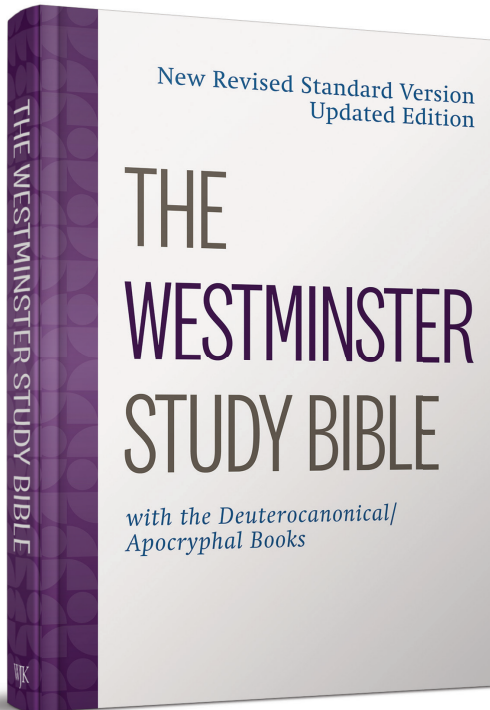


Coming Fall 2024

**THE
WESTMINSTER
STUDY BIBLE**

The first entirely new
study Bible to utilize the
**NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION
UPDATED EDITION**

WJKBOOKS.COM/WSB



Based on the recently released New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, *The Westminster Study Bible* will be available in the fall of 2024.

The Westminster Study Bible (WSB) delves into the ancient contexts of the Bible, its continually evolving interpretations, and its contemporary reading and reception. Through study notes, thematic excursions, and a range of illuminating essays, it critically explores both the worlds of the text and the worlds of its current readers.

Who Benefits from *The Westminster Study Bible*?

The WSB pays close attention to the interdisciplinary connections that contemporary students, teachers, and other readers from diverse backgrounds will find both useful and relevant. It is an ideal textbook for a range of biblical studies courses, as well as courses in religion, philosophy, and the general humanities, whether introductory or advanced.

WHY WE CHOSE THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION UPDATED EDITION

The NRSV has been called the most accurate of English-language translations, based on the available manuscript evidence, textual analysis, and philological understanding. In the more than thirty years since its first publication, hundreds of ancient manuscripts have been studied in exacting detail.

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition is informed by the results of this research. Laboring through this material has deepened scholarly insight into Jewish and Christian sacred texts and advanced understanding of ancient languages.

With new textual evidence, historical insights, and philological understandings (which include exploring the meanings of ancient texts in light of the cultures that produced them), the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition brings greater precision in interpreting Scripture today. The goal of these practices has been to translate the ancient texts as accurately as possible while reflecting the cultural differences across time and conditions.

FEATURES OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*

The key features of the WSB attend to the cultural impact of the Bible in its original setting as well as its impact on later readers and communities, up to and including the present day.

Study Notes

Study notes open up the biblical texts and explore cultural insights from the ancient world as well as help readers to grasp how certain texts may have functioned in much later periods and far different settings. Together, these two points of access—back then and since then—allow readers to have a richer, fuller discussion about the meanings of the Bible.

Introductions to Biblical Books

Introductions to traditional groupings of books in the Jewish and Christian canons include discussions of the

- Torah / Pentateuch
- Former Prophets / Historical Books
- Writings
- Latter Prophets / Prophetic Books
- Deuterocanonical / Apocryphal books
- Gospels and Acts
- Pauline Letters
- Hebrews, the General Epistles, and Revelation

Additional introductions to biblical books orient readers to each book's historical, cultural, and literary contexts and provide a reading guide with a general overview and outline of each book.

Thematic Essays

Fifteen thematic essays provide wide-ranging treatments of the different ways the Bible may be read and interpreted, examine aspects of the Bible's history and its ancient contexts, explore various themes in biblical literature as they relate to contemporary concerns and issues, and show how the Bible has been received and interpreted in culture and science over time and locations.

ESSAYS INCLUDE

- The Bible as a Collection: The Making of the Biblical Canons
- The Bible and Methods: How to Read the Bible
- The Bible in Its Ancient Contexts
- The Bible in Public Life
- The Bible in Religious Interpretation and Practice
- The Bible in Global Contexts
- The Bible, Gender, and Sexuality
- The Bible, Race, and Ethnicity
- The Bible and Social Justice
- The Bible and Visual Art
- The Bible in Film and Media
- The Bible in Music
- The Bible in Literature
- The Bible in Museums
- The Bible, Science, and the Environment

Tables, Charts, Diagrams, and Maps

Tables, charts, and diagrams introduce historical time lines, rulers of ancient empires, measurements, Gospel parallels, and more.

Color maps illustrate ancient Near Eastern geography, political territories, historical events, and place names across the time span of the biblical writings.

Thematic Excursuses

Nearly two hundred thematic excursions offer more expansive discussions of important topics relating to the biblical text.

FOUR TYPES OF EXCURSUSES

1

READING THROUGH TIME excursions provide a glimpse into how the interpretation of a particular text has changed through the years and across different communities of readers.

2

MAKING CONNECTIONS excursions show how the biblical text may be related to events or circumstances outside and beyond the immediate passage at hand.

3

FOCUS ON excursions offer a more detailed consideration of a theme, concept, figure, or place that appears in a passage or across many passages.

4

GOING DEEPER excursions afford a more thorough exploration of a topic than can be offered in the briefer study notes.

SAMPLE EXCURSUSES

- The Curse of Canaan
- The Exodus Event
- Human Bondage in Ancient Israel
- The Divine Mandate to Exterminate the Canaanites
- Woman Wisdom
- Black and Beautiful
- Exile and Restoration Metanarratives
- Slut-Shaming as Prophetic Discourse
- Isaiah and Disability
- Feminine Imagery for God
- Healing in the Gospels and Acts
- Son of God vs. Son of Man
- Jewish Messianic Ideas
- Anti-Judaism
- Women in Luke-Acts
- LGBTQIA2+ Issues and Paul
- Frederick Douglass, Paul, and Onesimus
- Revelation in Popular Culture

Index

An index to the study notes, excursuses, essays, and other materials helps readers navigate the interpretive resources.

MEET THE EDITORS OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*



EMERSON B. POWERY is Professor of Biblical Studies and Interim Dean of the School of Arts, Culture, and Society at Messiah University. The author or coeditor of many books, he also serves as the general editor for *Early Christianity and Its Literature*, a book series of the Society of Biblical Literature.

STACY DAVIS is Professor of Religious Studies and Theology and Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at Saint Mary's College. She is author of or contributor to many books, and her research focuses on the history of biblical interpretation as well as African-American and feminist biblical interpretation.





MARY F. FOSKETT is Wake Forest Kahle Professor of Religious Studies and John Thomas Albritton Fellow at Wake Forest University. With primary focus on the New Testament, she publishes in multiple areas, including interpretation of Mary the mother of Jesus, and feminist, contextual, and minoritized approaches to biblical studies.

BRENT A. STRAWN is D. Moody Smith Distinguished Professor of Old Testament and Professor of Law at Duke University. He has published extensively on the Old Testament and has served as both translator and member of the editorial board for *The Common English Bible*, as well as the book reviewer for Exodus and section review leader of the Pentateuch for the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.



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FROM THE EDITORS OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*

The Westminster Study Bible (WSB) acknowledges that reading the Bible today is not as simple as discovering what it meant in its own time in order to determine what it means for all time. Despite the Bible's antiquity, both those who have contributed to the WSB and those who will use it are contemporary readers who bring their own perspectives to the reading of the Bible. In other words, the themes or ideas we notice in the Bible and that strike us as important tend to be those that resonate with us and our present situations in some way. Through study notes, excursuses, and accompanying essays, the WSB recognizes this fact by delving into the ancient contexts of the biblical text and its continually evolving present interpretations, thereby exploring both the biblical world and its contemporary reading and reception.

This approach makes the WSB an ideal textbook for a range of biblical studies courses as well as courses in religion, philosophy, and the general humanities, whether introductory or advanced. In addition to its particular attention to classroom use, the WSB is a resource written for teachers and by teachers.

Among its many features, it pays close attention to the interdisciplinary connections that contemporary students and teachers will find both useful and relevant.

We expect this emphasis will also make it helpful in many different learning contexts, including religious congregations and organizations.

Contributors to the WSB teach in a variety of educational settings. The configuration of these scholars and the places they work is representative of the array of spaces in which the Bible is studied in today's world. WSB contributors use the Bible in undergraduate liberal arts and seminary classrooms, religious services, academic conferences, and a host of other locations and thus understand what it means to think about the Bible in and for vastly different contexts. These teacher-scholars also know what it means to interpret from a particular place and time, as they are situated and embodied readers of texts that also come from very different places and times. The contributors to the WSB have been carefully selected: each is an expert in the ancient contexts of the Bible, but each is also sensitive to how the biblical texts have been received and how readers might hear them now in multiple contemporary contexts.

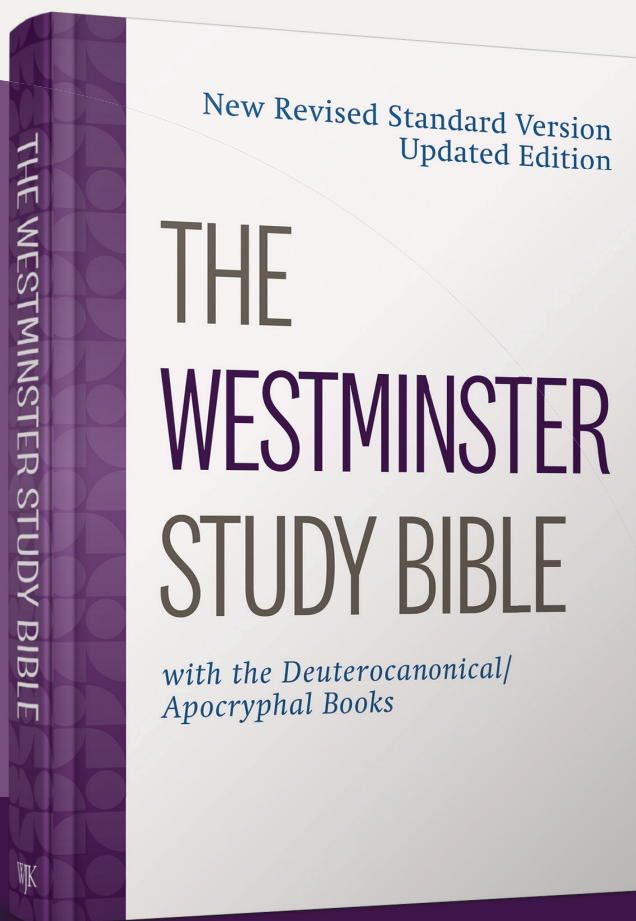
The Bible is, after all, a classic of world literature that has been taken up and utilized in various art forms and expressions for millennia. Consequently, the features of the WSB attend to the cultural impact of the Bible in its original setting as well as its impact on later readers and communities, up to and including present-day readers. The classroom is in many ways the ideal place for these multiple "worlds" of text and interpretation to come together in a larger conversation that invites all sorts of readers—experts, novices, and those in between—to listen and learn from all parties involved.

To study the Bible is in a very real way to study the world and to study humanity in the world. It is our profound hope that the WSB aids in that pursuit.

AN EXCERPT FROM THE PREFACE TO
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