

1

General Reference Works, Bible Commentaries

Hoerth, Alfred J.

Archaeology and the Old Testament.

Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Well-outlined, ably illustrated with black-and-white line drawings and replete with colored maps and pictures, this work ably discusses the major events of the OT. It incorporates the history of the times with the biblical-archaeological and cultural mores so as to place before readers a reliable book that serves as a valuable introduction to the OT.

New Testament

Millard, Alan Ralph.

Discoveries From the Time of Jesus.

Batavia, IL: Lion Publishing, 1990.

Beautifully illustrated, this book places at the reader's fingertips archaeological evidence that highlights the life and ministry of Christ.

Stephens, William H.

The New Testament World in Pictures.

Nashville: Broadman Press, 1987.

This pictorial extravaganza places in the hands of users an incredible wealth of historical and archaeological, biographical and sociological information. The material is arranged by topic and each picture is accompanied by a concise yet adequate explanation. Apart from being highly informative, this is also a work of great excellence. Indexed. Recommended.

Bible History

Clayton, Peter A., and Martin J. Price, eds.

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

New York: Dorset Press, 1988.

A unique work that treats each of the structures that were the pride of the ancient world. Provides pertinent facts, and interesting anecdotes about the people responsible for the erection of these monuments. All things considered, this is a captivating book.

Diagram Group, Inc.

Time Lines On File.

New York: Facts on File Press, 1989.

It is impossible to exaggerate the amount of work that went in to producing this diverse yet reliable record of human endeavor. Here in one easy-to-use ring binder are more than 300 charts and graphs laying out before the user civilization's past in quick-comparison chronologies. It lets readers grasp instantly the time frame of advances in science, politics, war (from the dawn of time to the present), innovations in the arts, sciences, philosophy, and much more. Pastors will find the material most helpful in providing the historic perspective of the truths they wish to impart. *Time Lines on File* grows on one the more it is used. Recommended.

Feldman, Louis H.

Josephus: A Supplementary Bibliography.

New York: Garland Publishing, 1986.

Augments H. Schreckenberg's *Bibliographie zu Flavius Josephus* (1968), supplemented in 1979. Makes available to scholars an incredible wealth of information. The annotations are apropos, while the arrangement is alphabetic within specific subject divisions. Indices, including one paralleling the arrangement of Josephus' Works, and another listing "Corrigenda to Schreckenberg," complete this work.

Finley, Moses I.

Democracy Ancient and Modern.

2d ed. London: Hogarth Press, 1988.

A brilliant condensation of more than two millennia of history. This is a politically and socially erudite treatment.

James, T. G. H.

Ancient Egypt: The Land and Its Legacy.

Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1988.

Begins with the Nile Delta and follows the river southward to Upper Egypt and Nubia, revealing the cultural diversity of ancient Egypt with the aid of 150 illustrations, 100 of them in full color. The breezy, informative style of writing is most apropos.

Josephus, Flavius.

Josephus: The Essential Works.

Translated by P. L. Maier. Revised ed. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1994.

†' writings. The *Antiquities of the Jews* and *The Jewish War*†'s library.

Josephus, Flavius.

The Works of Flavius Josephus.

Translated by W. Whiston. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1987.

Complete and unabridged. Contains the "Antiquities of the Jews," "The Wars of the Jews," Josephus' writings against Apion, together with various "dissertations." Indispensable.

Maier, Paul L., ed. and trans.

Josephus: The Essential Writings.

Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1988.

An indispensable work for lay people. Maier has done us all a service by focusing attention of the most important aspects of Josephus' writings, and making the original more readable. This is a work of rare brilliance, and it is to be warmly commended to the Christian public.

Parker, H. M. D.

The Roman Legions.

New York: Barnes and Noble, 1993.

Quite possibly the definitive work on the history of the Roman legions from the Marian Army to the ascension of Septimus Severus. Examines the regions from which Roman drew their soldiers, and explores the conditions under which the men served, their duration in the army, pay, diet, decorations, punishments, marriage and peacetime employments. First published in 1928.

Purvis, James D.

Jerusalem; A Bibliography.

Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1988.

This work provides researchers with access to a wealth of modern data (19th century to the present) on the city of Jerusalem, with primary emphasis on the Holy City itself. Over 5,800 entries are arranged in 40 units under eight major headings. Individual chapters within these major divisions are concerned with more than the geography/topography, archaeological excavations, walls and gates, tombs, churches, and other monuments. They include socio-political history, and sacred traditions--Jewish, Christian, and Muslim as well.
016.956.P97

Severin, Tim.

The Ulysses Voyage: Sea Search for the Odyssey.

London: Hutchinson, 1987.

Is the Cyclops a myth? Did Circe exist? And what of the "Roving Rocks," the Sirens, or Scylla and Charybdis? This respected author has followed the travels of Marco Polo, Jason and the Argonauts, St. Brendan, and others. Here he validates the accuracy of Homer's *Odyssey*. In doing so he tacitly provides evidence of the reliability of these ancient MSS. Makes interesting reading.

Stowers, Stanley K.

Letter Writing in Greco-Roman Antiquity. Library of Early Christianity.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986.

"From the [approximately] 9,000 extant Christian letters from antiquity, Stowers has chosen widely and wisely--in each case bringing his examples into the social-educational context of the Greco-Roman [world]."--William G. Doty.

Thompson, John Arthur.

Handbook of Life in Bible Times.

Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.

Well-written and beautifully illustrated, this work covers all aspects of Israel's social life and customs. It includes such topics as towns and villages, houses and homes, furniture and fittings, family customs and roles, clothes and shoes, et cetera. It also provides lay people with the same content as the more liberal work by R. deVaux, *Ancient Israel*. Recommended!

Toynbee, Arnold Joseph.

An Historian's Conscience: The Correspondence of Arnold J. Toynbee and Columba Cary-Elwes, Monk of Ampleforth.

Edited by C. B. Peper. Boston: Beacon Press, 1986.

These are the first published letters of Arnold Toynbee--and they provide a unique and interesting glimpses into the great historian's character. They cover a period from his student days at Oxford in 1910 to his death in 1975, and give readers sidelights into his private life and personal growth, reactions to World War II, the births and marriages of his children, his son's tragic death, as well as his travels and triumphant career. In these pages there is also a continuing debate over matters of faith: questions of spirituality, salvation, the significance of the Catholic Church, and the pivotal role of religion in life. Insightful.

Wood, Ellen Meiksins.

Peasant-Citizen and Slave: The Foundations of Athenian Democracy.

London: Verso, 1989.

"There is much of unquestionable value in this book about Athenian democracy, not least of which is the honesty with which the limitations of the available evidence are exposed and confronted. . . . [Wood] has indisputably set the agenda anew." --Times Literary Supplement.

Old Testament

Cottrell, Leonard.

The Bull of Minos: The Discoveries of Schliemann and Evans.

New York: Facts on File Publications, 1986.

Brilliantly written, this resume of the work of two great archaeologists opens up the origins of Greek culture, explains the evils of Mycenaean worship, and recreates the democratic ideals of Theseus. Beautifully illustrated with color and black-and-white pictures. Excellent.

Friedrich, Johannes.

Extinct Languages.

New York: Dorset Press, 1989.

Language is a universal characteristic of mankind. The nuances of the most primitive cultures are as subtle and as intricate as those of people living in more complex civilizations. The forms of languages known from the earliest records show no trace of being "more primitive" than modern forms. This book recounts the story of the deciphering of forgotten languages and scripts. In this engaging and readable book the author develops a real appreciation of the ardors of translation work used by missionaries in different parts of the world. Beginning in the Ancient Orient, the journey then moves to Ancient Egypt and Hieroglyphics, after that Mesopotamia, Sumeria, the scripts of the Hittites, and finally the languages of Ancient Italy. Stimulating.

Garbini, Giovanni.

History and Ideology in Ancient Israel.

New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1988.

The author asks, Why were the Hebrews virtually ignored by the people who lived next to them? One answer must be that the Lord caused the fear of His people to fall on the people of the land and this may have resulted in them being left alone. Garbini offers a totally different answer. He carefully blends archaeology with philology, and the result is a challenging work--even if readers do not agree with all that he has to say.

Holum, K. G., et al.

King Herod's Dream: Caesarea on the Sea.

New York: W. W. Norton, 1988.

Lavish full-color illustrations bring to life the rediscovery of Herod the Great's city on the sunny shores of the Mediterranean. Photos include the treasures, sites, and even underwater operations. The adventures of archaeologists bent upon reconstructing this ancient city make enjoyable reading.

Meyer, Frederick Brotherton.

Patriarchs of the Faith.

Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1995.

Covers the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses--four volumes in one. Spelling has been modernized and archaic terms have been updated. These character studies have been devotional "classics" for almost a century, and will be welcomed by preachers of all persuasions. Recommended.

Osman, Ahmed.

Stranger in the Valley of the Kings: Solving the Mystery of an Ancient Egyptian Mummy.

San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1989.

Chronicles the author's quest for the tomb of the "father to Pharaoh." Believes the mummy known to Egyptologists as Yuya is Joseph. While this thesis is in error, Osman does provide an excellent review of monotheism under Akhnaton.

100160

221.95

Wiseman, Donald John.

Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Contains the Schweich Lectures, British Academy, 1983. This is "an outstanding work. It provides new and important insights into the Babylonian empire. . . . An authoritative biography and extensive footnotes add greatly to the scholarly value of this well-produced volume. . . . An essential [tool] for scholars and students interested in the civilization of the Ancient Near East."--*Choice*.

Wood, Leon James.

A Survey of Israel's History. Revised ed. by D. O'Brien.

Grand Rapids: Academie Books, 1986.

A thorough, well-documented resume which is ideal for laypeople and/or college students. Wood was a meticulous scholar. While all readers will not agree with some of his conclusions, his approach stimulates personal inquiry. The background material and appropriate comments on Bible personalities of the OT from Abraham to Malachi gives evidence of a lifetime of study. Theologically conservative. Recommended.

Wood, Michael.

In Search of the Trojan War.

New York: Facts on File Publications, 1985.

Troy has had a long history. This book is based upon the British Broadcasting Corporation's documentary series. It deals adequately with the history of the times, and the destruction of the city by the Greeks.

Yamauchi, Edwin M.

Persia and the Bible.

Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990.

Cyrus, Darius, and Xerxes all played an important role in the progress of history, and their significance in the lives of the children is not to be ignored. Using the latest archaeological information from Iran's people, kings, cities, and significance in OT studies. The text is enhanced with over 100 photos and maps. Bible students and pastors will find this book an indispensable guide to the background of the Books of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

New Testament

Becker, Jurgen, ed.

Christian Beginnings: Word and Community from Jesus to Post-Apostolic Times.

Translated by A. S. Kidder and R. Krauss. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993. This book starts with a general introduction and continues with a study of the interaction of the Lord Jesus with the world about Him. Varieties of early Christianity (among different ethnic groups) include an examination of the oldest Jewish community, the "circle of Stephen," and Paul and his churches. In tracing the development of the early church historically, we are introduced to "The Synoptic Evangelists and Their Communities," "Post-Pauline Christianity and Pagan Society," and a penetrating study by C. K. Barrett of "Johannine Christianity." This is a thorough work which seminarians will appreciate.

Bell, Albert A., Jr.

A Guide to the New Testament World.

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada: Herald Press, 1993.

††'s *The World of the New Testament.*

Blaiklock, Edmond Musgrave.

The Compact Handbook of New Testament Life.

Minneapolis: Bethany House Publishers, 1989.

First published in 1979. An excellent, brief treatment that lay people will thoroughly enjoy. Recommended.

Fuchs, Daniel, and H. A. Severer.

From Bondage To Freedom: A Survey of Jewish History from the Babylonian Captivity to the Coming of the Messiah.

Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux, 1995.

A worthy addition to the literature on the subject of the Intertestamental Period. Brief, readable. Recommended.

Kaiser, Walter Christian, Jr.

The History of Israel: From Bronze Age Through the Jewish Wars.

Nashville: Broadman & Holman 1998.

Scholarly, yet readable, this work is based on a lifetime of research and teaching. Kaiser examines objectively problems in the history of Israel and in the Masoretic text. He cites scholars past and present who agree and disagree with his position, but he is never tedious. Here is a book that presents the history of Israel with clarity and conviction. It will handsomely repay careful reading.

Kendall, Robert Tillman.

s Own Heart: The Life of David.

Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus, 2001.

†'s lie to save his life and the fallout following his sin with Bathsheba. A welcome devotional volume.

Nahmad, Ezra.

The Roman Forum.

New York: Scala Books, n.d.

Beautifully illustrated, and with a clear, descriptive text, this volume transports the reader back in time to the era of Rome's greatness and decline--as well as the time when Christians were martyred in the Forum.

Oster, Richard E., comp.

A Bibliography of Ancient Ephesus.

Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1987.

This is the most comprehensive bibliography available (containing over 1,500 entries) on the history and artifacts of ancient Ephesus, guiding the user to the most significant modern publications as well as to the corpora of ancient primary sources. Though the introductory essay was written to encourage interest in Ephesus among scholars of primitive Christianity, the bibliography itself consists principally of works by classicists and archaeologists. The titles are arranged alphabetically by author, with a topical index at the end.

Stambaugh, John E., and David L. Balch.

The New Testament in its Social Environment. Library of Early Christianity.

Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1986.

Summarizes the results of a growing body of information. Deals with the social milieu of early Christian house-churches. Explains the patterns of thought and social organizations of the different communities.

Donnelly, Edward.

Peter: Eyewitness of His Majesty as Disciple, Preacher, Pastor.

Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, 1998.

Fulfills the subtitle. Offers practical counsel to pastors. Insightful.