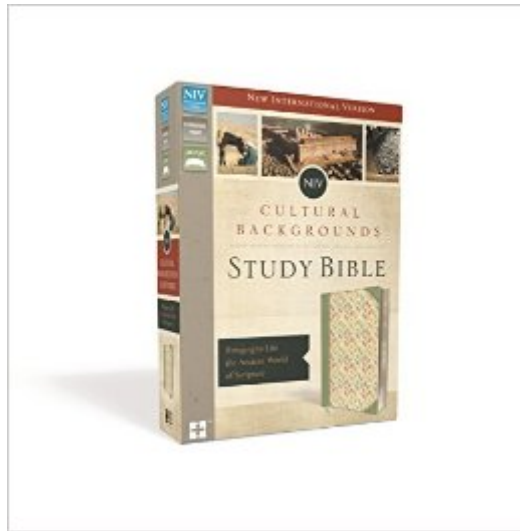


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# **NIV, Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, Imitation Leather, Green, Red Letter Edition: Bringing To Life The Ancient World Of Scripture**



## Synopsis

“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. 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; Box Lea edition (August 23, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310080959

ISBN-13: 978-0310080954

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 2.3 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #50,047 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #28 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > History & Culture #180 in Books > History > Ancient Civilizations #248 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > History

## Customer Reviews

**General Editor, Old 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.

**General Editor, New Testament** 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.

**View larger** "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. "Every line and every word in the Bible comes from a context -- historical, social, cultural, theological -- and speaks into those contexts -- sometimes against that culture, sometimes with that culture, and sometimes to expand that culture. In so doing the Bible models how we can speak from our culture and into our culture in very fresh and missional ways. The NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible not only acknowledges this but engages ordinary readers in seeing what it looks like. I cannot recommend a study Bible any more than this one: Five stars!" Scot McKnight, Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament, Northern Seminary.

This is a beautiful Bible. I love the cover. The cultural background articles and comments are wonderful. Right from the beginning I was learning something new. I gave a rating of four stars instead of five because the text font is so difficult to read. The Bible text font is very small and too light and the commentary text font is smaller still and even lighter. Presumably the text is light to keep it from making a shadow on the back of the pages because they are so thin. Thin pages are

necessary when there is so much supplemental information. Otherwise, the Bible would be way too thick. But one solution brings on another problem, a very small, very light, almost unreadable, text font. If this Bible's references and commentary were the usual, I would return the Bible, but the cultural background comments make the Bible worth fighting the difficult text font. As for the Kindle edition, I am grateful for the text size, and the navigation is easy to learn. However, as I continued to use link after link, they became unreliable. Sometimes the link wouldn't respond at all; sometimes it jumped to the previous page rather than to the appropriate content. I found the best way to correct this is to close the Kindle app and reopen. I am using an iPad Pro, with iOS 9.3.4, and 128mg of memory, so I don't see how this could be the fault of the device. As with most ebooks, the charts are a mess. Again, though, I have to emphasize that the cultural background commentary and articles make the annoyances with the print Bible as well as the Kindle version worth the trouble and the cost.

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 *Creation* 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 IÃ¢ÂÂ 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. YouÃ¢ÂÂ 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 youÃ¢ÂÂ 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 doesnÃ¢ÂÂ 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.)

Love this Study Bible. After using a Matthew commentary by Dr. Keener, I became a fan, and I was delighted when I saw the NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible come on the market. I purchased the e-version, and it seems to be well indexed once you figure out how the e-version works. My own trick to make an e-version more manageable is to highlight various sections, especially the commentary sections, so I can quickly get back and forth transportation as I'm studying by going through the index of my highlights. As much as e-books have improved, they still have limitations. I find the information in the commentary of this Bible that is not available in other study Bibles, making it a great addition to my library. Thank you, Dr. Keener, et al, for the work involved in producing this volume. I especially appreciate the great concordance!!!

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