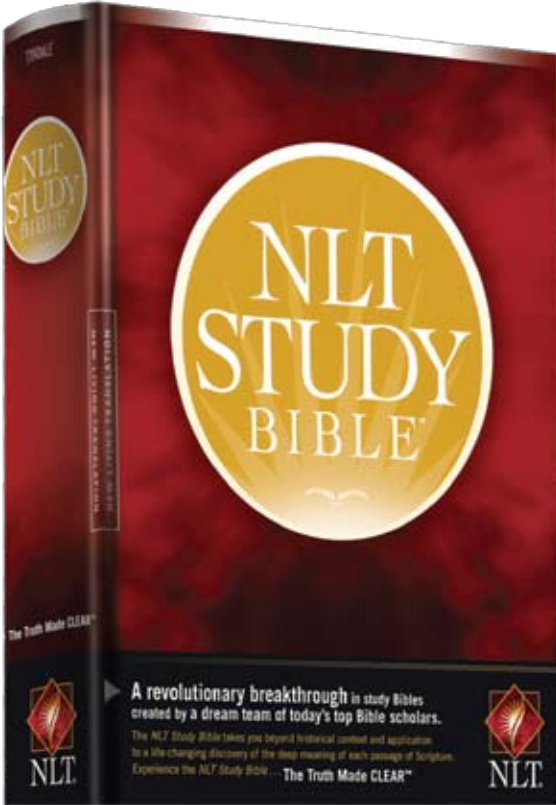


shelf life



New Living Translation Study Bible

TYNDALE : 2008

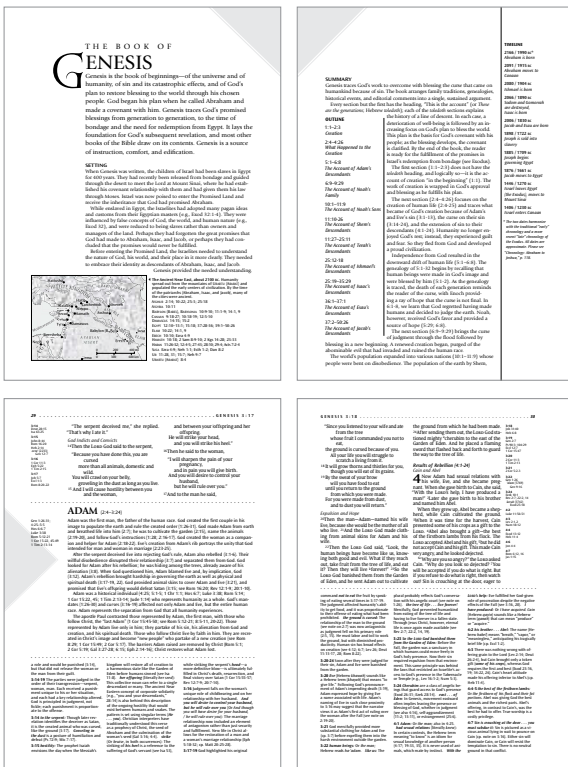
When people tell me that their Bible translation is difficult to understand, I give them a New Living Translation (NLT).

The NLT is a *median* translation, balancing dynamic (phrase-for-phrase) and formal (word-for-word) equivalence elements in order to clearly articulate the meaning of the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. With the release of the second edition of the NLT in 2004 (the first edition was released in 1996), the NLT became one of the top English translations. It is growing in popularity, and is the base translation for the Cornerstone Biblical Commentary series and expanding Tyndale Reference Library.

The *NLT Study Bible* contains superb introductions to various aspects of Bible study from top scholars, as well as over 25,900 study notes and 150 pages of topical indexes. The book introductions in the *NLT Study Bible* provide the historical context of each book, dealing with setting, literary structure, authorship, and date of writing. The introductions also explain the meaning and message of the biblical text.

Prior to the introduction to Genesis there are introductions to the Old Testament as a whole, archaeological sources for Old Testament background information, and the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible). There are also various timelines of biblical accounts and even post-biblical events (e.g., the timeline: "Introduction to the Time after the Apostles," covering the canonization process). The reader will also find many illustrative features, including excellent maps, drawings, diagrams, charts, and many other visual aids. With the five-day-a-week "*NLT Study Bible Reading Plan*," anyone can read all of the Bible, as well as the introductions and articles, in five years.

This study Bible presents many scholarly theories. For example, there is a discussion of how the four gospels were written—Mark is affirmed as the gospel Matthew and Luke based their works on, and the Q source, a hypothetical source that Matthew and Luke shared, is discussed (pg. 1562).



Images from the *NLT Study Bible*.


The *NLT Study Bible* reinvents the cross reference column. Parallel passages are indicated with two forward slashes (//) and quotations from the opposite testament or the Apocrypha¹ are identified with asterisks (*). Important Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words are transliterated within the reference column and linked to a Tyndale-Strong's number for quick access to the original languages using the "Dictionary and Index for Hebrew and Greek Key Word Studies" in the back of the study Bible. This dictionary covers 200 important biblical words. Underneath each transliterated word in the cross reference column, there is a reference to the next occurrence of the word (indicated with a triangle bullet—▲), much like a chain reference Bible.

¹ To learn more about the Apocrypha, see Vincent Setterholm, "What's in Your Bible?" (BSM Nov-Dec 2008), 47-48. See an interactive version of this article at BibleStudyMagazine.com/Canon.

² A single-column text requires more pages because it does not use space on the page as efficiently as double column text—especially in poetic passages.

One of the most significant developments in the *NLT Study Bible* is the references to books from the Apocrypha¹ alongside references to other biblical books, allowing for the reader to understand the historical context of a book from all kinds of ancient sources. For example, the note for Rom 4:1 refers to the *Prayer of Manasseh, Jubilees, 1 Maccabees* and *Sirach* for background information.

The *NLT Study Bible* breaks the recent trend for small type in study Bibles, offering a large and readable typeface. Tyndale was able to do this by opting for a more traditional two-column biblical text instead of the single-column format most study Bibles use.² The study notes conserve space even further by using a triple-column layout, and are easier on the eyes as well.

Overall, the features of the *NLT Study Bible* are impressive. It is yet another step in facilitating the NLT as a choice for serious Bible study. 

REVIEWED BY RICK MANSFIELD



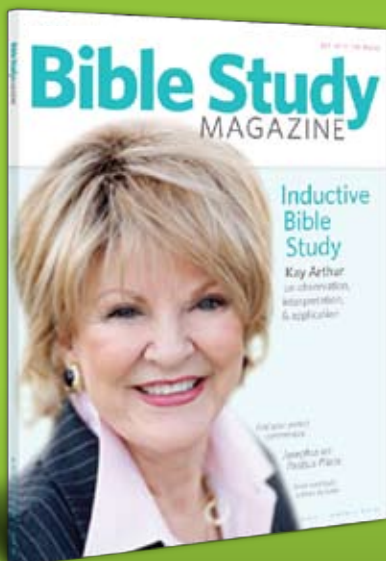
Rick Mansfield is associate/adjunct faculty at the Louisville campus of Indiana Wesleyan University. Read his blog at ThisLamp.com, where he published his first review of the NLT, and analyzed the development of the translation.

Learn more about the *NLT Study Bible* at

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