Bible in the ancient Near East and the Greco-Roman world.” Also includes articles on key
methods of biblical interpretation and “theological and ethical themes and concepts important to understanding the biblical witness.” Provides about 1,300 cross-references.

A revised edition of the Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible published in 1975. Contains signed articles (with bibliographies) by 255 conservative scholars. Intends “to cover directly or indirectly all persons, places, objects, customs, historical events, and major teachings of the Bible.” This revision “seeks to preserve the original contributions as much as possible while at the same time updating the material.” Added hundreds of brief articles and some 20 new in-depth articles; some articles were totally rewritten and others were carefully reviewed and corrected. Updated bibliographies with emphasis on publications from 1990 through 2007. In many cases the original articles have been changed very little. Contains cross references, many illustrations (almost all colored), and maps.

Contains 6,200 signed articles by nearly 1,000 contributors. Includes surveys and summaries of issues related to every book of the Bible, including the Apocrypha. Entries on non-canonical texts, on every proper name in the Bible, on persons & places from antiquity important for understanding the history and interpretation of the Bible, on archaeological subjects with especially current reports on the results of excavations which are shedding light on the culture of Bible lands, on important methodologies in biblical scholarship, on all versions of the Bible, on ancient religious sects, on philosophical movements, and on major literary genres & motifs. Includes bibliographies. Also available on CD-ROM.

Contains more than 5,700 articles by about 200 evangelical scholars. "Covers such areas as archaeology, critical studies, hermeneutics, comparative religions, apologetics, historical settings & chronology, and canon & text. Contains comprehensive articles on the life, times, manners, customs, and persons of the Bible." Heavy emphasis on biblical theology.


A revision of the New Bible Dictionary (1982), which was a one volume ed. of the Illustrated Bible Dictionary (1980) without its extensive illustrations. The major part of the work was not changed, but incorporated recent research, especially in the cultural and archaeological areas, wherever possible. Also updated bibliographies.

A revision of the 1996 ed. “About 50 % of the content is new, and several dozen charts, tables, and other graphics have been added.” Contains signed articles by about 200 members of the Society of Biblical Literature. “The purpose of the dictionary is to make the results of biblical scholarship available to a wide audience that includes non-specialists.” Its focus “is on understanding the biblical text itself. The number of textual references has been greatly increased. . . [and] more examples have been added to the entries, indicating the passages or instances in which particular words, persons, or concepts are featured.” Included are entries on almost every name mentioned in the Bible, every book of the Bible, the deuterocanonical books, plants & animals, units of money, important theological terms, words that are used in the Bible in a distinctive or significant way, and phenomena significant for understanding life in the biblical world. Includes almost 100 maps and over 500 photos and drawings.
Contains nearly 5,000 signed articles (with bibliographies) by about 600 scholars on “all persons and places named in the Bible, as well as cultural, natural, geographical, & literary phenomena. . . biblical theology, text & transmission, Near Eastern archaeology, extrabiblical writings, and pertinent ecclesiastical traditions.” Includes articles on each biblical book. Contains 134 photographs, charts & illustrations with a 16-page section of color maps. Includes cross-references.

Almost 1,800 new entries were added bringing the total to 7,200.” Revised and updated each of the original articles. Silva used the revised ed. of The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible (2009) and “particularly in the case of shorter articles, material from ZEB was often transferred (with only minor revisions).” This one volume work “may be regarded to some extent as an abbreviated version of ZEB. The articles reflect a conservative viewpoint and are gauged for "pastors, Sunday-school teachers, Bible-class leaders, and students." Includes 470 color photographs and 17 “freshly produced maps” and cross-references.

Contains articles (longer ones signed) by 338 contributors. The principal audience is “lay people to students and ministers.” Articles cover biblical places, persons, and things, as well as, theological concepts such as atonement, ethics, sanctification, & trinity and doctrines drawn from the Bible (e.g., purgatory and rapture). Also contains several general articles (e.g., archeology & biblical studies, calendar, vessels & utensils, weights & measures, textual criticism, and Bible translations). Provides pronunciation of proper nouns and cross-references. Includes over 700 color photos, illustrations, charts and maps.

Contains over 5,000 articles by over 100 “leading evangelical scholars.” Offers “easy access to articles on people, places, things, and events in Scripture.” Includes 400 color illustrations, maps, & photos and extensive cross-references.

Contains nearly 120 signed articles (with extensive bibliographies) by 109 contributors. Authors of the articles were to deal with the following in the articles: name of book and its meaning in English, Hebrew, and Greek; canonical status and relation to canonical books or elements of those books; authorship; date of composition & historical context; literary history; structure & contents; interpretation; reception history; and bibliography. Not only includes articles on canonical books, but also on the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, some early Christian works (e.g., Didache & Shepherd of Hermas), important ancient translations, literature of ancient sectarian groups (e.g., Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hammadi Library), rabbinic literature, genres popular at the time of the writing of the biblical books (e.g., Apocalypses, Prayers & Hymns, and Testaments) and a survey article on English Bible translations. Vol. 1 contains comparison charts of biblical canons, outlining the similarities and differences among six groups. Includes 16 maps and charts, cross-references, a topical outline of contents (2:475-77) and an extensive
index (2:485-578).


*R.R.224.03/D554. Boda, Mark J., and J. Gordon McConville, eds. Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2012. Contains about 115 signed articles (with bibliographies) by 94 contributors. Contains articles on each prophetic book, as well as articles on the history of interpretation of the 4 major prophets and the Book of the Twelve. Also includes “articles on aspects of prophetic language and imagery, on textual and historical topics, on prophetic genres, on hermeneutics, on important conceptual and theological themes,” and on the “critical methodologies in current use.” Includes cross-references and Scripture & subject indexes.

*R.R.226.03/D554/2013. Green, Joel B., Jeannine K. Brown, and Nicholas Perrin, eds. Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2013. Contains signed articles (with bibliographies) by 128 contributors. Articles cover each Gospel, major themes in the Gospels, key episodes in the life of Jesus, significant background topics, as well as issues and methods of interpretation. “Some 90% of the original material in the first edition (1992) has been replaced, with most previous entries assigned to a fresh list of scholars. A number of new articles have introduced, and a handful of articles from the first edition have been updated in light of ongoing research.” Attempts to be evangelical and critical. Includes Scripture and subject indexes.

R.R.232.908/E56. Evans, Craig A., ed. Encyclopedia of the Historical Jesus. New York: Routledge, 2008. Contains 227 signed articles (with bibliographies) by 110 contributors on the following areas: Background literatures, Biblical figures mentioned in the Gospels; Events and related scholarship; Figures in the life of Jesus; Genres and rhetorical styles; History of the N.T. within the culture, politics, and law of the Roman Empire; Institutions; Major contributors and their works; Methods and criteria; N.T. Gospels; Persons within the historical and rhetorical context of martyrdom and messianism; Places and regions; Teachings of Jesus; Teachings within historical context of ethics; Theoretical issues and concepts; and Titles of Jesus. Includes a “Thematic List of Entries” and index.

R.R.232.03/H299. Harrington, Daniel J. Historical Dictionary of Jesus. Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies, and Movements, 102. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2010. Contains over 400 articles covering “the ancient literary sources about Jesus, modern methods of approaching them, the major events in his life, persons and places associated with him, the form and content of his teachings, what can be said about his death and the claims about his resurrection, and the
contributions of major modern scholars to the quest for the historical Jesus.” Includes articles on some modern authors who have made significant contributions to the study of Jesus and a classified bibliography (177-89) listing some of the most important books on Jesus.


R.R.220.83053/O98. O’Brien, Julia M., ed. The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Gender Studies. 2v. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. Contains over 150 signed articles (with bibliographies) by more than 100 international authors. The “Topical Outline of Contents” in vol. 2 (441-43) reflects the major areas of the articles: gender theory, history & method, across the biblical canon, and social world. Most are lengthy articles subdivided into 5 or 6 sections written by different scholars. The most frequently used subheadings are: Ancient Near East, Hebrew Bible, Greek World, Roman World, New Testament, Early Judaism, and Early Church. Includes cross references; index in vol. 2.

Call # Strawn, Brent, ed. The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law. 2v. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015. Contains 130 signed articles (with bibliographies) ranging in length from 3,000 to 7,000 words. The articles address “three foci: biblical law itself--its nature, collections, and genres; the ancient contexts of biblical law, throughout the ancient Mediterranean (ancient Near Eastern, Greco-Roman, and Early Jewish); and the afterlife and influence of biblical law in antiquity and in modern jurisprudence around the world.” Gauged “for both seasoned scholars and beginning students.” Vol. 2 includes a topical outline of contents and an extensive index.
Contains signed articles by approximately 150 contributors on the biblical books; schools, movements & periods in the history of interpretation; technical terms, approaches & methods used in interpretation; and some coverage of literature, art & music as they relate to biblical interpretation. Includes bibliographies, cross-references, and selective indexes of subjects and Scriptures.

Contains over 1,000 signed articles by 395 international scholars. Surveys the history of the interpretation of all the books of the Bible, as well as some of the apocryphal works; examines classical and contemporary approaches to understanding Scripture; and contains articles on over 700 persons who have made significant contributions to biblical interpretation. Includes extensive bibliographies and cross-references.

Contains 105 signed in-depth articles (with bibliographies) by 116 contributors who are “expert practitioners” of the approaches they discuss. The articles focus on “approaches and strategies for reading and interpreting the Bible.” Volume 2 contains an index and a “Topical Outline of Contents.”

Contains 178 signed articles (with bibliographies) by several scholars from different countries on the “major issues, approaches, and people that have been important in the development of biblical criticism and interpretation.” Includes an index.

Contains 283 signed articles (with bibliographies) by 170 contributors. “The primary purpose of this dictionary is to provide biblical interpreters with a tool that would help make sense of the diverse interpretative approaches and evaluate these approaches as to their contribution toward a theological interpretation of the Bible.” There are four basic types of articles: those focusing on the books of the Bible as well as certain textual features that have theological significance, those pertaining to the theory and theories of interpretation, those focusing on persons or communities doing the interpreting, and those treating theological concerns, especially as they bear on the practice of biblical exegesis. Includes cross-references, a “list of articles by category,” and topical & Scripture indexes.

Examines biblical terms, texts, stories, and figures as they have influenced civilization. Contains articles on books of the Bible & and non-canonical texts, biblical characters & events, famous passages, relevant ancient languages, biblical versions, scholarly tools & approaches, important biblical scholars, famous preachers, hymn writers, poets, philosophers, religious traditions, geographical areas, chronological periods, and philosophical or other movements. Many of the articles are “devoted to literature and the arts.” Includes a Scripture index.

Contains signed articles with bibliographies. The encyclopedia “pursues the twofold task of (1) comprehensively recording . . . the current knowledge of the origins and development of the Bible in its Jewish and Christian canonical forms and (2) documenting the history of the Bible’s reception in Judaism and Christianity as evident in exegetical literature, theological and philosophical writings of various genres, literature, liturgy, music, the visual arts, dance, and film, as well as in Islam and other religious traditions and contemporary movements.” To be completed in 30 volumes by 2018. Vol. 1-12 (A-Insult) have been published.
Beavis, Mary Ann, and Michael J. Gilmour, eds. *Dictionary of the Bible and Western Culture*. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2012. Contains more than 1,000 signed articles (with bibliographies) by more than 200 scholars. “Entries begin with discussion of biblical terms in their original settings, and then illustrate occasions when those terms reappear in later cultural artefacts.” The authors illustrate Bible use with representative “instances of the reception of the Bible in later Western artistic and intellectual expression.” Intended for those “without the specialization of formal biblical studies” and to provide “an easy-to-use quick reference for those needing to track down information on characters, phrases, places, and concepts originating in the Bible.” Almost every entry is followed by “see also” references.


Taylor, Marion Ann, ed. *Handbook of Women Biblical Interpreters: A Historical and Biographical Guide*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2012. Contains 180 articles (with bibliographies) by over 125 scholars on women interpreters of the Bible throughout the history of Christianity. Each entry “contains a short biography . . . where possible including factual details about birth, family, education, and formative influences. . . . Her work is then analyzed, focusing on her approach and methods of biblical interpretation and highlighting key themes. . . . Attention is given to evidence of gendered exegesis, especially when a woman’s experience shaped her interpretation or when she addressed traditionally problematic passages. . . or discussed female biblical figures.” Includes list of entries, “chronological list of women biblical interpreters,” and subject & Scripture indexes.


Hays, J. Daniel, J. Scott Duvall, and C. Marvin Pate. *Dictionary of Biblical Prophecy and End Times*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007. The goals of this dictionary designed for laypeople is to provide explanations and discussions of biblical
prophecy with “understandable explanations and discussions based on the top evangelical scholarship available today” and to “provide a solid explanation for and defense of all serious views on prophecy held by evangelicals, along with an appropriate critique pointing out each view’s weaknesses.”