



The Essential Bible Companion: Key Insights for Reading God's Word (Essential Bible Companion Series)

By John H. Walton, Mark L. Strauss, Ted Cooper Jr.

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What You Need to Know, When You Need to Know It The Essential Bible Companion gives you what it promises: the essentials. The most vital, absolutely indispensable information you need for reading and truly understanding God's Word. Developed by two world-class Bible scholars and the creator of The Bible in 90 Days curriculum, this unique, easy-to-use reference guide gives you clear, crisp insights into the Bible book by book. From Genesis to Revelation, each book of the Bible has its key details laid out for you clearly and engagingly in a colorful two-page spread that includes • background information • timelines • important biblical characters Striking a balance between too little and too much information—between the brief introductions provided in a Bible and the potentially overwhelming detail of a standard reference handbook—this well-designed, extremely helpful volume condenses the most important information in a highly visual, easy-to-understand format. Ideal for use as a companion to The Bible in 90 Days curriculum, The Essential Bible Companion is also a valuable resource for any Bible study. However you use it, this richly informative volume will assist you on your journey toward a well-grounded biblical faith.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

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*.

Mark Strauss (PhD, Aberdeen) is professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary in San Diego. He has written *The Davidic Messiah in Luke-Acts, Distorting Scripture?: The Challenge of Bible Translation and Gender Accuracy, Luke* in the Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary series, and *Mark* in the Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament.

Ted Cooper Jr. founded the Bible in 90 Days ministry in 2002, following almost 20 years in the computer industry. A lifelong agnostic, in 1999 Ted read the Bible from cover to cover in three months. Not only did this experience transform Ted into a believer, it led him to develop a unique curriculum to help others succeed in doing this reading. Ted's ministry has helped churches, communities, small groups and individuals in 49 states and 13 foreign countries host The Bible in 90 Days curriculum. Churches hosting The Bible in 90 Days include: Assembly of God, Baptist, Bible, Catholic, Christian, Church of Christ, Community, Episcopal, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist, Non-denominational, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, United Methodist, and Vineyard. Ted has served on a number of professional and charity boards, and is an elder at First Presbyterian Church of Houston. Ted and his wife Becky live in Houston with their three children. To contact Ted, visit [please the ministry](http://www.biblein90days.com) ?

The Essential Bible Companion

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Key Concepts

▲ The law is part of God's revelation of himself; giving it is an act of grace.

▲ God's presence comes on his terms and in his time.

▲ Deliverance is God's business.

▲ "Then you will know that I am the LORD your God."

Key Terms

Exodus—When God delivers the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt and brings them to the land he promised them.

Plagues—Ten acts of judgment against Egypt to persuade the Egyptians to let the Israelites leave.

Passover—The commemoration of the tenth plague when God punished the Egyptians with death of their firstborn sons but spared the Israelites.

Decalogue—Another name for the Ten Commandments—the central laws that God gave to Moses on stone tablets.

Election—God's choice of individuals or groups to serve as his people in relationship with him.

I AM—The name God gives himself at the burning bush. It is from the same verb ("to be") as the name "Yahweh" and

identifies God not only as the one who is but also as the one who "causes to be."

Burning Bush—The place where God revealed himself to Moses, identified himself, and explained his plan and

Moses's role in it.

Pharaoh—The title of the supreme ruler of Egypt. No name is given in Exodus, so we do not know which pharaoh let the Israelites leave.

Tabernacle—The portable tent sanctuary constructed by Israel according to God's instructions.

Ark of the Covenant—A chest made of wood overlaid with gold that contained important signs of God's favor,

including the stone tablets of the covenant. It was the most sacred object of Israel, as it represented the footstool of the invisible throne of the invisible God. The cherubim adorning the cover were guardians of the throne of God.

Holy of Holies—The central area of the sanctuary where the ark was kept and where God's presence dwelt. The only

access was by the high priest once a year.

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Replica of the ark of the covenant.

Exodus

Purpose

When Exodus opens, the Israelites are near the end of their time in Egypt. They had spent more than four centuries in Egypt and had become slaves in a foreign land. God is nowhere in evidence. Their covenant with God appears to be in disarray. They no longer enjoy the benefits of having connections in high places as when they first arrived, and with no land of their own, their survival is in jeopardy. When Pharaoh orders their baby boys to be cast into the Nile River, one mother creatively does so using a basket of reeds to protect her son.

Pharaoh's daughter finds him afloat, names him Moses, and raises him as her own.

We are not told the extent to which Moses was aware of the plight of his people as he was growing up. But when he saw an Egyptian beating one of the Israelite slaves, he killed the Egyptian. Fleeing for his life, he took refuge in the wilderness among the people of Midian, where he met a tribal chieftain (Jethro), met the woman who would become his wife (Jethro's daughter Zipporah), and met his God. Seeing a bush ablaze but not consumed, Moses went to investigate and received the commission God had been preparing him to take up all his life—as the deliverer of Israel.

The purpose of Exodus is to explain how God revealed his presence and his

power to his chosen people through the plagues and in their deliverance from Egypt. Just as in Genesis God overcame obstacles in establishing Abraham's family as his chosen people, in Exodus he overcomes obstacles that prevented him from dwelling in the midst of his people. God guided and protected the Israelites through the wilderness and provided for them. At Sinai he told them how they needed to live so that his presence could dwell among them. Through the law, they learned how they were to honor and imitate his holiness. He told them how to build the tabernacle and how the priesthood was to prepare so that God could take up residence with them. God had chosen the Israelites to be his people and he intended to reveal himself to them and to the world by living in their midst.

People to Know

Moses

Aaron

Miriam

Jethro

Zipporah

_The Israelites passed through the Sinai Mountains on their way to the Promised Land.

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KEY VERSES:

Ex. 3:14: "I AM WHO I AM."

Ex. 14:31: "The Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed."

Ex. 19:5–6: "If you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all the nations you will be my treasured possession."

Ex. 40:34–35: "The glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."

Pithom

Rameses

Succoth

Lake Timsah

Bitter Lakes

Gulf of Suez

Gulf of Aqaba

Mediterranean Sea

GOSHEN

Mt. Sinai

Nile R.

Jordan R.

Dead

Sea

Jerusalem

Key Teachings about God

God demonstrates his power for his people and the world to see.

God desires to live among his people.

God delivers his people, and his ability to do so is without limit.

God expects obedience from his people.

God does not leave his people to guess what he expects of them.

God chooses certain individuals and groups for special work.

FROM EGYPT TO MOUNT SINAI

--500

0 - sea level

(in meters)

1,000

2,000

3,000

4,000

5,000

6,000

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Drew:

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. These are reading whatever they consider because their hobby will be reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book if they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will require this The Essential Bible Companion: Key Insights for Reading God's Word (Essential Bible Companion Series).

Sally Staten:

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Melissa Parra:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? May be reading a book may be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the guide untitled The Essential Bible Companion: Key Insights for Reading God's Word (Essential Bible Companion Series) can be very good book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Irene Justice:

The reason why? Because this The Essential Bible Companion: Key Insights for Reading God's Word (Essential Bible Companion Series) is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will distress you with the secret it inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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