



# Columbia Bible College Library Library Resource Guides

## Bible Dictionaries

### 1. Multi-Volume Bible Dictionaries:

#### The Anchor Bible Dictionary. (6 Volumes)

New York: Doubleday, 1992. [REF 220.3 A539 1992]

**Abstract:** This is the most extensive and probably most authoritative Bible dictionary presently available, distilling "the essence of critical scholarship on subjects pertaining to the Scriptures." This dictionary touches on every name and place that appears in the Bible as well as an abundance of information about the Bible. Each of its 6,400 entries, written by almost 1,000 contributors, consists of these parts: (1) the subject, (2) the text, and, (3) bibliography. Helpful cross-references direct readers to parallel or related entries on the subject, and the extensive bibliographies are the fullest available in an English-language work. However, many readers will be disappointed in the almost total absence of illustrations.

#### The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (4 Volumes)

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1979-1988. [REF 220.3 I61 1978-1988]

**Abstract:** ISBE purports to be truly international in that contributors have been selected from many lands. The purpose of this work is to "define, identify and explain terms and topics that are of interest to those who study the Bible." Entries include every name and place mentioned in the Bible together with articles on ethical and theological themes as well as on the Bible itself. The ISBE can be used as an exegetical tool, especially for problem texts. For most subject entries the Hebrew or Greek equivalent is provided. As a rule, the information is strongly supported by charts, maps, illustrations and photographs (all in black and white); with the exception that Volume 1 concludes with an extensive selection of coloured maps.

#### The Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible (4 Volumes)

Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962. [REF 220.3 I61 1962]

**Abstract:** This four volume set with a one-volume supplement published in 1976 aims at comprehensiveness by its broad selection of scholars. Its great strengths further include the liberal use of cross-references as well as copious illustrations (some of them coloured). Notably, IBD citations also cover the Apocrypha. The subject entries consist of (1) the subject term in bold capitals, (2) the text (3) bibliography, and (4) cross-references. All major articles also include an outline. The perspective of IDC tends towards liberal scholarship.

#### The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible (5 Volumes)

Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976. [REF 220.3 Z87 1976]

**Abstract:** This superbly illustrated encyclopedia is intended to cover "all persons, places, objects, customs, historical events and major teachings of the Bible." In its coverage, a variety theological positions are mentioned; however, the vested Biblical and theological position is conservative. Thus for example, the article on BAPTISM comments on the biblical meaning of the term and then surveys several denominational understandings, ending with a brief bibliographical citation.

### 2. Single-Volume Bible Dictionaries:

#### Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible

Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000. [REF 220.3 E26 2000]

Abstract: This Bible dictionary is what one would call a classical Bible dictionary, since it includes nearly 5,000 articles on all persons, all places and nearly all plants, animals and objects mentioned in the Old and New Testaments as well as the Apocrypha. Nearly 600 first-rate Bible authorities have contributed to the Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible. This illustrated dictionary reflects recent archaeological discoveries and the breadth of current biblical scholarship, with articles covering a wide spectrum of interpretations. This is probably the most comprehensive and up-to-date one-volume Bible dictionary available.

#### HarperCollins Bible Dictionary

San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1996. [REF 220.3 H295 1996]

Abstract: This is a revision of Harper's Bible Dictionary, updated with the best current biblical scholarship. It includes 3,700 entries, over 500 black & white and color photos, and more. The articles tend to be less detailed and shorter than the Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible, but nonetheless this is an excellent dictionary.

#### Holman Bible Dictionary

Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991. [REF 220.3 H747 1991]

Abstract: This resource has much to commend it, notably its brilliant use of colour for maps, illustrations and photographs. The contents are exceptionally user friendly. Each entry begins with a short definition of the term, followed by fuller treatment, often indicating particular theological significance. Many readers will value the series of time lines at the outset of the book.

#### Mercer Dictionary of the Bible

Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1990. [REF 220.3 M554 1990]

Abstract: MDB is the writing product of 225 Baptist professors of religion. The express purpose of this volume is to offer supplemental information to traditional classroom textbooks. All maps are original to this volume (and can be ordered separately as colour slides). All outlines for the canonical books are original draft. Moreover, MDB devotes entries to all known non-canonical books. A notable feature of MDB includes the colour maps and charts located in the centre of the book.

#### The New Bible Dictionary

Grand Rapids: InterVarsity, 1996. [REF 220.3 N532 1996]

Abstract: A standard for evangelical Bible dictionaries for years, this comprehensive volume, now in its third edition, has been completely revised to reflect the latest developments in biblical studies and archaeology. Features include 2,000 entries, plus hundreds of graphics and an updated bibliography. The Illustrated Bible Dictionary uses the text of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. of this work.

#### The New International Dictionary of the Bible

Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987. [REF 220.3 N532 1987]

Abstract: Originally published as The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary in 1963, this dictionary is based on the NIV with more than 5,400 entries. Unique to this dictionary is a complete Scripture index. Bibliographies accompany some entries. All sixty-six contributors represent the best in Evangelical scholarship.

#### The Revell Bible Dictionary

Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell, 1990. [REF 220.3 R451 1990]

Abstract: Along with providing accurate information on the study of the Bible, RBD seeks to help readers in making personal applications of scriptural truths. The dictionary is primarily keyed to the NIV translation, with all entries following in strict alphabetical sequence. A convenient "Identiquick" appendix lists all proper names found in the Bible, each with at least one scriptural citation, noting where in the Bible the names can be found, together with its meaning. The use of colour throughout makes this an impressive reference resource.