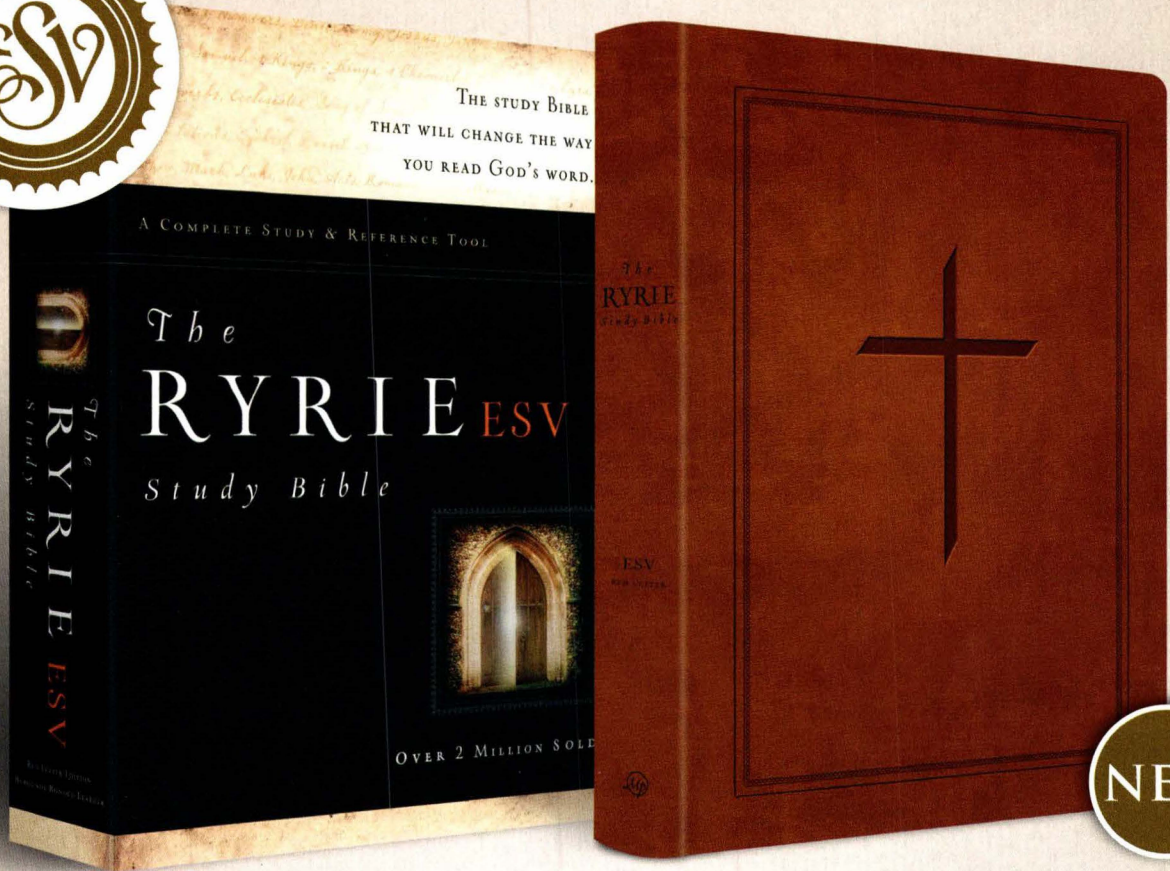


Dallas News staff photo by Larry Provart.

New Bible study

Dr. Charles C. Ryrie (right) receives the first copies of "The Ryrie Study Bible" from Peter Gunter, a representative from Moody Press in Chicago, this week in ceremonies at Dallas Theological Seminary. Dr. Ryrie, a professor of systematic theology at the seminary and noted historian, compiled the practical, comprehensive study Bible which is published in the King James and New American Standard versions. Along with explanatory notes of theological, historical, geographical, cultural and linguistic significance, it contains full color maps, time line charts, marginal cross references and a harmony of gospels.

RYRIE WISDOM FOR A NEW GENERATION



Long-trusted Bible professor Dr. Charles Ryrie combines his timeless notes with the fastest-growing Bible translation—ESV! Combined with a new, larger trim size and soft-touch covers, now is the time to replace your older *Ryrie* or begin your *Ryrie Study Bible* experience!

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REVIEWS

Side-by-side Study Bibles

**RYRIE STUDY BIBLE,
EXPANDED EDITION**
with notes by Charles Caldwell Ryrie;
1994, Moody Press, 2276 pages.

THE NIV STUDY BIBLE
edited by Dr. Kenneth Barker; 1985,
Zondervan Publishing House, 2176 pages.

LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE (NIV)
1991, Tyndale/Zondervan, 2464 pages.

Study Bibles are important tools to help Christians understand the Scriptures and to encourage spiritual growth. The original *Ryrie Study Bible*, contained many features that made it a substantial study tool. Now the *Expanded Edition*, makes a good study Bible even better.

The main feature that has made the *Ryrie* popular is its abbreviated commentary on the entire Bible in the form of exegetical footnotes. The notes contain cultural, historical, and social background of the text, occasional archaeological facts, and clear, brief explanations of the text's meaning. The theology they reveal is conservative, evangelical, pre-millennial, and moderately dispensational. Ryrie shows awareness of critical problems (even more so in the *Expanded Edition*), and offers probable answers.

How have these notes changed in the *Expanded Edition*? Using Genesis as an example, the original had 408 exegetical footnotes. The *Expanded Edition* has 451 exegetical footnotes. Further, 41 of the original notes have been expanded. Ryrie has added a substantial amount of commentary while changing little of his original thinking.

The original had an ample system of cross-references,

an introduction to each book, a concordance, 15 color maps, a timeline, a summary of doctrine, guidelines for interpreting the Bible, a one-year reading schedule, archaeological information, charts of Jesus' ministries, and a summary of messianic prophecy.

The *Expanded Edition* has enlarged type and more in-text graphics (maps, charts, diagrams, timelines, and boxed lists). Other features include a chronological order of Bible books, introductions to the Testaments, a summary of Apocryphal books; political background of New Testament books, a comparison of the Gospels, and a survey of church history.

How does the new *Ryrie* compare to two other leading study Bibles — the *Life Application Bible* and *The NIV Study Bible*?

The outlines in the *Life Application Bible* are clearer, simpler, and more us-

able than those in *The NIV Study Bible*. Ryrie's outlines are clear and well-organized, but lengthy. Each study Bible could improve its outlines by stating a theme at the top.

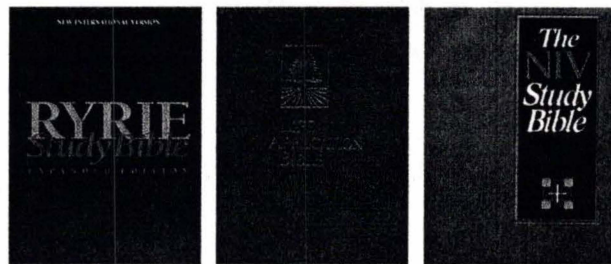
The *Expanded Ryrie* has more graphics than *The NIV Study Bible*, but the *Life Application Bible* is the runaway leader in this area. The layouts of the *Expanded Ryrie* and *The NIV Study Bible* offer a dual-column text, while the *Life Application Bible* uses a single column. *The NIV Study Bible* layout seems crowded; those of the other two appear less cluttered.

The most distinctive feature of the *Life Application Bible* is its emphasis on the reader's applying Bible truth to daily life. The *Life Application Bible* names timeless truths and suggests how to put them into practice. This is a feature others would do well to copy.

The *Life Application Bible* seems directed primarily to youth, as suggested by its numerous in-text graphics, attractive layout, and simple grammar and vocabulary. It is more practical, devotional, and psychological in its notes. The notes, however, are the weakest of the three in exegetical commentary.

Outstanding features of the *Life Application Bible* are practical biographical sketches placed within the text and the inclusion of "mega themes" — topics that run throughout each book. Most book introductions have "key places" maps. Summaries before each block of related chapters are useful. A drawback is that the type size is smaller than the other two.

Notes to *The NIV Study Bible* treat exegetical details in the most depth; they give help on grammatical, historical, critical, and literary features of the text. This is



"Let's compare the *Ryrie Study Bible, Expanded Edition*, to two other leading study Bibles — the *Life Application Bible* and *The NIV Study Bible*. . . .

"Some will see the broad spectrum of contributors in the other two study Bibles as an edge over Ryrie, but Ryrie is an excellent exegete and theologian.

"All three study Bibles are excellent, but in different ways. It would be ideal to own and use all three."

Paul D. Nevin

REVIEWS

The *NIV Study Bible's* most important contribution. *The NIV Study Bible* is strongest in exegetical coverage of the text, though not always as conservative as evangelical readers may prefer.

Notes to the *Expanded Ryrie* contain more reflection on doctrinal and theological themes than the other two. Ryrie's notes are also more conservative in theological view.

For example, Ryrie allows the creative day to mean only a 24-hour solar day; the other two are non-committal regarding the duration. Ryrie comes out for a universal flood; *The NIV Study Bible* is non-committal; while the *Life Application Bible* seems to favor, but does not require, a universal flood.

Some will see the broad spectrum of contributors in the other two Bibles as an edge over the *Ryrie*, but Ryrie is an excellent exegete and theologian. His *Expanded Edition* is a considerable improvement over his original.

Each of these study Bibles is excellent in its own way. It would be ideal to own and use all three.

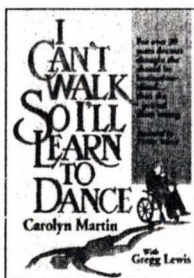
Reviewed by Paul D. Nevin, professor of Bible and theology, Moody Bible Institute.

Books in Brief

OVERCOMER

I CAN'T WALK SO I'LL LEARN TO DANCE
by Carolyn Martin; Zondervan, 239 pages, \$15.99.

"Because of my cerebral palsy, I look like a collection of spare parts. . . Inside, I'm just me. And to me, that's normal." In her autobiography, Carolyn Martin relates the story of an infant left to die by the doctor who delivered her; a girl of normal intelligence treated like an imbecile for several years because her disability made her appear mentally retarded; an institutionalized young woman who worked relentlessly to achieve her dreams despite terrifying experiences; and an adult who lives independently, has earned a college degree, and has embarked on a writing career. All this



comes from a person who finds, because of her disability, even the easiest daily tasks painstakingly difficult.

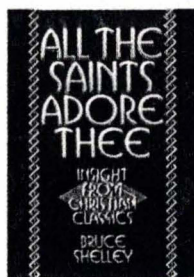
This book will inspire anyone, but especially those facing a challenge that seems insurmountable. Carolyn Martin has come through with unfathomable courage and dignity.

CLASSICS ENCOURAGE

ALL THE SAINTS ADORE THEE
compiled by Bruce Shelley; Baker Books, paper, 280 pages, \$11.99

Church history professor Bruce Shelley has drawn from nearly 2,000 years of writings for this collection of devotional classics.

Prayer, temptation, obedience, reverence, and suffering are our common lot. Knowing others have also struggled, sometimes failed, and sometimes triumphed should encourage us. Walking with Polycarp, Augustine, Francis of Assisi, Luther, Calvin, Bunyan, Baxter, Wesley, Spurgeon, Bonhoeffer, Lewis, Tozer, and 35 others should not only encourage our walk, but arouse a desire to dig deeper into the writings of those who have gone before.

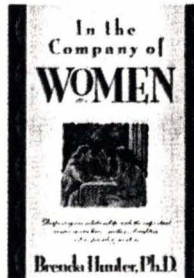


FEMALE MENTORING

IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN
by Brenda Hunter; Multnomah Books, 220 pages, \$16.99

Women's relationships tend to be portrayed as "two-faced," "gossipy," or as "a juvenile phase in the progression towards 'normal' heterosexual development," writes Dr. Brenda Hunter, citing a sociologist. Yet Hunter believes these female connections have a positive influence on women's psychological well-being and need to be affirmed.

Hunter, a psychologist at the Minirth-Meier New Life Clinic, offers insight into mother-daughter and sister-to-sister relationships. She offers practical wisdom on the art of making friends and discusses why men cannot



meet all women's emotional needs.

While this is not an in-depth study, Hunter addresses concerns and provides enjoyable, helpful reading.

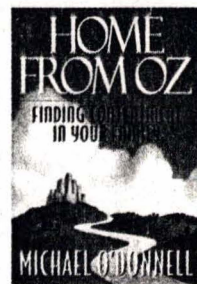
MODERN PARABLE

HOME FROM OZ: FINDING CONTENTMENT IN YOUR FAMILY
by Michael O'Donnell; Word Publishing, 209 pages, paper, \$10.99

Educator Michael O'Donnell finds in L. Frank Baum's classic, *The Wizard of Oz*, a parable on the basic issues of life. As Dorothy and her companions travel down the yellow brick road into the Land of Oz, searching for contentment "somewhere over the rainbow," they discover what they have been seeking is found in the family, not a wizard.

As a modern parable, *The Wizard of Oz* presents a once-cherished ethical code that is out of fashion. The author distills wisdom from this story, the most highly prized of which is the idea that there's no place like home.

The book focuses on the home as the place "where community and accountability are best taught." This delightful secular story is thoroughly "baptized" and adapted for the Christian through continuous support from Scripture and practical application to the Christian life. Its concepts would make for some fine preaching.

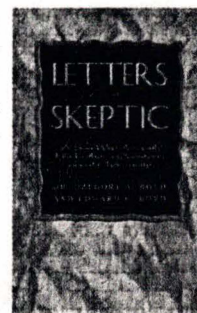


SON ANSWERS FATHER

LETTERS FROM A SKEPTIC
by Dr. Gregory A. Boyd and Edward K. Boyd; Victor Books, 180 pages, \$9.99

What is it like to address the questions of a skeptic? The Boyds illustrate such an exchange with these letters from one to another.

Gregory, a Bible college professor, responds to his 73-year-old father, an agnostic, trying to answer his questions about God and Christianity. The challenges range from, "Why has Christianity done so



Resources That Enrich Bible Study

Many valuable tools help make Bible study both profitable and pleasant.

by Cyril J. Barber

In his preface to the *Ryrie Study Bible*, Dr. Charles C. Ryrie wrote: "The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals."

In this brief statement, Dr. Ryrie affirms the supreme importance of sacred Scripture as the self-disclosure of God to us and provides us with a twofold aim. As with Ezra (Ezra 7:10), we should strive to so master the teaching of God's Word that we can first apply the truth to our lives and then be better prepared to minister to others.

But today, people are honestly stating that they derive little, if any, pleasure or profit from reading the Scriptures. And at one time or another, nearly all of us have felt this way.

What is the solution to this dilemma?

How to Begin

Bible study builds upon four basic steps: observation, interpretation, application and correlation.

Often, however, we come to the Scriptures so hungry to satisfy our needs that we immediately look for application, ignoring the first two steps.

Another problem concerns our study habits. Much of our Bible study

Dr. Barber has written numerous books, including *An Introduction to Theological Research* (Moody Press, 1982) and *Dynamic Personal Bible Study* (Loizeaux Bros.). This article is taken from his speech delivered at the International Conference on Biblical Inerrancy in San Diego last March.

tends to be sporadic.

Stimulated by a sermon we have heard or the example of a friend, we decide to gain a reputation for our knowledge of God's Word. But without a workable plan and a regular time and place for study, our best endeavors are often short-lived.

A third problem centers on our inability to meditate. In a day of instant coffee, rapid transportation, computers, TV dinners and microwave ovens, we want everything now. We've been programmed by our culture to expect results immediately. In the process, we have forgotten how to meditate.

Sound Advice

When asked how to tap the limitless resources of the Bible, Dallas Seminary professor Dr. Howard Hendricks touched upon an important aspect of meditation. From Rudyard Kipling's *The Just-So Stories*, he quoted:

I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why
and When

And How and Where and Who.

Instead of racing to get through a certain number of chapters or verses a day, we need to develop the art of reading slowly, thoughtfully and meditatively. Forming questions helps us to do this.

Through a question-answer approach, we learn about the *nature* (what), the *purpose* or *reason* (why), the *time* (when), the *means* (how), the *place* (where), and the *people involved* (who) in the passage under consideration.

A number of fine Bible study books are available. Two of the most helpful are Irving Jensen's *Independent Bible Study* (Moody, 1964) and Oletta Wald's *The Joy of Discovery in Bible Study* (Augsburg, 1977).

Remember that what makes the Word of God a living force is what we as individuals do with it.

As Matthew Henry said, "The Bible is a letter God has sent to us." Our personal use of it, therefore, is like the opening and reading of that letter. And it must be coupled with the determination, by God's grace, to do as He says.

Thoroughness—A Must

Howard Butt Jr., author of *The Velvet Covered Brick* (Harper and Row, 1973), writes of his personal Bible study endeavors:

"No phase of the Christian experience is more critically important than the devotional life. I prefer to set aside the first part of the morning for Bible study and prayer because I feel . . . one is not as alert in the evening.

"This period of Bible study I usually spend in my study. The length of time . . . depends on my daily schedule. However, no matter how pressed I might be, I find it imperative to spend some portion of time with God to begin my day, studying His Word and in prayer.

"I also close my day by reading a chapter or so from the Bible before I retire. . . . I carry a pocket Testament which I read at odd moments throughout the day, but I do not believe that we should rely on this as the sole means of reading God's Word. . . .

Instead of racing to get through a certain number of chapters or verses a day, we need to develop the art of reading slowly and thoughtfully.



"As to method of study, I believe that it should be somewhat systematic. I have never believed it beneficial to open the Bible at random each day and study the particular verse or passage which catches my eye.

"I like to study book by book, taking a chapter or more a day. Also, especially helpful to me is a topical study, using a concordance for Scripture references on particular subjects.

"Above all else, I believe that it is important to study the Bible prayerfully, asking for and relying upon the guidance and enlightening of the Holy Spirit."

The late Dr. V. Raymond Edman, former president of Wheaton College, likewise emphasized the need for thoroughness:

"The Bible is an exhaustless treasure," he said. "I read it daily for study purposes to determine the content of each book, then of each chapter and then the meaning of each verse and word. Apart from this concentrated study of the Word, I read it also for devotional purposes.

"It is my practice, early in the morning, to read a portion taken consecutively from book to book in the Bible, and read it as indeed it is, God's personal message to me. Thus I find light for the problems of the day, encouragement to face its difficulties, rebuke for shortcomings and disobedience, warning against self-will, and humbling of heart before the Most High.

"The devotional reading is not for any set length of chapters or verses; rather, the reading may be shorter or longer, dependent upon the message from the Word itself.

"I find that this devotional reading of the Word leads into prayer and praise; and not infrequently what I have learned from the Lord in the early morning devotional study of His Word is needed by some other heart before the setting of that day's sun."

More Resource Tools

Before knowing what resources are available, it's helpful to obtain some tips on how to use them. The booklet *How to Gain Life-changing Insights From the Book of Books* (Brethren Missionary Herald, 1979) and *An Introduction to Theological Research* (Moody, 1982) offer some excellent guidelines.

In non-technical terms, the former explains how to use Bible concordances, cites the strengths and weaknesses of various Bible dictionaries and evaluates Bible atlases and Bible commentaries.

Although the latter work is designed for college and seminary students, lay people can also profit from using it. Of its 16 chapters, the first seven deal with general reference works, valuable tools for all students of the Bible.

Bible Concordances

In obtaining a concordance, select one that corresponds to the Bible translation you normally read. If you read the Authorized Version, for example, you should use James Strong's *Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Abingdon, 1890). If you read the ASV, refer to the work compiled by M. C. Hazard, *The Complete Concordance to the American Standard Version of the Holy Bible* (Nelson, 1922).

For those reading the RSV, there's *Nelson's Complete Concordance to the Revised Standard Version* (Nelson, 1957), compiled by J. W. Ellison. And for NASB readers, there's the *New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Holman, 1981), by R. L. Thomas.

Bible Dictionaries

The Illustrated Bible Dictionary, edited by J.D. Douglas (three volumes, Tyndale, 1980), and Merrill F. Unger's famous *Unger's Bible Dictionary* (Moody Press, 1961) serve as ideal references. Every church could benefit from having the former work

in its library. And the latter is so practical and easy to use that most home libraries should have one.

Bible Atlases

Among the seemingly endless array of atlases, two of them deserve special consideration: *Baker's Bible Atlas*, edited by the late Charles F. Pfeiffer (Baker, 1973), and the *Macmillan Bible Atlas* (Macmillan, 1978), by the renowned Jewish scholars Yohanan Aharoni and Michael Avi-Yonah.

Bible Commentaries

Sooner or later, you will wish to consult some Bible commentaries. To determine which works will best serve your particular needs, you may wish to consult *The Minister's Library* (Baker, 1974) and its biennial supplements.

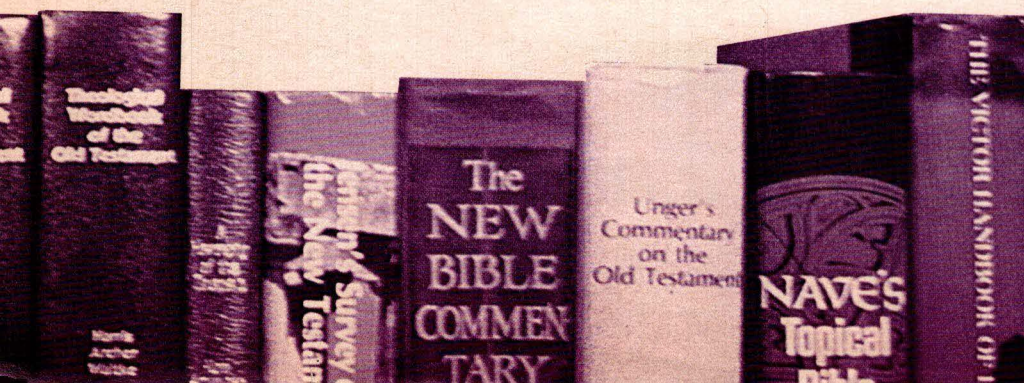
Don't let the title intimidate you. The author had originally titled the manuscript *The Preacher's Library*. He believed that lay preachers and Bible teachers could profit from the books listed in it.

The Minister's Library lists and annotates commentaries on the whole Bible plus those on specific books of the Old and New Testaments. References of special significance are marked with an asterisk.

A second source, one much older, is Charles Haddon Spurgeon's *Commenting and Commentaries* (1876, reissued by Kregel, 1981). Since the great British Bible expositor died in 1892, his recommendations are devoted to the post-Reformation era, particularly the period of the Puritans.

Many of the out-of-print books mentioned in *The Minister's Library* and *Commenting and Commentaries* are being reprinted by Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, and Klock and Klock Christian Publishers, Minneapolis.

The study of God's Word is much more than another academic pursuit; it is vitally relevant to our daily needs. □



The study of God's Word is much more than another academic pursuit; it is vitally relevant to our daily needs.

Profit for serious students

THE RYRIE STUDY BIBLE:
NEW TESTAMENT
by Charles Caldwell Ryrie
Moody, Chicago
496 pages, \$9.95

"The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals. The *Ryrie Study Bible* is especially designed to help you achieve that goal." So writes the author, chairman of the Department of Systematic Theology, Dallas Theological Seminary, and a well-known Bible teacher, in the preface. The author's purpose will be realized by serious students of this edition. As one who has profited from the author's desk and pulpit teaching, I was pleased that his keen analysis, careful interpretation, irenic spirit, and love for the Bible come across in these study notes.

In addition to a general New Testament introduction and one to the Gospels, each book is preceded by a brief introduction covering authorship, date of writing, occasion for writing, distinctive approach, summary of contents, and special subjects (e.g. was Ephesians an encyclical, extrabiblical quotations in Jude, principal interpretations of the Revelation). An analytical outline of each book's contents follows. The outline also is interspersed through the biblical text to aid in understanding the development of thought.

An abundance of cross references are printed in the left and right margins of each page. Cross references are easily identified with the appropriate verse in the text by the bold face printing of the verse number in the margin. A small star by the bold face verse number(s) in the margin directs the reader to the study notes at the bottom of the page (each note is identified by chapter and verse reference). The study notes provide information on background, history, geography, culture,

word meanings, theology, and interpretation.

Where more than one interpretation may be possible (e.g. 1 Pet. 3:19; Mt. 13:33; Eph. 4:9), the author will note this and occasionally states his preference. The notes clearly reveal the author's dispensational (e.g. Acts 1:6; Eph. 3:3), premillennial (e.g. Rev. 20:2), pretribulational (e.g. 1 Thess. 4:16, 17) position.

The publisher has used clear type and an excellent binding (for the price) that should wear well. This Bible will remain open and flat without breaking the binding. The *Ryrie Study Bible* is available in both the King James Version and the New American Standard Version with only minor variations in the study notes.

Other useful tools are a harmony of the gospels, an index to principal subjects in the notes, nine Hammond Bible maps, and two chronological time charts.

Though it is not usual to include a concordance with a New Testament, such an addition would have offered one more aid for the Bible student. The complete *Ryrie Study Bible*, containing both Old and New Testaments, is expected to be completed in two years—but don't wait till then to benefit from this most useful study Bible. *Harold D. Foos, Th.D., Bible Department, MBI.*

An amillennial view

INTERPRETING PROPHECY
by Philip Edgcumbe Hughes
Eerdmans, Grand Rapids
135 pages, paper, \$2.95

It is rare for a premillennialist to commend an amillennial book on prophecy. Premillennialism, to which this reviewer is committed, holds that there will be a future literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth after His return.

Amillennialism, which Philip Edgcumbe Hughes favors, says that the 1,000 years are to be interpreted as symbolic of the present reign of Christ over the church, and that we

are not to look for an earthly reign of Christ in the future.

But Hughes has done some commendable things in this modest little work: (1) He has saturated it with Scripture. (2) He has been fair and charitable to premillennialism and dispensationalism (he opposes both). (3) He has communicated his message concisely, plainly, and simply. (4) He has demonstrated that it is possible to be thoroughly evangelical and amillennial, even though some premillennialists may be slow to admit it. (5) He rightly maintains that "prophetic teaching . . . is intended, not as pabulum for mystery-mongers and puzzle-solvers, but as an incentive to godly living."

However, he treats the promises to Israel in contradictory ways. The *land* promises were literally fulfilled to Israel during Solomon's reign, says Hughes—yet on second thought—Abraham did not look for an earthly country, but a heavenly one, since to take the promises literally rather than sacramentally would be to "interpret in a carnal manner the good things promised by God."

Hughes further believes that the remnant to whom Israel's promises will be fulfilled is the church, the elect chosen by God's grace to be the "true Israel" even though they are not physically the seed of Abraham. The premillennialist would concede these various connotations for the seed, but he insists that the literal meaning of the seed is not abandoned, but will be fulfilled to the literal righteous remnant of Israel in the future. Israel undergoes an identity crisis and transformation of identity at the hands of amillennial interpreters.

Hughes also has Abraham practically understanding and believing the gospel of the New Testament, which violates the principle of progressive revelation. Another weakness is that nearly all of the work deals with the New Testament (premillennialists build much of their case from the Old Testament).

After 30 years, the *Ryrie Study Bible* has seen many expansions and translations. It remains a key tool for Christians seeking a better understanding of Scripture. When asked how writing the original version impacted his own life, Dr. Ryrie replies, “I had always taught theology, but I had never taught through all the books of the Bible as a pastor might. Also, I had never outlined all the books of the Bible so that was a challenge, but a good challenge. I wanted the outline to reflect the content and be useful in showing readers how to apply the content. I am resisting saying that I wanted the outline to help with preaching. I really wanted it to be able to be used by anyone, and be helpful to a person who is just picking up the Bible.”

The *Ryrie Study Bible* has 10,000 concise explanatory notes and Dr. Ryrie offers that when compiling them, he often thought of the students who were attending his ongoing home, Bible-study classes. “When I was writing the notes, I would often ask myself, ‘Would someone in my class need help at this point?’ In a class you get a pretty good idea of the level of what they know or don’t know.”

When queried about his personal Bible study habits, Dr. Ryrie is hesitant to offer a one-size-fits-all checklist and says it depends on his reason for studying the Bible. If, for example, he is preparing a sermon, he often tries to do something new. “I get a Bible passage in mind and I read it and then jot down things like questions, comments, ideas, and more. I note whatever comes to mind—I may do that over the course of a day or two. I will then organize and perfect it.” Though he says that everyone is different in the path they choose, one Bible study habit he will heartedly endorse is commitment. “The most important thing about reading or studying the Bible is to do *something* consistently. Even if it’s only half a chapter—be consistent.”


For those who may be new to Christ and just starting to read and study the Bible, Dr. Ryrie feels that advice on Bible study habits would depend on how the term “new Christian” is defined. “What’s the extent of his relationship with Christ? Has he been to church? Did he go forward at a Billy Graham meeting and that is his brush with Christianity? It’s hard to answer a question like that. I have a friend who always advises the newly converted to read the book of James ten times before you do anything else. I say keeping them interested in continuing to read and study the Bible, and knowing that you have the freedom to set your own agenda is very important.”



“The most important thing about reading or studying the Bible is to do *something* consistently.”

By freedom, he means the freedom of starting one book and, if not liking it, going onto another. Though he calls Genesis “an interesting book” he does not advise a new convert to start with the Old Testament. “If you think you are going to begin with Genesis and read the Bible all the way through, it will defeat you. By the time you get to Numbers, you’ll want to quit. Start in the New Testament. If it is a Gospel, fine, and I’d say aim at John. If not the Gospels, then some people are very attracted to Acts because it is lively. If you want to dip here or there in the Old Testament, try some of the Psalms or Proverbs.

Another tool Dr. Ryrie considers important to good Bible study habits is, naturally, a good study Bible. “It not only gives you the text, but plenty of on-the-page help. Let’s face it, most of us are lazy and we are not going to get a separate book and read it, so if it is on the page, it will help.” Whether it’s his own study Bible, or someone else’s, Ryrie suggests reading the Introduction to learn more about the author. He also advocates reading the notes at the bottom of the page while reading the actual text.

Dr Ryrie offers this tip for reading through the Bible: “I am more and more convinced that the best advice you can give anybody at any stage of life unsaved or saved, new or mature Christian, who wants to study the Bible, is to ‘just read it.’ There is no law that says you have to read ‘so much’ every day. And an entire chapter might be too long. It’s better to read a little regularly than a lot occasionally.” 

Add the Charles Ryrie Legacy Collection to your Library.
Logos.com/Ryrie



Essential Tools

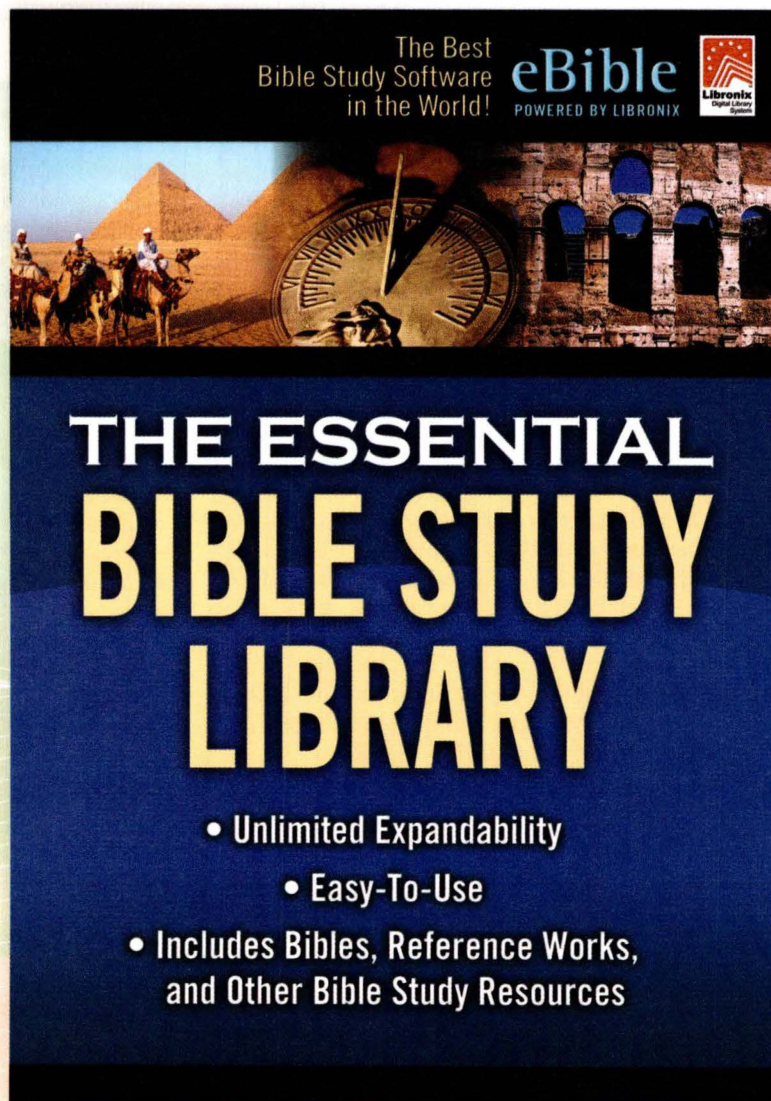
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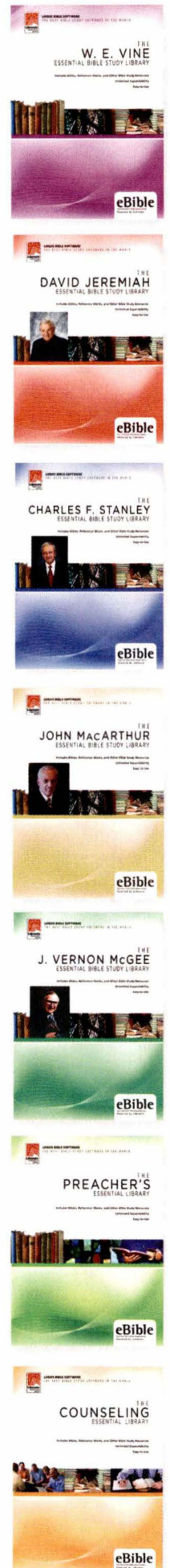
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WISE CHOICE.

Now more than ever, the question isn't which study Bible is best, but which *Ryrie*?

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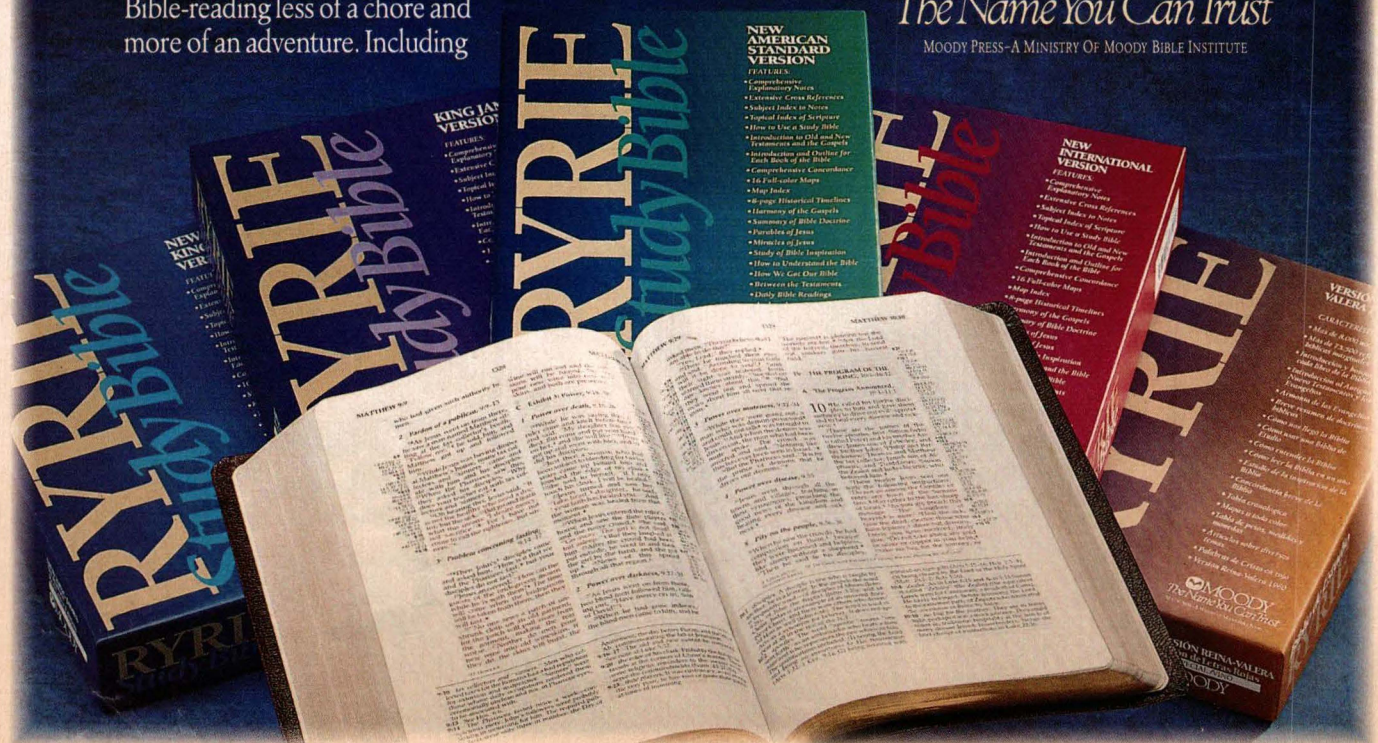
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REVIEWS

and free-lance writers discuss such diverse subjects as the philosophies of Christian book publishers and how to handle rejection.

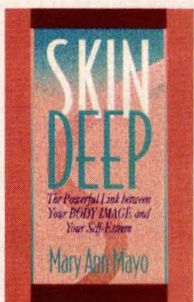
Reading *Inside Publishing* is like attending a writer's conference. The articles will challenge beginning and expert authors to literary excellence while giving practical tips for writing magazine and book manuscripts. The book also emphasizes Christian publishing's grand distinctive from general publishing: to declare truth that impels people to know and serve God.

DEEPER BEAUTY

SKIN DEEP

by Mary Ann Mayo; Servant Publications, 217 pages, \$14.99

On the surface, this appears to be just one more volume in the glut of self-esteem books that preach the gospel of self-improvement. Instead, *Skin Deep* promotes a healthy move away from self-absorption.



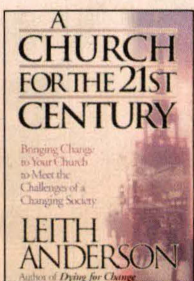
Mary Ann Mayo develops a biblical view of the body — a topic usually relegated to one or two chapters, not an entire book. She debunks the popular myths about the “god of physical perfection” that promises greater self-worth. But *Skin Deep* does not ignore the effect that physical appearance has on how we live. Instead, she offers practical suggestions for dealing with this struggle.

HOPE FOR THE CHURCH

A CHURCH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

by Leith Anderson; Bethany House, 246 pages, \$14.99

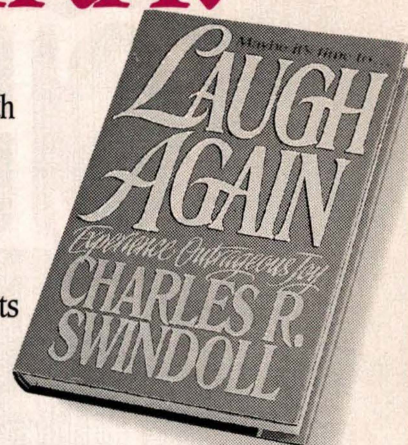
When asked why they don't attend church, many Americans today are likely to reply that it doesn't seem relevant. At the same time, according to recent Barna polls, interest in spiritual matters among Americans is at a high.



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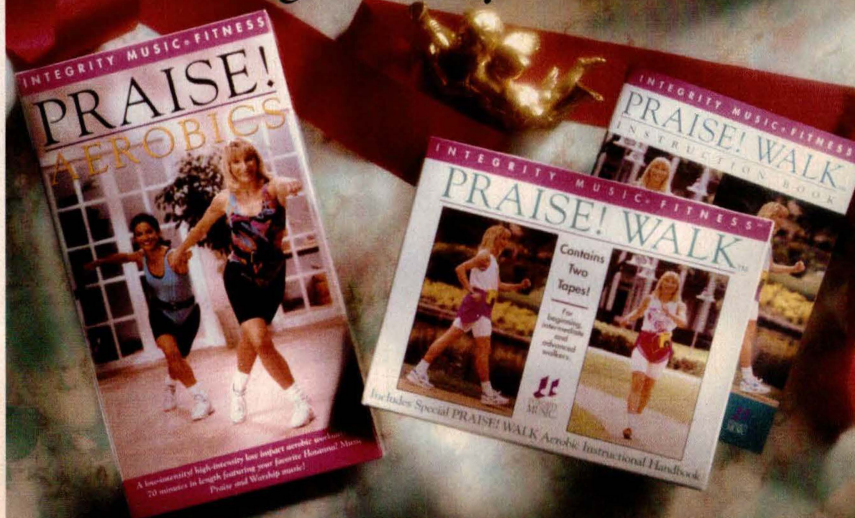


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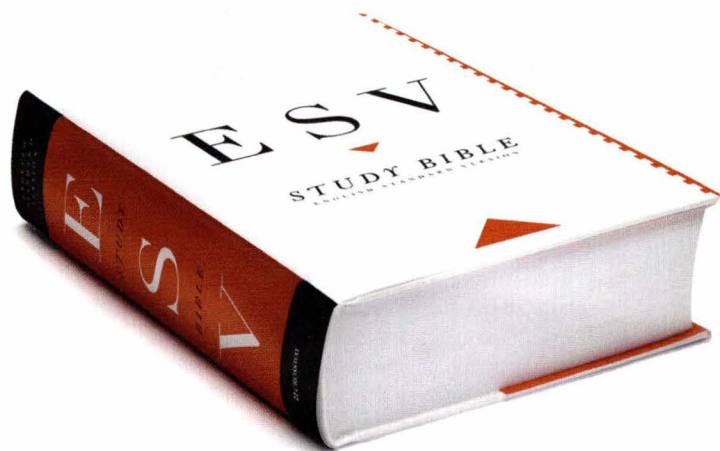
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- ▶ Book of the Year—Evangelical Christian Publishers Association
- ▶ Book of the Year—*World Magazine*

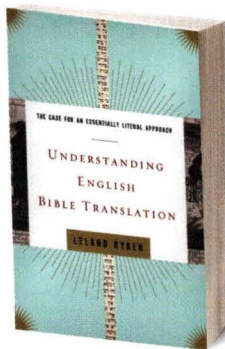
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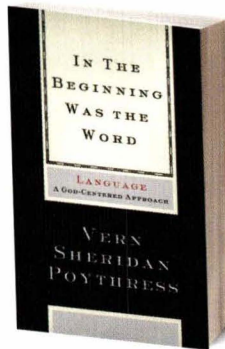


Understanding English Bible Translation

The Case for an Essentially Literal Approach

Leland Ryken

KJV, NIV, NLT, ESV . . . If you're seeking to navigate the maze of English Bible translations for yourself, your organization, or your ministry, let Leland Ryken lead the way. His book deftly defines the issues, contrasts the two main translation traditions, and argues for an essentially literal translation.

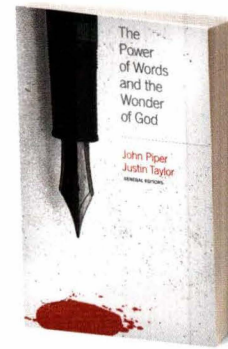


In the Beginning Was the Word

Language—A God-Centered Approach

Vern Sheridan Poythress

Drawing from biblical resources, Poythress articulates a theology of language and shows that human speech, thought, and truth are derived from God's original use of his own Word. This book examines the importance of language as it pertains to revelation, postmodernism, philosophy, and biblical interpretation, and seeks to develop a Christian approach to language in light of biblical teaching.



The Power of Words and the Wonder of God

John Piper and Justin Taylor, editors

How would our homes, churches, schools—even public opinion—be changed if we used words as Jesus did? John Piper, Sinclair Ferguson, Mark Driscoll, and other Christian leaders examine the life-altering impact of the tongue so that you can harness its power for God's purposes.

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KAREN JONES

More is More

for the Editor of the *Ryrie Study Bible*

Asking the man who edited the bestselling *Ryrie Study Bible* about the importance of Bible reading is like asking Bill Gates if you should buy a computer. The answer is obvious. “What is important is regular reading, variety of reading, and the freedom to choose your path through the Bible,” says one of the most prolific Bible scholars of our time, Dr. Charles Caldwell Ryrie.

The *Ryrie Study Bible* has helped millions of Christians worldwide understand the Bible’s basic truths. Though he did not realize the effect his notes would have on Bible study when it debuted in 1978, Dr. Ryrie tells *Bible Study Magazine* he is overwhelmed by its impact, particularly on laypersons. “Everybody tells me that it is very helpful for laypersons in studying the Bible, and by now, I am beginning to believe it. I think it’s the way God’s gift is operating through me and I am very thankful.”

Born in 1925, Dr. Ryrie came to Christ at the early age “of five or six” and was often allowed to attend his father’s home Bible study class—as long as he sat by his mother who would ensure his good behavior. He says the home Bible class exposed him to “excellent Bible teachings” while growing up—a foundation he was able to successfully build on throughout his life.

Though his original professional path was heading towards a career in business banking, Dr. Ryrie says a meeting with the eminent theologian Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer, who took time out of his busy schedule to talk with the young college student, resulted in him going on a theological journey instead. This occurred while he was attending Haverford College near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Like many college students, Dr. Ryrie admits to being “very disturbed about the future at that time.” This changed after he attended a public forum featuring Dr. Chafer, which was held near the campus. “I requested a meeting afterwards and he said he would be glad to talk to me. He set up a time at his hotel for dinner. That night settled for me the two important questions of what I would dedicate my life to, and what I was going to do with that life. It was a call to ministry.” He adds that this sort of access to such an esteemed person would probably not happen today, “It’s so easy to say ‘I don’t have time for a college student.’ I have not forgotten that and hope I don’t.”

After Dr. Ryrie graduated from Haverford College, he attended Dallas Theological Seminary where he obtained a Th.M. and Th.D.; later he also earned another doctorate at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He has since served as Professor of Systematic Theology and Dean of Doctoral Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary. Dr. Ryrie has written a plethora of respected publications on theology and Christian life and is considered one of the most influential voices of evangelical Christianity.

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Pick up your new *Ryrie Study Bible Expanded Edition* today. And expand your vision of what a study Bible can be.

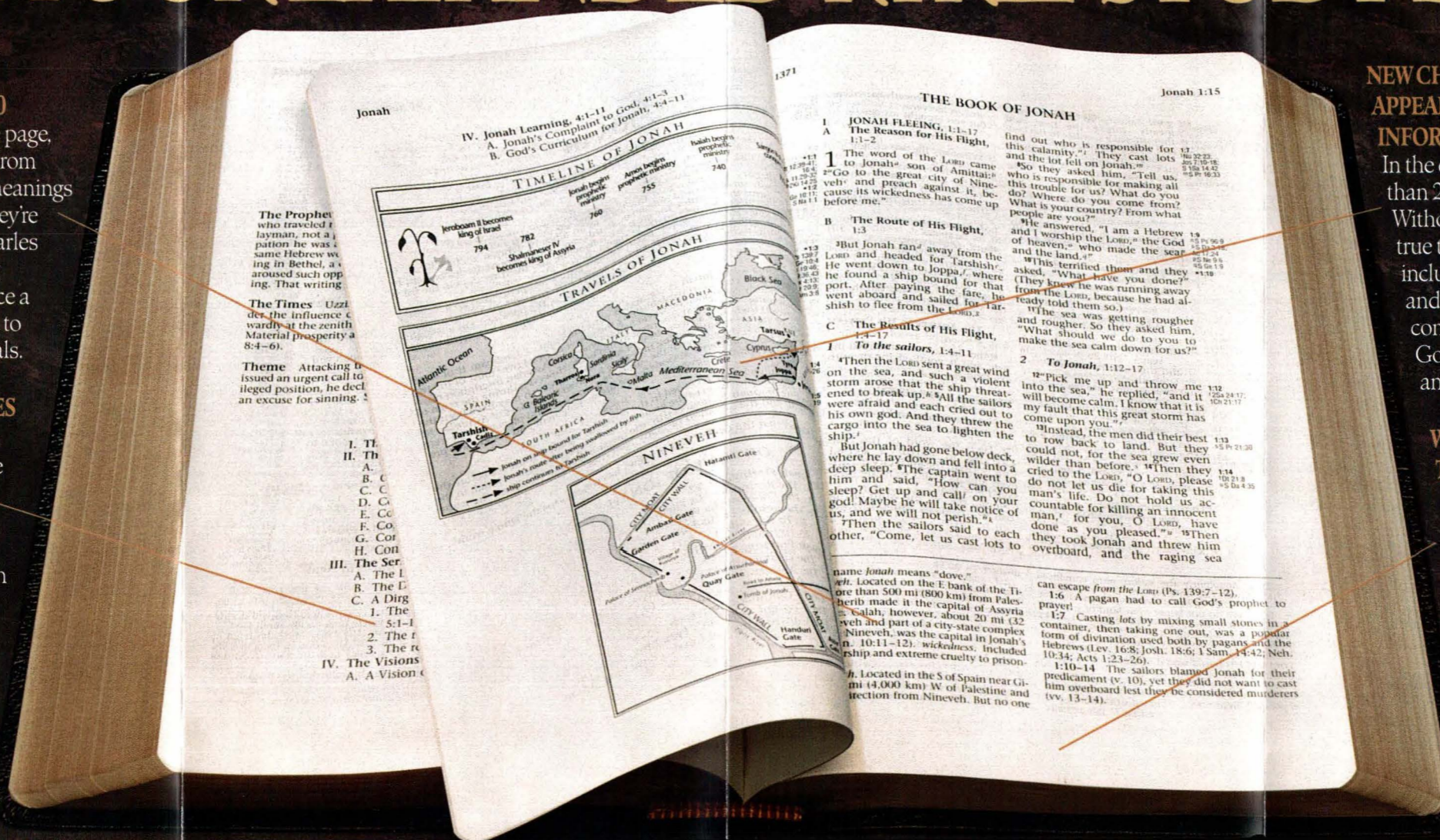
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2,000 NEW STUDY NOTES BRING THE TOTAL TO 10,000

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WIDER MARGINS MAKE NOTE-TAKING EASIER THAN EVER

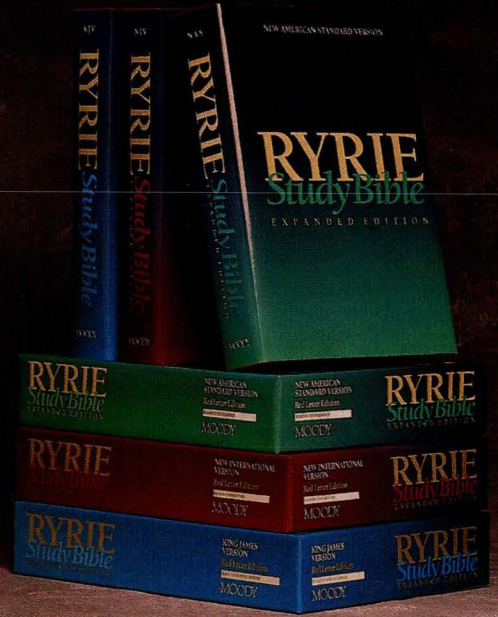
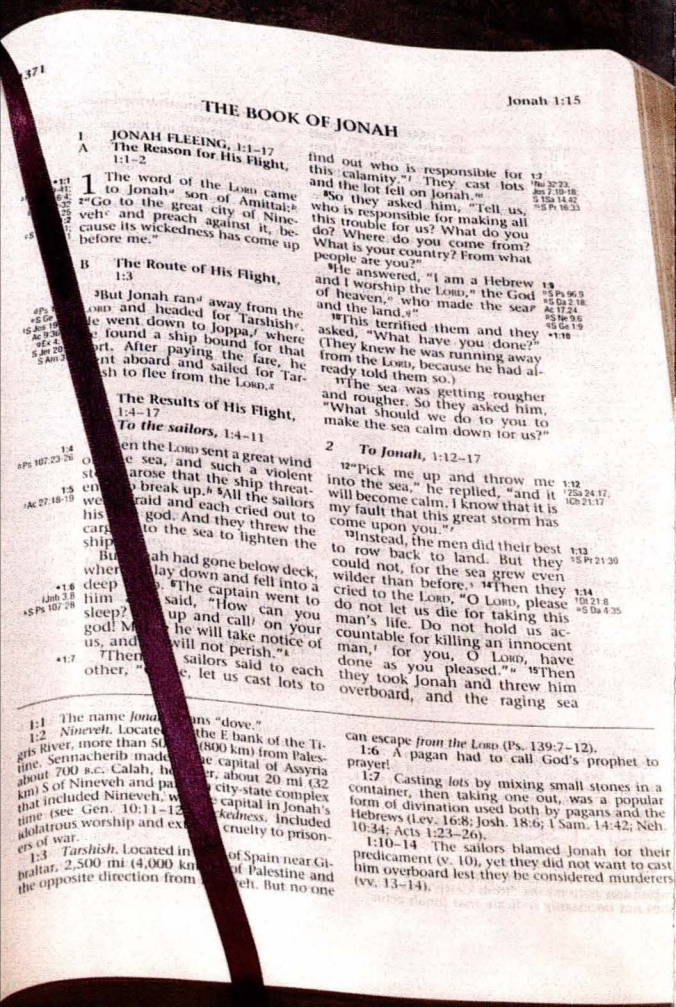
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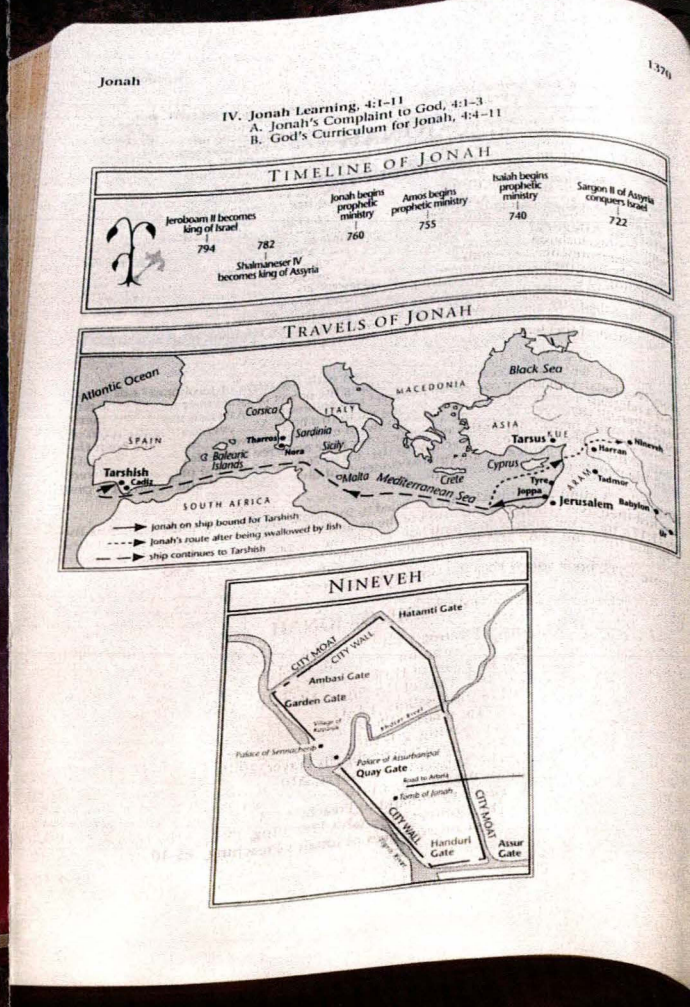
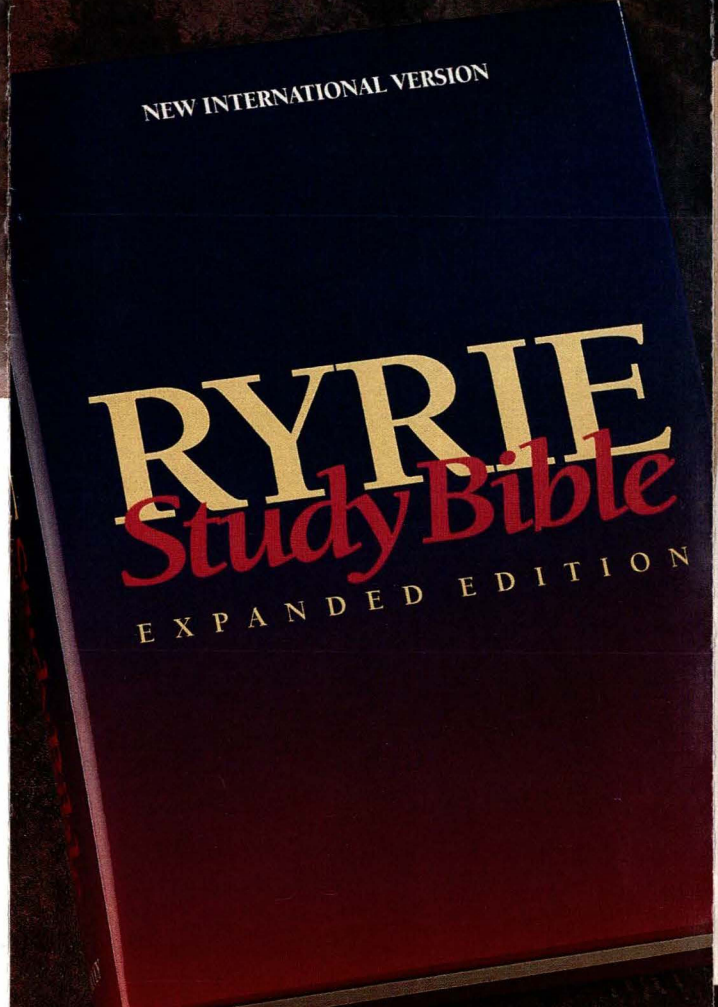
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Geography

Historical Relationships

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF

AUTHOR: Isaiah

ANGER
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man of wicked devices is
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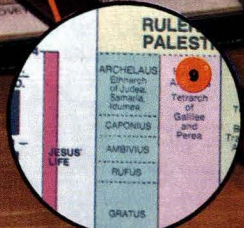
HOW TO
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... HIS EARTHLY LIFE
A. His Preparation
3. Baptism. 4. Temptation
B. His Preaching.
(Mark 1:14—9:50).
C. His Passion.

SUBJECTS IN
Antichrist, Dan. 7:24—
Matt. 24:15; 2 The
1 John 2:18; Rev.
16:13; 17:8; 17:12
Antioch, Acts 11:19
Antiochus Epiphan

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26:12 she
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Contents.

Birth and Boyhood of Jesus

Twelve Years of Jesus

Matthew the Evangelist

The Sower

Tares

The Mustard Seed

MIRACLES OF JESUS

miracles performed by Jesus; and John, The

for instance, all the works (4)

"Inspiration"?

by which God is called. Strictly speaking, it is usually translated "In other words, it usually indicates"

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

of the Bible depends on the interpreting work

HOW WE GOT OUR BIBLE

books belong in the Bible or measuring rod, and passed a test of a life. How was it?

Pharisees

The Pharisees were legalizers in the days of Jesus given them

ARCHAEOLOGY

Nature and Purpose of Archaeology

ogy" comes from two ancient things: the word "Bible" belonging to a foreign word

FEBRUARY

Date

1 EXOD

2 EYE

WEIGHTS, MEASURES

Weights Ratio

Available in two translations—the traditional King James version and the popular New American Standard version.