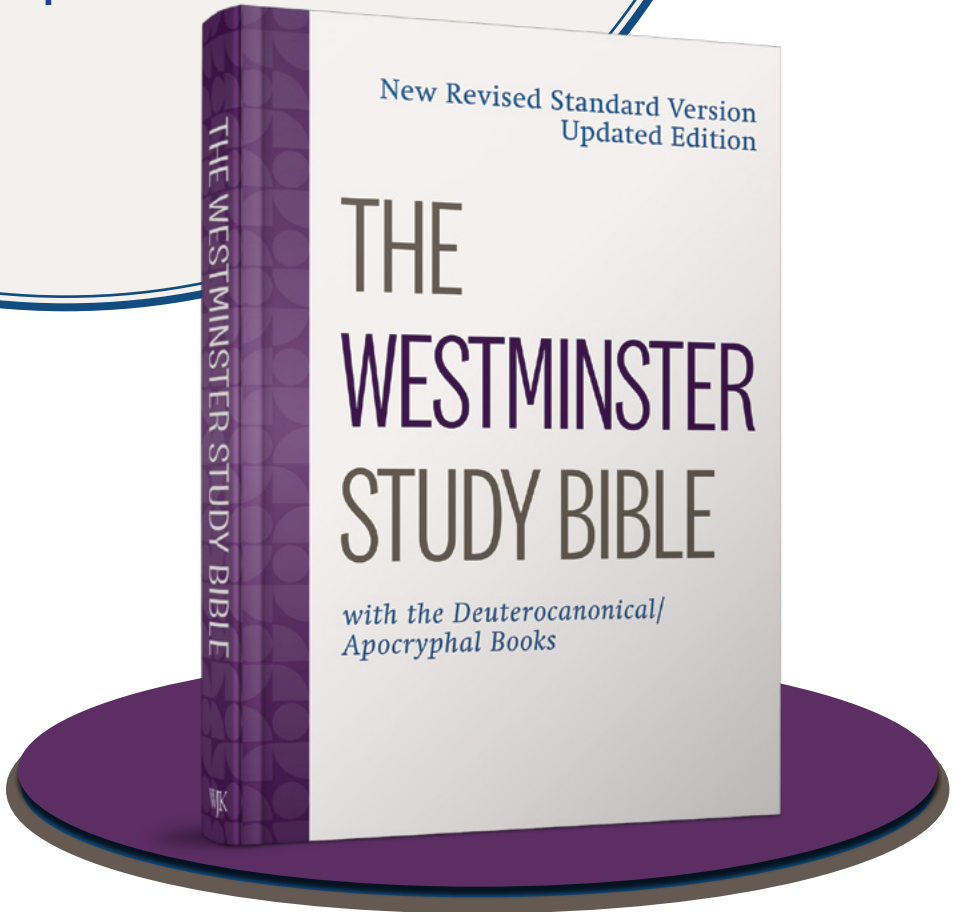


# THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE

A NEW BIBLE  
FOR TODAY'S READERS

Based on the recently released  
New Revised Standard Version  
Updated Edition



Perfect for sermon preparation and meaningful Bible study, *The Westminister Study Bible* (WSB) explores the ancient world of the Bible while navigating its traditional and ongoing interpretations and Scripture's relevance for today. With comprehensive study notes, thematic sidebars, and insightful essays, the WSB embraces the diverse perspectives of its readership and acknowledges the evolving cultural and social impacts of biblical texts.

# A NEW STUDY BIBLE FOR TODAY'S PREACHERS, TEACHERS, & SEEKERS

*The Westminster Study Bible* is crafted with contributions from over eighty respected biblical scholars who are attuned to the reception history of Scripture and its contemporary implications. This new study Bible fosters interdisciplinary connections, making it invaluable for all people who wish to go deeper into studying the Bible.

*"The Westminster Study Bible* stands out for its commitment to integrity in presenting the biblical text, making it a trustworthy resource for teachers, students, pastors, Christian educators, and studious church members alike. . . . For anyone seeking a comprehensive, reliable, and enlightening resource for studying and teaching the Word of God, *The Westminster Study Bible* is sure to enrich your biblical knowledge and deepen your spiritual growth."

— **BISHOP VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE** —

President/General Secretary, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

# FEATURES OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*

## Study Notes

Study notes explore the biblical texts and cultural insights from the ancient world—including religious ideas and practices, ancient languages, locations, and artifacts—as well as help readers understand how certain texts may have functioned in a far different time and setting than today. These notes equip readers to have more educated discussions about the meanings of the Bible. They also help pastors find ways into the text as they prepare sermons and other resources for church members.

“In the *Book of Common Prayer*, there is a wonderful line that calls us to ‘read, mark, learn and inwardly digest’ the Scriptures. *The Westminster Study Bible* can help all of us do just that! Grounded in the scholarly work of the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, this is a critically important resource for God’s people to engage the Bible with our hearts open and our reason sharply tuned, that we may hear anew God’s word to us and follow Jesus in his way of love.”

— **THE MOST REV. MICHAEL B. CURRY**

Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church



# FEATURES OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*

## Introductions to Biblical Books

Introductions to traditional groupings of biblical books in the Jewish and Christian canons explain how and why the Bible is arranged as it is. These canonical groupings include discussions of the

- Torah / Pentateuch
- Former Prophets / Historical Books
- Writings
- Latter Prophets / Prophetic Books
- Deuterocanonical / Apocryphal books
- Gospels and Acts
- Pauline Letters
- Hebrews, the General Epistles, and Revelation

Introductions to individual biblical books orient readers to each book's historical, cultural, and literary contexts and provide a reading guide with a general overview and outline of each book.

# FEATURES OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*

## Thematic Essays

Fifteen thematic essays within the WSB offer diverse perspectives on reading and interpreting the Bible. They examine its historical and cultural contexts, shedding light on ancient narratives and themes. These essays also address contemporary issues, demonstrating the relevance of biblical literature to our modern concerns. Additionally, they explore the Bible's reception and interpretation across different cultures, providing valuable insights for pastors navigating the intersection of faith and society.

### ESSAYS INCLUDE

- The Bible as a Collection: The Making of the Biblical Canons
- The Bible and Methods: How to Read the Bible
- The Bible in Its Ancient Contexts
- The Bible in Public Life
- The Bible in Religious Interpretation and Practice
- The Bible in Global Contexts
- The Bible, Gender, and Sexuality
- The Bible, Race, and Ethnicity
- The Bible and Social Justice
- The Bible and Visual Art
- The Bible in Film and Media
- The Bible in Music
- The Bible in Literature
- The Bible in Museums
- The Bible, Science, and the Environment

# FEATURES OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*

## Sidebars

Nearly two hundred thematic sidebars offer longer, enlightening discussions of important topics relating to Scripture – how the interpretation of texts has changed over time, common and repeated images or themes found in the Bible, how passages connect to others across the Bible, and how Scriptures relate to events or circumstances outside of the Bible.

### EXAMPLES OF SIDEBARS INCLUDE

- The Curse of Canaan
- The Exodus Event
- Human Bondage in Ancient Israel
- The Divine Mandate to Exterminate the Canaanites
- Woman Wisdom
- Black and Beautiful
- Exile and Restoration Metanarratives
- Slut-Shaming as Prophetic Discourse
- Isaiah and Disability
- Feminine Imagery for God
- Healing in the Gospels and Acts
- Son of God vs. Son of Man
- Jewish Messianic Ideas
- Anti-Judaism
- Women in Luke-Acts
- LGBTQIA2+ Issues and Paul
- Frederick Douglass, Paul, and Onesimus
- Revelation in Popular Culture

# FEATURES OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*

## Tables, Charts, Diagrams, & Maps

Tables, charts, and diagrams introduce historical timelines, rulers of ancient empires, measurements, Gospel parallels, and more.

Color maps illustrate ancient Near Eastern geography, political territories, historical events, and place names across the time span of the biblical writings.

“Beautifully accessible, with the highest level of biblical scholarship and precision, and with contextual and theological sophistication unmatched by any other study Bible, we now have in our hands a fabulous tool in the constant quest for biblical literacy among people of faith. This is exactly what we need in the hands of every student, whether in church or the academy.”

— **WILLIE JAMES JENNINGS**

Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Theology and Africana Studies,  
Yale Divinity School



# WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE?*

The WSB allows readers to see the timeless relevance of the Bible, serving as a window into both ancient cultures and contemporary realities. The stories and teachings of ancient Israelites and early Christians still shape the beliefs and practices of millions today, impacting everything from ethics to politics.

Across millennia, the Bible has inspired countless cultural creations and continues to be used in ongoing discussions and debates in society. The WSB seeks to equip readers to have an informed biblical foundation in order to be faithful leaders and builders of a just world.

“This study Bible is a treasure. The materials that have been strategically compiled and expertly drafted to support text engagement are wonderful resources for the casual reader, the serious student, and the mature scholar. In my future study and work, this will be the English Bible I pull from the shelf and place on my desk. And when students, parishioners, colleagues, and friends seek a recommendation, this is the Bible to which I will refer them.”

— **BRIAN K. BLOUNT** —

President Emeritus of Union Presbyterian Seminary

# MEET THE EDITORS OF *THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE*



**EMERSON B. POWERY** is Professor of Biblical Studies and Dean of the School of Arts, Culture, and Society at Messiah University. The author or coeditor of many books, he also serves as the general editor for *Early Christianity and Its Literature*, a book series of the Society of Biblical Literature.

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**MARY F. FOSKETT** is Wake Forest Kahle Professor of Religious Studies and John Thomas Albritton Fellow at Wake Forest University. With primary focus on the New Testament, she publishes in multiple areas, including interpretation of Mary the mother of Jesus, and feminist, contextual, and minoritized approaches to biblical studies.

**BRENT A. STRAWN** is D. Moody Smith Distinguished Professor of Old Testament and Professor of Law at Duke University. He has published extensively on the Old Testament and has served as both translator and member of the editorial board for *The Common English Bible*, as well as the book reviewer for Exodus and section review leader of the Pentateuch for the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.



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