

CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR BIBLICAL LITERACY

BIBLIOGRAPHY and RESOURCE GUIDE

Textbooks Used in CIBL Courses

For complete publication information, please see the General Bibliography section.

Course 1 **Foundations for Biblical Interpretations in the Catholic Tradition**

Catholic Study Bible (used in all courses)

Essential Guide to the Holy Bible, Pietro Principe, US Conference of Catholic Bishops

How Do Catholics Read the Bible, Daniel Harrington, S.J.

The Scripture Documents: An Anthology of Official Catholic Teachings

Course 2 **Pentateuch**

An Introduction to the Old Testament by Walter Brueggemann

Course 3 **The Prophetic Writings and History of Israel**

Fortress Introduction to the Prophets by Rodney Hutton

Course 4 **Wisdom and Related Literature**

The Wisdom Literature (Interpreting Biblical Texts Series) by Richard J. Clifford

Course 5 **The Synoptic Gospels and Acts of the Apostles**

Understanding the New Testament and its Message by Vincent Branick

Course 6 **The Gospel of John, the Johannine Letters & The Book of Revelation**

The Gospel of John and the Johannine Letters, Vol. 4, by Scott M. Lewis

Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation by Bruce Metzger

Course 7 **The Pauline Epistles**

Understanding the New Testament and its Message by Vincent Branick

Rabbi Paul: an Intellectual Biography by Bruce Chilton

Course 8 **The Final Seminar**

The Jewish People and their Sacred Scriptures in the Christian Bible

Biblical Fundamentalism: What Every Catholic Should Know by Ronald Witherup.

Advanced Course **The Catholic Epistles**

What Are They Saying About the Catholic Epistles? by P. Harner.

Advanced Course **Apocalyptic Literature**

Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation by Bruce Metzger

Additional Resources

Recommended LINKS to web resources and local libraries

Scripture research requires tools such as biblical dictionaries, commentaries, scholarly texts, and translations. The link below provides a basic bibliography for any research and exegetical work as well as additional links to many sources for biblical studies. Its creator, Fr. Felix Just, S.J., is Director of Biblical Studies at the Loyola Institute for Spirituality.

catholic-resources.org/Bible/index.html

A variety of translations of the Bible are available on-line through the Bible Gateway. That site allows the reader to search for passages and for particular words or phrases in all or only certain parts of the Bible, and will show those passages in different versions of scripture.

www.biblegateway.com/

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides access to the New American Bible, including introductory material and notes.

www.usccb.org/nab/bible/index.shtml

Much of the material cited in the bibliography is available in the libraries of Ohio Dominican and the Pontifical College Josephinum, and all can be obtained through OhioLINK library resources. Rather than seeking borrowing privileges from each facility, it is helpful to obtain a borrower's card from a participating OhioLINK institution. Any resident of Ohio can obtain a card from the State Library of Ohio and have access to OhioLINK library resources. Visit the website in order to apply for a card: www.library.ohio.gov/ The Westerville Public Library is also a member of OhioLINK. ODU, the Josephinum, and other library holdings can be searched at

www.ohiolink.edu/

General Bibliography

This list represents only a small portion of the vast amount of source material available, but these works reflect current scholarship and are from respected authors and publishing houses. Respected names in Catholic Biblical scholarship are marked with an asterisk *.

Periodicals

Biblical Archaeology Review. Biblical Archaeology Society. Washington, DC. Explores the historical link between the Biblical narrative and current-day archaeology.

* **The Bible Today.** Liturgical Press. Collegeville, MN. Articles and commentary on Bible and scholarship touching upon contemporary situations.

General Texts

Barnes, Ian. **Historical Atlas of the Bible**. Edison, NJ: Chartwell Books, 2010. Over 200 maps, charts, and photos give social and geographical setting for the biblical narrative.

*Brown, Fitzmyer, Murphy, eds. **The New Jerome Biblical Commentary**. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990. One volume compendium of Catholic scholarship on Scripture utilizing various critical approaches.

*Brown, Raymond E. **Responses to 101 Questions on the Bible**. New York: Paulist Press, 1990. Explains perplexing biblical questions with easily understood answers.

Curtis, Adrain. **Oxford Bible Atlas**. New York: Oxford U Press, 2007. Based on archaeology & research, provides the backdrop for each book of the Bible. Maps and historical setting.

Dei Verbum, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. Vatican Council II, promulgated Nov. 18, 1965 by Pope Paul VI.

www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html

Farmer, William, et al. **The International Bible Commentary: A Catholic and Ecumenical Commentary for the Twenty-First Century**. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1998. *Imprimatur*. Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox scholars provide extensive introduction, application, and maps, in addition to commentary on each book of the Bible.

Freedman, David Noel ed. **The Anchor Bible Dictionary** (multi-volume). New York: Doubleday, 1992. Definitive encyclopedic work on words and ideas associated with biblical text.

*Harrington, Daniel, S.J. **How Do Catholics Read the Bible?** Lanham, MD: Sheed & Ward/Rowman & Littlefield, 2005. Introduces reading Scripture as literary work and as inspired text.

*Harrington, Daniel, S.J. ed. **Sacra Pagina**. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press. Scholarly multi-volume translations and expositions of all the books of the Bible.

Harris, Stephen. **Understanding the Bible**. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010. Bible-as-literature introduction to each book of the Bible and to such topics as the formation of the canon, the Documentary Hypothesis, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Mays, James/Society of Biblical Literature, ed. **Harper's Bible Commentary**. San Francisco: Harper, 1988. One volume mainstream scholarly introduction.

McKenzie, John L., SJ. **Dictionary of the Bible**. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing, 1995. One volume encyclopedic dictionary, information-heavy, illustration-light.

Metzger, Coogan, eds. **The Oxford Companion to the Bible**. New York: Oxford U Press, 1993. Like all Oxford U material, helpful and non-dogmatic.

Mills, Wilson, et al eds. **Mercer Commentary on the Bible**. Macon, GA: Mercer U Press, 1995. One vol. (1,300 + pages), widely used commentary covering each biblical book. Mercer is a Christian university in the Baptist tradition.

Pelikan, Jaroslav. **Whose Bible Is It? A Short History of the Scriptures**. New York: Penguin, 2005. An Orthodox convert from Lutheranism explains what the Bible is and how it developed.

Principe, Pietro. **Essential Guide to the Holy Bible**. Libreria Editrice Vaticana: US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2000. A brief introduction to the Holy Bible, from a Catholic perspective.

Reddish, M. et al. **An Introduction to the Bible**. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001. Recommended as an easy-to-follow introduction. Abingdon is in the Methodist tradition.

Scherhr, Timothy. **Finding Your Bible: A Catholic's Guide**. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger, 2004. A nine chapter guide designed for group use.

Strong, James. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible**. Gordonsville, TN: Dugan Publishers. Multiple edns. Definitive key to each word in the Bible, widely available with Bible software.

Witherup, Ronald, S.S. **Biblical Fundamentalism: What Every Catholic Should Know**. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2001. Lays out the interpretative fallacy upon which fundamentalism is based.

Old Testament Texts

Alter, Robert. **The Five Books of Moses: A Translation with Commentary**. New York: Norton, 2004. Captivating translation brings the sense and rhythm of the Hebrew text to reveal its deeper meaning.

Benjamin, Don. **The Old Testament Story**. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2004. Faith-based and user-friendly introduction to OT in its literary, cultural, and theological contexts.

*Bergant, Dianne, CSA. **People of the Covenant: An Invitation to the Old Testament**. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001. The OT is grounded in relationship between God and persons.

*Brueggemann, Walter. **An Introduction to the Old Testament: The Canon and Christian Imagination**. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2003.

*Brueggemann, Walter. **Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute, Advocacy**. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1997. Current ed includes searchable CD-ROM with study guides.

Chisholm, Robert B. **Handbook on the Prophets**. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002. For each major and minor prophet, gives social context, structure and overview through running commentary.

Clifford, Richard, S.J. **The Wisdom Literature**. Interpreting Biblical Texts. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998. Introductory text, maintains that Wisdom is meant to move the reader.

*Collins, John J. **Introduction to the Hebrew Bible**. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004. Good material for study, awkward to use due to oversized pages.

Firth, David and Philip Johnston. **Interpreting the Psalms: Issues and Approaches**. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2005. Places Psalms in context, reviews themes and interpretive approaches.

Hutton, R. **Fortress Introduction to the Prophets**. Fortress Press. Minneapolis. 2004

Matthews, Victor. **More Than Meets the Ear: Discovering the Hidden Contexts of Old Testament Conversations**. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008. Dialogue is embedded in and reveals personal, domestic, political framework and relationships.

*Murphy, Roland. **The Tree of Life: An Exploration of Biblical Wisdom Literature**. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2002. Brief introduction accessible to the motivated non-scholar.

Nelson, R. **Interpreting Biblical Texts: The Historical Books**. Nashville: Abingdon, 1998.

Walton, John H. **Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament**. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994. An excellent resource for any number of lists and comparisons related to the Old Testament.

New Testament Texts

*Achteemeier, Paul, Joel Green, Marianne M. Thompson. **Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Thinking**. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001. Clear, comprehensive introduction works from the content of the NT rather than from theories.

Branick, V. **Understanding the New Testament and Its Message: An Introduction**. New York: Paulist Press, 1998.

Brockmuehl, Markus and Hagner, Donald A. eds. **The Written Gospel**. New York: Cambridge U Press, 2005.

*Brown, R. **An Introduction to the New Testament**. New York: Doubleday, 1997. Well-grounded basic text by respected scholar with enduring value.

Harner, P. **What Are They Saying About the Catholic Epistles?** New York: Paulist Press, 2004. Current scholarly thinking updates traditional exposition of the general letters/catholic epistles.

*Harrington, Daniel, S.J. **Who is Jesus? Why is He Important? An Invitation to the New Testament.** Lanham, MD: Sheed & Ward/Rowman & Littlefield, 2000. A basic introduction to the standard historical-critical methods, including literary, textual, source, form, and redaction criticisms.

House, Wayne H. **Chronological and Background Charts of the New Testament.** Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997. Lists and charts useful for comparison study.

Jeffers, James S. **The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament Era.** Grand Rapids, MI: InterVarsity Press, 1999. Puts NT in perspective through scholarly yet accessible explanation of the social and political world of the time.

Lindars, Barnabas, SSF. **The Theology of the Letter to the Hebrews.** New Testament Theology. Cambridge: Cambridge U Press, 1991/2003. Accessible work by a respected scholar.

Metzger, Bruce M. **Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation.** Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006. Gives mainstream understanding of the Book of Revelation, makes clear the structure and symbolism in a highly readable format.

*Murphy-O'Connor, Jerome. **Paul: His Story.** Oxford: Oxford U Press, 2004. Sets the Pauline letters in the context of Paul's life. Easy to grasp rendering of his more scholarly earlier works.

*Perkins, Pheme. **Introduction to the Synoptic Gospels.** Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007. Extended intro to gospel as developing form and use of texts in early Church, lead to faithful, accessible chapters covering characters, portrayal of Jesus, faith community for each gospel.

Thomas, Carolyn, SCN. **Reading the Letters of St. Paul: Study, Reflection, and Prayer.** New York: Paulist Press, 2002. Good for self-study or groups, this easy to read introduction includes reflection questions to relate the topics to present-day situations.

Theissen, Gerd. **Fortress Introduction to the New Testament.** Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2003. Introduces literary forms, then proceeds from Jesus Tradition through Pauline letters to synoptic and Johannine gospels, closing with focus on literary unity of the NT.

Witherington, Ben. **Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary.** Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998. Extensive introduction and easy to read commentary on text and major themes.

Application of Biblical Text

*Brown, R. **An Introduction to New Testament Christology.** New York: Paulist Press, 1994. Written for lay reader, uses the gospels to show how Jesus may have understood himself, how the early Church understood him.

*Elizondo, Virgilio. **A God of Incredible Surprises: Jesus of Galilee.** Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004. Uses NT to explore how Jesus is experienced as redeemer/healer by the marginalized, based upon the context of mestizo and mixed race individuals.

Fredriksen, Paula. **From Jesus to Christ: The Origins of the New Testament Images of Christ,** Second Ed. New Haven, CN: Yale U Press, 2000. Establishes the social context and explores the Christ of faith and history proclaimed in the NT churches and developed in scripture.

Hahn, Scott. **The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth.** *Imprimatur.* New York: Doubleday, 1999. Shows a relationship between text and images in Revelation and the prayers and imagery of the Mass.

Kinn, James W. **The Spirit of Jesus in Scripture and Prayer.** Lanham, MD: Sheed & Ward/Rowman & Littlefield, 2004. Shows how the Spirit becomes our personal contact with Christ and the one who continues the work of Christ.

McKenna, Megan. **And Morning Came: Scriptures of the Resurrection.** Lanham, MD: Sheed & Ward/Rowman & Littlefield, 2004. Explores how new life springs from death and invites readers to contemplate the central mysteries of Christ.

Reardon, Patrick. **Christ in the Psalms.** Ben Lomand, CA: Conciliar Press, 2000. Christians understand the Psalms with another layer of meaning. Orthodox pastor explores each psalm meditatively.

Vogt, Christopher. **Patience, Compassion, Hope, and the Christian Art of Dying Well.** Lanham, MD: Sheed & Ward/Rowman & Littlefield, 2004. Through Luke's passion narrative, Vogt uses Jesus as the primary model for being patient in the face of death and for dying well.

Further Reading

Crenshaw, James L. **Defending God: Biblical Responses to the Problem of Evil.** New York: Oxford U Press, 2005. Wide-ranging study of ancient theodicies, the human effort to justify the ways of the gods or God.

Halevi, Yossi Klein. **At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for Hope with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land.** New York: William Morrow, 2001. The political situation in the Holy Land and the difficulties and promises of religious dialogue are given a personal perspective from the author's experiences.

Schniedewind, Wm. M. **How the Bible Became a Book: the Textualization of Ancient Israel.** New York: Cambridge U Press, 2005. How the texts came to possess the authority of Scripture and why Ancient Israel, an oral culture, began to write literature.

Vermes, Geza. **The Dead Sea Scrolls in English.** Rev ed. New York: Penguin Books, 2004. Texts of the cache of Essene, OT, and related materials discovered in Israel 1947 – 1956.

Evaluating Resources

Because there are so many publications and web sites offering material on the Bible and its interpretation, it is important to discern what sources offer timely and reliable information that supports both faith and sound understanding. This section offers some guidelines for evaluating resources.

Authors

Is the author someone whose name is familiar from your studies, recommended by your teachers or cited in your texts? If not, look at the back cover of the book to see if the author has academic and church credentials that would lend him or her credibility. What other books or articles has the author published? Is this a contemporary author? Works ten or fifteen years old may be of such solid scholarship they retain their usefulness, but often subsequent developments may make older authors out of date.

Publishers

Several publishing houses are well known and can be relied upon to publish material within the mainstream of Christian faith and scholarship: Paulist Press, Liturgical Press, Benziger and others that can be found at a glance at www.cbpa.org/members.html the Catholic Book Publishers web site; Abingdon, from a Methodist history; Eerdmann's, an independent from the Reformed tradition; Westminster John Knox, from the Presbyterian tradition; Augsburg or Fortress, a Reformed publishing house. If you have questions, look at a publisher's web site's section usually headed something like "About us."

Other types of publishers to look for are university presses and academic publishers such as Academic, McGraw-Hill, Doubleday, Oxford Press. Avoid self-published materials and books from publishers that tend away from the academic mainstream.

Imprimatur

Within the publication information, the book may carry an *imprimatur* (Latin: *let it be printed*), an authorization by the local bishop that a book may be printed and contains nothing contrary to Roman Catholic faith or morals (sometimes separately attested to by *nihil obstat*, a statement from a reviewing censor to this effect). This does not mean the bishop or the Church endorses the book or its views; thus an *imprimatur* is not in itself helpful in determining if a book is a reliable guide to scripture.