

# Understanding The Bible

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a thoughtful warm and witty introduction understanding the bible is designed to help empower skeptics seekers nonbelievers and those of a liberal and progressive outlook to reclaim the bible from literalists in making accessible some of the best contemporary historical literary political and feminist readings of the hebrew and christian scriptures it encourages all who would find in the biblical heritage an ally and not an enemy in the quest for a more just and humane world brief and to the point it can easily be used to stimulate group discussions and personal reading of the biblical texts themselves and is an excellent introduction to the judeo christian tradition for those of other faiths understanding the bible includes four preliminary chapters on the why who which and how of biblical understanding followed by eight brief thematic chapters covering the core of the hebrew bible and six covering the christian scriptures plus chronologies maps and helpful suggestions for further reading

everything you need to grasp god s big picture in scripture so you can dive deeper into each book of the bible every single word in the bible is powerful and purposeful but too often we can be guilty of thinking that the details of god s plan for us must be buried in obscurity somewhere in the vastness of the bible as if we re missing god because we missed that tiny iota subscript in the original greek what if it is the opposite what if our daily purpose our next step tomorrow our discernment in the moment comes from a broad understanding of god s revelation in the bible when you grasp god s word holistically your life begins to make more sense each and every day in this book sam rainer will help you understand god s big picture as revealed in the bible explore the major themes of scripture know quickly and easily the subject and purpose of each book of the bible see the entire masterpiece instead of focusing on the brushstrokes understand the broad themes that occur from genesis to revelation to find god s purpose and plan for your life

can you distinguish when scripture is literal vs figurative should parables allegories and prophecies be interpreted with the same method if you re wondering or want your study time to be more rewarding here are clear explanations guidelines advice and discussion questions to help you discover what the bible really means

author john stott examines the cultural social geographical and historical background of the bible as he outlines the story with its central theme and as he explains its message the book now includes study questions index and maps

we approach the bible with american eyes and therefore completely miss or misunderstand so much of it it is an old middle eastern book to really understand it we must try to understand their culture theology language and thinking a good translation is just the first step in understanding the bible figures of speech that are second nature to native speakers but often bizarre to others are especially difficult when these are further clouded by differences in customs grasping the original meaning can be very difficult what most of us fail to realize is that we do not think the same way the writers of the bible thought the logic we find so easy and familiar did not yet exist when most of the bible was written without considering those differences we try to impose on hebrew word pictures our greek logic patterns sometimes it works and at other times the results are disastrous no wonder we have loud conflict and seething separation within the church today in direct violation of jesus prayer for unity within his body this book is the result of years of answering questions from students and friends it can be understood by anyone who can read a newspaper the bible is the record of gods intervention in human affairs and where he draws a lost and hurting world to himself despite the critics shrill cries the bible can be understood

understanding the bible a guide to reading the scriptures will inform your reading and enrich your understanding of the bible from historical literary and faith perspectives it is ideal for use regardless of your background your beliefs your questions or the bible translation you are reading inside are articles that explore the bible in its faith historical and cultural contexts the bible is looked at as literature too its genres and literary forms there are articles introducing the old and new testaments specifically the pentateuch the historical books the wisdom and poetry books the prophets the gospels and the acts of the apostles the letters and revelation the history and differences of translations are discussed and other tools to help you unlock the bible are introduced additional aids include maps charts a timeline and a glossary together these aids further investigate the bible and the world in which it was written as well as the progression of scholarship that helps us understand the bible today

understanding the bible will help anyone learn how to interpret the bible for themselves plummer walks the reader through improving interpretation skills using books and tools for interpretation and determining the meaning of a biblical text

how do i get more out of my bible reading what was going on during the gap between the old and new testaments how do all the books of the bible fit together as a whole this book answers these questions and puts clear readable bible study aids at your fingertips it contains thirteen essays from some of today s best evangelical scholars including c john collins thomas schreiner gordon wenham and darrell bock and will help you to see the big picture storyline of the bible understand the theology of the old and new testaments read the different sections of scripture effectively know what happened between the testaments in addition to essays on each genre of the bible the book addresses the general greco roman world and specific jewish groups at the time of the new testament to aid in putting bible passages in context it also includes timelines of the old and new

testaments and intertestamental events useful as both a general overview of the bible and as a tool for more specific reference and training this book will help you grow in your understanding of scripture and your ability to apply the bible to life

with extensive biblical knowledge and a fresh contemporary perspective bruce bickel and stan jantz provide an easy to understand approach to god s written message as they provide a user friendly overview of the origin themes and context of the bible pack in maps references learning aids and useful details reveal god s love and plan of salvation for humankind encourage study with a personal three month plan this is a must have resource for readers who have been planning to get serious about bible study longtime believers new christians bible study leaders and even seekers who want to read the bible for the first time formerly titled bruce stan s guide to the bible

when it comes to reading and understanding the bible a dangerous phrase is used by non christians and even some believers well that s your interpretation it is true that without some care in your interpretation you can make the bible say almost anything dig deeper is written out of the conviction that there is a right way to understand the bible and a wrong way and the authors show us how to read it correctly dig deeper offers sixteen tools readers can use to get to the bottom of any bible passage and discover its intended meaning examples show how each tool helps readers discover something exciting and relevant in a passage and the dig deeper exercises offer the opportunity to practice using the tools the book s brevity and easy to read format make it ideal for christians who want to get the most out of their bible

simply understanding the bible offers 3 levels at which to approach do it yourself bible study the getting started level provides helpful background information on each book of the bible readers who want to survey the bible quickly may then follow the first reading level through the 66 books and those willing to spend more time in bible study will want to explore the building tools level get started on your own program of personal discovery in god s word right away

from the popular quicksource series of books this edition gives a full color overview of the bible s history arrangement and themes

have you ever felt like you can t make sense out of the bible but wished you could then this book is for you starting from scratch norton sterrett presents the general rules for reading the bible s ordinary language and moves on to specific principles that apply to special types of language such as parables figures of speech hebrew poetry and symbols

understanding the bible will helop anyone learn how to interpret the bible for themselves the bible covers a variety of genres and was written a long time ago so being aware of solid principles of interpretation is important in order to understand the bible properly plummer walks the reader through improving interpretation skills using books and tools for interpretation and determining the meaning of a biblical text

many people are often understandably intimidated or overwhelmed by the sheer size and complexity of the bible but now popular author and boston university professor peter kreeft has written a clear road map of the bible focusing his keen insight and engaging wit on the core message of each book it won t take long for you to understand why his guide to scripture has become a best seller sparkling with intelligence and kreeft s trademark humor you can understand the bible will transform dry study into spiritually satisfying adventures in god s word regardless of how you approached or didn t approach the bible before you ll come away with a new appreciation of its depth and meaning kreeft also provides practical guidance for praying the scriptures every day allowing the reader to delve into the messages of scripture in a manner that will surprise delight and reward

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