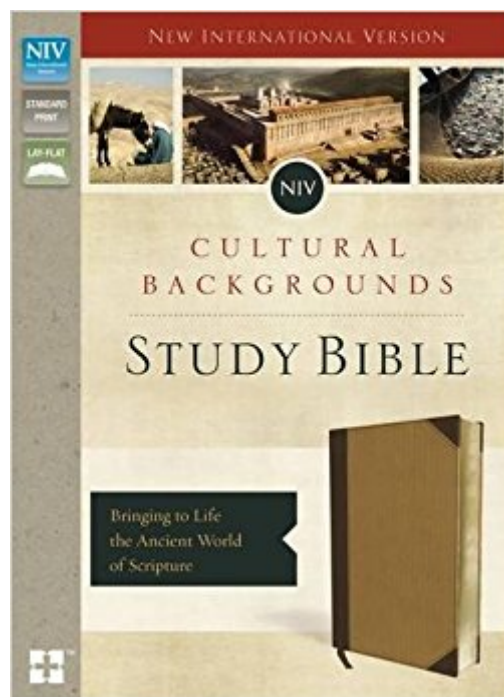




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# **NIV, Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, Imitation Leather, Tan, Red Letter Edition: Bringing To Life The Ancient World Of Scripture**



## Synopsis

2017 ECPA BIBLE OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

“How I wish someone had put a book like this into my hands 50 years ago.” - N.T. Wright, Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, University of St. Andrews, Scotland

“I cannot recommend a study Bible any more than this one: Five stars!” - Scot McKnight, Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament, Northern Seminary

CONTEXT CHANGES EVERYTHING

You’ve heard many Bible stories hundreds of times, but how many behind-the-scenes details are you missing? Sometimes a little context is all you need to discover the rich meaning behind the stories of Scripture. That’s what the NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible provides. Every page is packed with expert insight into the customs, culture, and literature of Bible times. These fascinating explanations will serve to clarify your study of the Scriptures, reinforcing your confidence and bringing difficult passages of Scripture into sharp focus. Discover new dimensions of insight to even the most familiar Bible passages as you take a behind-the-scenes tour into the ancient world. The Bible was originally written to an ancient people removed from us by thousands of years and thousands of miles. The Scriptures include subtle culturally based nuances, undertones, and references to ancient events, literature and customs that were intuitively understood by those who first heard the Scriptures read. For us to hear the Scriptures as they did, we need a window into their world. The NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, with notes from Dr. John H. Walton (Wheaton College) in the Old Testament and Dr. Craig S. Keener (Asbury Theological Seminary) in the New Testament, brings to life the ancient world of Scripture for modern readers.

Features:

- The full text of the NIV
- Targeted book introductions explain the context in which each book of the Bible was written
- Insightful and informative verse-by-verse study notes reveal new dimensions of insight to even the most familiar passages
- Key Old Testament (Hebrew) and New Testament terms are explained and expanded upon in two helpful reference features
- Over 300 in-depth articles on key contextual topics
- 375 full-color photos, illustrations, and images from around the world
- Dozens of charts, maps, and diagrams in vivid color
- Words of Jesus in red
- Additional study Bible tools: cross references, a concordance, indexes and other helps

## Book Information

Imitation Leather: 2400 pages

Publisher: Zondervan; Special ed. edition (August 23, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310431603

ISBN-13: 978-0310431602

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 2.4 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 78 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #63,088 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > History & Culture #276 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations #383 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > History

## Customer Reviews

Craig S. Keener is professor of New Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary and holds a doctoral degree in New Testament Studies and the Origins of Christianity from Duke University. He is the author of several commentaries on books of the New Testament. John H. Walton (PhD, Hebrew Union College) is professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College Graduate School. He is the author or coauthor of several books, including Chronological and Background Charts of the Old Testament; Ancient Israelite Literature in Its Cultural Context; Covenant: God's Purpose, God's Plan; The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament; and A Survey of the Old Testament.

5 stars for content 2.5 stars for print quality I eagerly awaited the publication date for this study bible. I own both John Walton's and Craig Keener's Bible Background Commentaries and found them both very helpful. A study bible with this kind of info tickled my fancy. I have grown to become particular on the print Bibles I purchase. As a graphic and web designer, I know how much print quality effects the ease of reading. So I did my research and found a sampler PDF by Zondervan of the print Bible. Everything seemed good (notes were dark enough because of being viewed on a monitor) but you never know how the final product will look. Factors like paper quality, ink quality etc. really determine the final outcome. On receiving the bible I have to admit I am very disappointed. Many things were okay but when I looked at the note sections of the bible I was not a happy camper. Zondervan used a thin-weight sans-serif font, very small (5 or 6pt ?) that is very difficult to read. Because of the thin weight of the font, the print color looks like a medium gray. In bright light the glare off the paper competes with it but without some sort of direct light it is very difficult to read. Also, the paper is thin enough that the occasional colored illustrations on the reverse side of the page bleed (ghost) through and make legibility even more difficult. The content of the notes and articles are top notch. No complaints there. But if you can't read the

notes without squinting, what's the point? My hope is this study bible can be redone at some point to increase the legibility. Other things of note, I also wish the size of the NIV text was a tad larger. Bumping it up to 9.5 or 10pt font size would be ideal. Yes, I know that would increase the size of the book but as is, this study bible is on the large and heavy size already. You'll probably not be toting this around to church or the office. I could do without the red lettering myself. I know many people like it so I'll back off on that. Red lettering is often hard to read in large doses (try John 14-17) and sometimes turns to a dark pink. So what to do? For the note section, having the Kindle version may be better. often does a thing called MatchBook where if you buy the print version of a book you can get the Kindle version greatly reduced. No such luck here so many buyers will need to choose between the Kindle version or the hard-to-read print bible. I looked at the sample Kindle version and can say I am not impressed. Kindle bibles have notoriously ugly text. The main culprit is the superscript verse numbers which are often not formatted correctly and thus increase the line spacing (leading) of the lines they are on. The text then becomes choppy and irregular with the mishmash of different line spacing. You'll get that here. The notes, however, are in different sections and layout perfectly fine. So you will be able to bump the text size to whatever is readable for you. Plop that besides you while reading your bible and you'll be good to go. In conclusion, I wish Bible publishers hired better print and layout designers for their bibles. This trend of small font sizes, thin bible paper and compact bible sizes doesn't make for very readable bibles these days. Update: sent back the print version study bible before my allotment time is up. On pages where there are predominantly notes, not the biblical text, I just plain can't read the mass of medium gray text without a magnifying glass. Didn't think to check Olive Tree Bible Software. Their digital bibles are superior to comparable Kindle versions and their software (for free) is also much better which, unlike Kindle, allows for a lot of customization. They currently have this on sale which personally, I think is a no brainer if you are interested in buying something usable. No doubt the sale won't last long but even if so, they do quality stuff and I'd buy this over a Kindle version any day. (I am not an Olive Tree employee BTW.)

This is an incredible value. I have read the bible cover to cover for the last ten years. Using this bible with its many cultural explanations and beautiful illustrations have given me fresh eyes and has opened up whole area of biblical understanding.

I LOVE this Bible!! There are so many interesting articles and pictures that help in developing a

greater understanding of the views and feelings of the people of the day. The maps are AWESOME and so clearly labeled as to understand the time period that it depicts and even the specific routes taken by Jesus and His Disciples. I would absolutely recommend this to anyone with a desire for a greater understanding of the people and events of the Bible. It is truly hard to put down!! :)

I absolutely love this bible!! The research and commentary are outstanding! There are so meant resources included like the essays, beautiful pictures, charts, etc. The only downside is that the comments are in such a light print that it can be difficult to read at times.

Very good, very in depth. Small print though, but not a problem for me.

This Bible should be in every pastor's (which I am) library and given to every member of their church. Great for small group study leaders, too. I find that the small group I lead loves the history and culture of the Bible and it truly helps the setting for the context and understanding the people of that time. A MUST read.

Really love this! Got it for my mom for Mothers Day, and she is going through it right now. Such a wealth of info! I have the Kindle version because of living in a foreign country...trying to figure how to navigate it...wish I had this one, but can't.

It is very helpful to have so many footnotes to help explain what we're reading. It is funny, to me, that there are more footnotes than there is Bible...in this Bible. Almost every verse has an explanation.

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