

A Reader's Guide to the Bible

Available November 14, 2017

\$18, 192 pages, paperback

978-0-8308-5174-4

Take a Tour through the Bible with an Expert Biblical Scholar.

Approaching the Bible for the first time can be intimidating. At sixty-six books, nearly 800,000 words, and numerous kings, prophets, priests, and apostles, where should you begin? In what order should you read it? Why are there narratives here and over there, but other things mixed between?

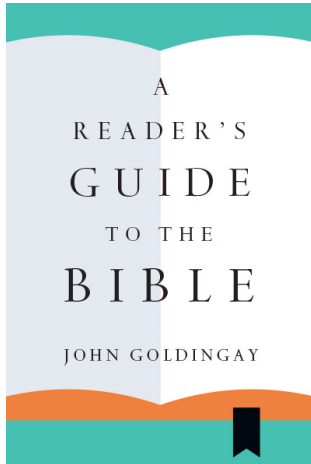
John Goldingay, a highly accomplished biblical scholar, offers a memorable pattern for understanding these questions about the Bible in his latest book, *A Reader's Guide to the Bible*. Goldingay places the biblical books in their times and settings and considers three categories of biblical books—story, word, and response— as well as three perspectives on the Bible: the story of God and his people, the word of God to his people, and the people's response to God.

"You have to try to look at life the way the Bible does, if you are to understand it," Goldingay writes. "You are not a farmer in Hebron in 800 BC, or a scribe in Babylon in 400 BC, or a slave in Rome in AD 50. But you have to imagine how life was for them, if you are to understand the books they wrote or the books they read."

Whether you are a person of Christian faith, other faith, or no faith at all, Goldingay provides a reliable guide to exploring the Bible, joining a clear and direct style with a maestro's touch.

Goldingay is also the author of *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, *The Theology of the Book of Isaiah*, *Key Questions about Biblical Interpretation*, *Do We Need the Old Testament?*, and the forthcoming *The First Testament*. He is the author of commentaries on Psalms, Isaiah, and Daniel, the three-volume *Old Testament Theology*, and the seventeen-volume Old Testament for Everyone series.

Currently, Goldingay is the David Allan Hubbard Professor of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is priest-in-charge at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Pasadena and holds membership in the Society of Biblical Literature and the Society for Old Testament Study. He also serves on the Task Force on Biblical Interpretation in the Anglican Communion and the editorial board for the Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies.



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“A thorough and user-friendly outline of the story of God.”

“For readers who really don’t know the Bible well (and hate to admit it), John Goldingay’s well-written, concise outline is utterly accessible and complete. It’s just the tool we need. As a skilled teacher of the Old Testament, he knows how often everyone can be overwhelmed by the details. This reader’s guide provides the brief summaries we need to grasp the larger story arc and its essential teachings. I can imagine this book being widely used in churches or as a review for students who need to complete what they’re missing.”

— **Gary M. Burge**, professor of New Testament, Wheaton College and Graduate School

“John Goldingay pours the wisdom of years of scholarship and teaching into this primer on the Bible. He invites us into the world of this ancient text to hear how it tells the story of God and God’s people. *A Reader’s Guide to the Bible* provides a straightforward and succinct point of entry for anyone desiring better acquaintance with the Bible. I cannot recommend this little volume highly enough.”

— **Jeannine K. Brown**, professor of New Testament, Bethel Seminary

“The Bible can be overwhelming for the first-time reader. There’s so much to take in, so much to fill in (“Where in the story does this prophet fit in?”), and so much to coordinate (like two versions of the story of Israel’s monarchy and four versions of the story of Jesus). Having devoted his career equally to the scholarly study of Scripture among academics and to the communication of its message to ‘normal’ people, Goldingay now offers a primer for those furthest from being at home in the pages of the Bible. This book provides a winsome overview of the story of the whole and how all the parts fit together. It’s an ideal tool for the person standing at the threshold of his or her first time reading through the Bible itself.”

— **David A. deSilva**, author of *Day of Atonement*

“Dr. Goldingay shows us how the Israelites found themselves in God’s story and invites us to find ourselves in it too. He lays out a framework for reading the Bible as well as an interpretive lens through which to understand each book in its context. In doing so, Goldingay invites us to dive deeper into the individual books of the Bible, but also into the rich life behind the texts. We are enchanted by the story of God at work among his people, seeing how our Lord has been weaving a redemptive narrative from the start. Even those who have been reading Scripture for decades will learn fresh ways of approaching the text.”

— **Annie Neufeld**, pastor, Lake Avenue Church, Pasadena, CA



ENDORSEMENTS

“*A Reader’s Guide to the Bible* is a thorough and user-friendly outline of the story of God. A brilliant academic exposition that transcends the world of academia. This book can be read by both the seminarian and the one completely new to their faith. A must-have for anyone wanting a more thorough understanding of what the Bible is.”

– **Albert Tate**, senior pastor, Fellowship Monrovia

“Whether you’re new to the Bible or have been reading it for years, John Goldingay’s *A Reader’s Guide to the Bible* will prove a helpful companion as you turn the pages of the world’s bestselling book. Concise, accessible, and insightful, Goldingay provides the reader with an introduction to the stories, cultures, and history from which the Bible arises, serving to deepen our understanding of the story of God unfolding in its pages.”

– **Sean Gladding**, author of *Ten* and *The Story of God, the Story of Us*

“Whether you’re setting out to explore the world of the Bible for the first time or are a seasoned traveler, this brief guide is a trustworthy companion. Old Testament scholar John Goldingay knows the ins and outs of Scripture but limits himself to information and themes that will enhance your own exploration.”

– **Lindsay Olesberg**, Scripture engagement director, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, author of *The Bible Study Handbook*