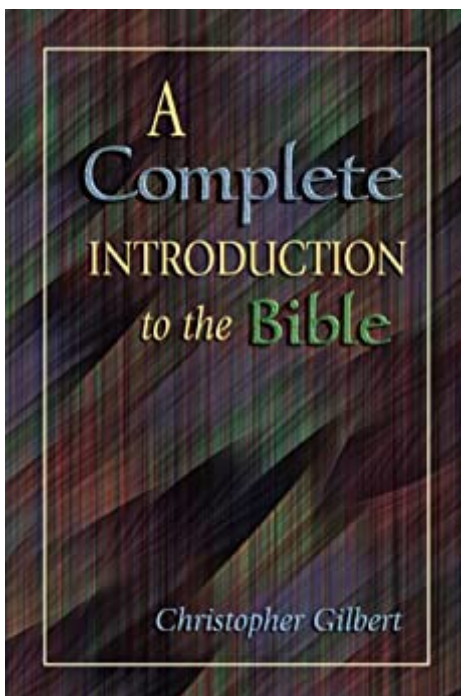


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Complete Introduction To The Bible, A



Synopsis

A literary and historical introduction to the Bible exploring the content of both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian New Testament, but also introducing the reader to scholarly questions and theories about the Bible.

Book Information

File Size: 762 KB

Print Length: 308 pages

Publisher: Paulist Press™ (March 28, 2014)

Publication Date: March 28, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00J8TVIN2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #254,596 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #11

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Theism #29 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Theism

Customer Reviews

Dr. Gilbert's overview of the Bible is exactly what its title suggests. This excellent introduction deals with the Bible as a whole while systematically exploring each section. His well researched analyses of the origins of the accounts of biblical events are carefully presented to clearly distinguish between hard evidence and reasonable conjecture. As a philosopher Dr. Gilbert brings a perspective that enables him to blend the objectivity of scholarly scientific and historical evidence with the subjectivity that is inherent in the human desire to "know" what science can't explain. As such, this book can be read by a hard-line atheist and a devout religious believer. About the only reader that would gain nothing from this well-crafted delicate balance would be the fundamentalist Christian who entertains nothing outside a literal interpretation. The excellent 24 page introduction where Dr. Gilbert explains how he and most biblical scholars attempt the difficult task of academically studying

such an emotionally charged work is a must read. The Bible sections are then presented in order, but I believe it is possible to jump to any section of the book as your interest guides. This is an enjoyable read for anyone who wants to better understand how this extremely influential work came about.

Paulist Press has a reputation of publishing the finest in Catholic literature and academic texts. Considering it has been around for 142 years, it is not surprising that it has won many awards from the Catholic Press Association. This type of recognition proves that Paulist Press believes in the pursuit of excellence. And this, without a doubt, can be applied to "A Complete Introduction to the Bible." Dr. Christopher Gilbert's analysis is thorough, understandable, and quite fascinating because his approach covers both the theological and historical aspects of the Bible. But what makes "Introduction" quite unique is Gilbert's way of "communicating" to the reader. Normally, texts of this nature are quite bland and dry. Not so with Gilbert. His discourse demonstrates a type of eloquence where I wanted to know MORE; this was very evident with some chapters dealing with the Old Testament and especially the Pauline Epistles, where the figure of Paul comes to life in many ways. As Gilbert points out, he doesn't specifically cover EVERYTHING because you can't sum up that much information into one book. Gilbert's text serves as a prelude for the reader, who will therefore continue his/her spiritual journey in discovering more facets about the Bible as time goes on.

I bought this book for my Intro to Bible class. Gilbert makes everything easy to understand and interesting!

Loved Christopher Gilbert's class at Cuesta College and the way this book works through the Bible and gives explanations. I learned a lot!

Great way to look at Bible from an academic perspective, very informative, easy to understand. So good I bought 2 more for family & they love it!

An extraordinary asset for the Study of the Bible.

I'm not a biblical scholar but this book is excellent. I found it interesting, informative and objective. Gilbert did not present a bias rather he discussed how events in the Bible could be supported

historically or if not supported how they might have evolved. The research that was done is outstanding. A must read.

This was an excellent guide for my first reading of the Bible. As a non-believer, I found Gilbert's text offered a coherent explication of the Bible's history and its theological implications easily understood by someone unfamiliar with the text. Dr. Gilbert's analysis is the pragmatic work of a scholar. For the biblical stories to have integrity, even religious integrity, it is important to identify, and when necessary, to reconstruct, the historical circumstances under which the various biblical narratives were written so that their accuracy and authority may be ascertained, and this appears to me to be the precise purpose of "A Complete Introduction to the Bible." It was beneficial to me to see how profoundly complex was the development of the Bible, and to read a fair treatment of some of the historical and logical difficulties presented in the text. The "Complete Introduction" concedes that all histories recorded by men are necessarily subjective endeavors, and insists that the discrepancies do not warrant abandoning the text as inconsequential, but rather invite careful attention. Gilbert's approach and instruction helped me to better understand the faith and the politics of my neighbors that I have hitherto viewed with uncommon ignorance and bias. I came to repudiate some of my own narrow-mindedness and am now able to engage in well-reasoned conversation with the devout.

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