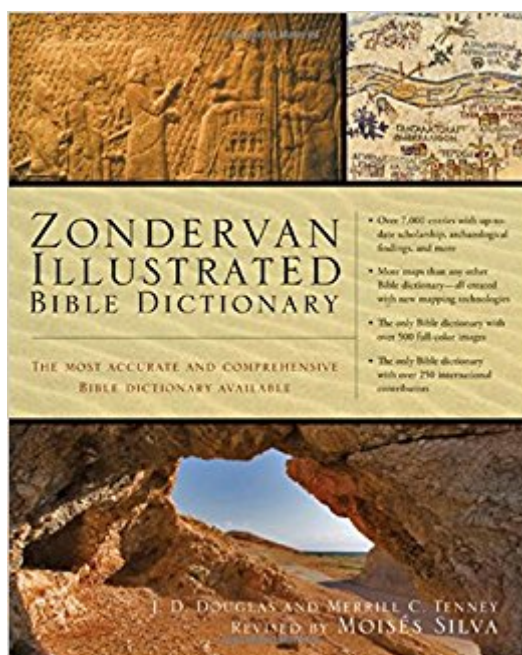


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# Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Premier Reference Series)



## Synopsis

The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary provides a visually stimulating journey for anyone interested in learning more about the world of the Bible. Through the articles, sidebars, charts, maps, and full-color images included in this volume, the text of the Old and New Testaments will come alive for you as never before. As a condensation of the Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, the information contained within this reference work is solid and biblically sound. The material is based completely on the NIV and cross-referenced to the King James Version, and it contains over 7,200 entries, 500 full-color photographs, charts, and illustrations, 75 full-color maps, and a Scripture index — making this wonderful Bible study resource a must-have whether you're a general reader of the Bible, a pastor, or a student.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary provides a visually stimulating journey for anyone interested in learning more about the world of the Bible. Through the articles, sidebars, charts, maps, and full-color images included in this volume, the text of the Old and New Testaments will come alive for you as never before. As a condensation of the Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, the information contained within this reference work is solid and biblically sound. The material is based completely on the NIV and cross-referenced to the King James Version, and it contains over 7,200 entries, 500 four-color photographs, charts, and illustrations, 75 four-color maps, and a Scripture index ... making this wonderful Bible study resource a must-have whether

you're a general reader of the Bible, a pastor, or a student.

J. D. Douglas was the revising editor of *The New International Dictionary of the Bible* and editor of *The New Bible Dictionary*. He was editor-at-large for *Christianity Today*. Merrill C. Tenney was professor of theological studies and dean of the Graduate school of Theology at Wheaton College, where he taught from 1944 to 1982. In addition to teaching New Testament and Greek, he was the general editor of the *Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, served on the original translation team for the *New American Standard Bible*, and wrote several books. Tenney was an advocate of fundamentalism and a second president of the Evangelical Theological Society. He was born in Massachusetts and received his education from Nyack Missionary Training Institute, Gordon College of Theology and Missions, Boston University, and Harvard University. He and his wife Helen and two sons. Antônio de Almeida Silva taught biblical studies at Westmont College, Westminster Theological Seminary, and Gordon-Conwell Seminary. He is the author or coauthor of eight books and the revising editor of the *Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible*.

I have been the proud owner of the *New Bible Dictionary* for about 10 years. It is the best one available if you are a seminary student or otherwise doing academic work. However, the more I have been in pastoral ministry, the more that I have realized the need for a dictionary whose focus is primarily practical. Evidence about whether or not Shechem was located where we think it was or not, do not help me in any normal ministry context. What does help me is understanding the role that a person, or place plays through the course of the Biblical narrative. Ideally this could be done by taking a "Biblical theology" perspective of these topics and putting them in something like the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, but alas there is no such resource. So, since my two favorite dictionaries (above) didn't meet the need, and since, I wanted an actual "hold it in your hand" resource, I started looking carefully for a practically oriented Bible Dictionary. After looking at all of the Bible Dictionaries here (Unger, Nelson, Tyndale, Baker, Holman, etc), I became highly frustrated because there are so many and it seems impossible to tell the difference. They don't say what kind of unique spin or benefit they have, aside from how many illustrations or articles. So I drove over to the library of the nearby seminary and browsed through every Bible dictionary on the shelf for an afternoon (including the classics). I took several example articles (Aaron, Shechem, Midianites, Jericho) of things I was interested in and compared the quality of the articles. Honestly, for the most part the differences were not significant, and when they were, it was unpredictable which dictionary would be best. Eventually, I started to narrow down the choices to just the *The Baker Illustrated*

Bible Dictionary and this one. Both are comprehensive resources which feel great in your hand and to read, with good coverage of all important subjects. By contrast the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, while well illustrated, feels a bit like a toy. Coverage is shallower, articles are shorter. I might pick that one for homeschool use. The old ISBE (Orr not Bromiley), Smith, and Easton are all great resources, which you can and should use on e-sword or some similar online program, but for the hold in your hand use, it was this or Baker. So eventually, to break the tie, I started paging through the two books, looking at what was covered, and what was said. Over time it became clear that Zondervan was just deeper. On the whole the articles are more substantial. Baker occasionally has a really good literature insight (such as pointing out the recent literary discovery that Haman was an Amalekite) but these were more like window dressing on a dictionary that is not as strong. Perhaps this is because the Zondervan is actually an abridgement of the longer The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible: Revised Full-Color Edition I looked at that as well, also. I concluded that the main difference was that the Dictionary leaves out some of the major multi-page type articles in favor of staying on "dictionary" topics, which are what I wanted anyway. I'm saying all of this to save you the intense work that I went through. If you are looking for a modern one-volume Bible dictionary, this is the one.

I am a seminary student and I borrowed this book from a family member to complete a project for school. I like that the content is very easy to read and each topic that I look up gives a great summary. It has saved me hours of internet and library searching. I recently ordered a copy for library so that I could use this book as a reference. Each topic that is covered is not too in depth, but has enough detailed information that it serves as a great place to start when I begin any research. I can then consult other resources for an in depth look at a specific topic. Almost all of the negative reviews of this book are based on the Kindle Version. An illustrated Bible dictionary is a "must have" in hard copy form.

A great resource when preparing to teach Sunday School. The descriptions appear to be a shorter version of what's in the Zondervan 5-volume Encyclopedia of the Bible and when I'm preparing a lesson these shorter descriptions prove useful. And I got a great price by purchasing from one of the other vendors and bypassing the Prime offer.

Awesome Bible Dictionary. This is my first Bible Dictionary that I ever purchased and it might be the only one I will ever need.

Zondervan's bible was suggested by a women's group leader to help get the rich background behind scripture. Beautiful illustrations, photos, and history are at the reader's fingertips, expanding their experience. It's thick and heavy, with tons of info. I highly recommend it.

The Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary has helped my understanding of many words and terms in the Bible, and I use it frequently. The detail in the definitions and the numerous illustrations have provided the depth I was seeking in my study of the Bible. The one request I have to the publisher is that they make The Table of Contents more user friendly. All I can do right now is select the beginning letter of the word I want to find. The result is that I usually must page and page before finally getting to the word. Otherwise I enjoy using this dictionary and am glad I bought it.

I have had the print version of this Bible Dictionary for years. However, now that I am in China, I didn't want to lug it around with me so I bought the kindle version as well. It is very convenient to have it in kindle form, especially when you are traveling. I have always liked the Zondervan company because of how they discuss each word in as much detail as they can provide. I have other bible dictionaries, however, this is the one I use when I'm traveling.

Nice, informative, a must for all Christians. I will look up something and find myself an hour later still reading it. You know how one thing leads to another.

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