

## **The Ultimate Beginners (and Beyond) Resource Guide for All Things Bible\***

Below you'll find some resources along the lines of categories I am often asked about—introductions to the Bible, commentaries, historicity of the Bible, Bible as Literature, etc.

*Introduction to Themes/Literary Styles (start here, beginners):*

- [www.bibleproject.com](http://www.bibleproject.com)
  - o This website is the joint project of a graphic designer and doctorate in Biblical languages. It explores Biblical themes across the whole Biblical story and gives fantastic summaries of entire Biblical books—and there's pictures! There's a podcast too.
- *How to Read the Bible for All it's Worth* by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart
  - o A great start to Biblical reading, interpretation, and the genres of the Biblical books.
- *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart
  - o A must own, related to their above work Fee and Stuart give you a book by book guide to the date, authorship, and themes of each Biblical book. In five pages or less for each Biblical book!

*Commentaries (good stuff for all of us to have an awareness of)*

- *The New Testament for Everyone* by N.T. Wright
  - o A concise commentary on each book of the New Testament complete with Wright's personal translation of each book.
- *The Old Testament for Everyone* by John Goldingay
  - o The same series as Wright's, Goldingay is a premier interpreter of the Old Testament worth hearing. This is him at his most accessible.
- *The New International Commentary on the New (Old) Testament*
  - o This is for the deep divers. The most comprehensive commentaries written from the perspectives of primarily evangelical scholars. Often where I start.

*Bible as Literature/Historicity (this gets deeper, you'll have to work in these resources)*

- *Seriously Dangerous Religion: What the Old Testament Really Says and Why It Matters* by Iain Provan
  - o An old professor of mine, Iain Provan is one of the primary people who restored my faith in Scripture. This book is the best summary of his approach to the Old Testament.
- *The Art of Biblical Literature* by Robert Alter
  - o This book changed much of the landscape of Biblical studies, especially with regards to the 'literary approach' to Biblical interpretation.
- *The Art of Biblical History* by V. Philips Long
  - o A wonderful explanation of how the Bible 'does' history. Great for those of us who are skeptical that we can be a thinking person and believe how Scripture presents history.
- "The Bible for Normal People" podcast by Pete Enns
  - o This podcast may often contradict strictly 'evangelical' perspectives, and Pete's no stranger to stirring things up, so, go carefully if you will. But I had to put it here because there is no other place to get deep interaction with critical Biblical scholarship without being overly erudite or unapproachable for normal people.

\*Based on the very humble opinion of Ricky Stephen