

Recommended Resources for Interpreting the Bible

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Reading God's Word with Precision and Passion

Whether you're looking for introductory guides, rigorous academic textbooks, or reference works to enrich your teaching and study, these selected resources represent trusted evangelical scholarship across hermeneutics, biblical theology, and historical context.

1. General Hermeneutics & Hermeneutical Principles

Foundational & Practical Introductions

Bruce Wilkinson & Ken Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1983).
An accessible, visual overview outlining every book of the Bible with summaries, charts, and historical context.

Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth: A Guide to Understanding the Bible*, 4th ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014).
A foundational guide that teaches readers how to interpret different biblical genres accurately.

J. Scott Duvall & J. Daniel Hays, *Grasping God's Word*, 4th ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020).
One of the best introductory hermeneutics textbooks, combining sound interpretive principles with practical exercises and application.

Robert L. Plummer, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic, 2010).
A practical, accessible guide that answers common interpretive questions from a conservative evangelical perspective.

R. C. Sproul, *Knowing Scripture* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1977).
A timeless, highly readable classic introducing laypeople to basic principles of biblical interpretation.

Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation* (Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications, 1991).
A practical and accessible guide to grammatical-historical interpretation that has equipped generations of Bible students and pastors.

Walt Russell, *Playing with Fire: How the Bible Ignites Change in Your Soul* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2000).
Combines solid hermeneutical principles with practical application, showing how sound exegesis leads to spiritual growth.

Academic & In-Depth Methodologies

Andreas J. Köstenberger & Richard D. Patterson, *Invitation to Biblical Interpretation*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2021).

A comprehensive evangelical textbook covering the principles and practice of interpreting both the Old and New Testaments.

Craig G. Bartholomew, *Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics: A Comprehensive Framework for Hearing God in Scripture* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015).

A thoughtful evangelical treatment integrating historical-grammatical interpretation with literary, canonical, and theological approaches.

William W. Klein, Craig L. Blomberg, & Robert L. Hubbard Jr., *Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, 3rd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2017).

A standard, comprehensive evangelical textbook covering the qualifications, methodologies, and literary genre considerations essential for sound biblical interpretation.

Dan McCartney & Charles Clayton, *Let the Reader Understand: A Guide to Interpreting and Applying the Bible*, 2nd ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2002).

A clear introduction to evangelical hermeneutics that balances careful exegesis with practical application.

Grant R. Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, 2nd ed. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2006).

A classic evangelical treatment of biblical interpretation that integrates hermeneutics, exegesis, and theology into a coherent interpretive method.

Robert H. Stein, *A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011).

A trusted introduction to biblical hermeneutics that equips readers to interpret Scripture according to the author's intended meaning.

Walter C. Kaiser Jr. & Moisés Silva, *An Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics: The Search for Meaning*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).

A respected evangelical guide to grammatical-historical interpretation that emphasizes discovering the author's intended meaning.

Exegetical Methodologies & In-Depth Hermeneutics

Gordon D. Fee, *New Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, 3rd ed. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002).

A practical, step-by-step guide outlining the essential textual, grammatical, and historical procedures for Greek-text exegesis and sermon preparation.

Douglas Stuart, *Old Testament Exegesis: A Handbook for Students and Pastors*, 5th ed. (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2022).

A clear, methodical handbook providing a comprehensive framework for Old Testament exegesis, translation, and expository teaching.

2. Exegetical Pitfalls

D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies*, 2nd ed. (Carlisle, UK / Grand Rapids, MI: Paternoster / Baker Academic, 1996).

An essential guardrail identifying common word-study, grammatical, logical, and theological errors in Bible study.

Kevin J. Vanhoozer, *Is There a Meaning in This Text? The Bible, the Reader, and the Morality of Literary Knowledge* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 1998).

A landmark theological and philosophical defense of authorial intent that equips readers to engage critically with postmodern hermeneutics and literary theory.

3. Biblical Theology, Canonical Method & Intertextuality

Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*, rev. ed. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2025).

Traces the missional arc of the biblical canon, showing how God's mission unifies Old and New Testaments.

Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2002).

A highly influential introduction to biblical theology that traces the unity of Scripture through God's unfolding plan of redemption.

G. K. Beale, *Handbook on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament: Exegesis and Interpretation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012).

An indispensable guide that outlines a clear methodology for analyzing Old Testament quotations, allusions, and intertextual patterns in the New Testament.

4. Historical, Background & Literary Context

Craig A. Evans, *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies: A Guide to the Background Literature* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2005).

An excellent introduction to Jewish, Greco-Roman, and early Christian sources that illuminate the New Testament.

Craig A. Evans, *Jesus and His World: The Archaeological Evidence* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2012).

Demonstrates how archaeology enriches our understanding of the historical world of Jesus and the Gospels.

Leland Ryken, *How to Read the Bible as Literature* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1984).

A classic introduction showing how literary forms and techniques illuminate the meaning of Scripture.

5. Reference & Theological Dictionaries

Kevin J. Vanhoozer, ed., *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2005).

An outstanding reference work introducing the principles, methods, and vocabulary of theological interpretation from an evangelical perspective.