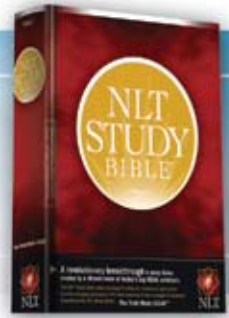


Quotes from Key Contributors to the *NLT Study Bible*



Tremper Longman III, The Robert Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California, *NLT Study Bible* General Reviewer, Job-Song of Songs, Contributing Scholar, and Old Testament Profiles, on the accuracy of the NLT . . .

I use the NLT all the time as a scholar. I use it in my classrooms because it is a very accurate translation, but it is also readable. When I do, then my students come up and thank me. They always ask me, if they don't know, "What's that translation you are reading from? It really makes the text clear." I tell them it is the NLT and they often go out and get a copy for their own scholarly use because the NLT very accurately communicates the message of the Hebrew and Greek texts. The team that worked on the *NLT Study Bible* is made up of some of the best evangelical scholars from around the world. They bring the fruits of their deep scholarly study to the text and write in a way that is accessible for everybody.

Favorite NLT Study Bible Feature: I think there are 90-100 personal profiles that describe a biblical character such as Abraham, David, or Saul. The profiles give a description of who this person is, but also the significance of the person in the Biblical text, and the theological message that is being communicated through this presentation of this person in the Biblical text.

Barry J. Beitzel, Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, *NLT Study Bible* General Reviewer, Joshua-Esther, Maps, Chronology, on the differences of the *NLT Study Bible* . . .

The study Bible in the 21st Century is going to be fundamentally different from the study Bibles we are familiar with from the 19th and 20th Centuries. The *NLT Study Bible* is the product of 45-50 minds who have been specially selected for specific areas of competence and expertise. The professionalism they bring to that text—not only to the Biblical text, but also to the notes—is something that is dramatically and qualitatively superior to what has been the case in other study Bibles.

I think the NLT has its own niche; its own position in the range of translations. It's lively. It's contemporary. It's vivid. The language is living. It's alive, so in that sense I think it is that same motif, that same energy that was driving the kind of notes that were created.

Favorite NLT Study Bible Feature: To me, one of the great benefits of a study Bible is that we can present material for readers in different formats, in different ways. We don't all learn the same way. Some people are visual learners, and some are auditory learners. For a visual learner to be able to have a graphic alongside text that displays what that text is saying in the form of a map, a graph or another kind of graphic is certainly a great benefit to Bible study and Bible learning.

Grant R. Osborne, Professor of New Testament Studies, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, *NLT Study Bible* General Reviewer, Matthew – Acts, on the *NLT Study Bible* team . . .

Way back in the middle 1980s, when we were trying to develop a team, we were looking for the best scholars there were. We had divided the Bible into 30 sets and we chose 3 scholars for each of the sets. All of them had written commentaries and done serious studies on their particular portion of the Bible. We were also looking for people who were pastoral at heart, for people who were interested in more than just meaning but in the significance and relevance of the Bible to the lives of people. That led to the NLT as it is, a version that speaks to the common person that has elegance and yet simplicity, that has accuracy and yet communicates so very, very well. And that is what we then brought to the *NLT Study Bible* team. Contributors and scholars were chosen not only for their knowledge, but also for their heart.

I believe the *NLT Study Bible* is a great way to introduce people into serious Bible study and will be especially helpful to those who are already engaged in Bible studies and teachers of Bible studies. I also encourage pastors to start using it. I use the NLT in preaching everywhere I go.

Favorite NLT Study Bible Feature: I think what is done especially well is the introductions to the various books and sections. Because the average Christian doesn't know what these books are all about, and doesn't understand how the gospels relate to each other, these introductions do a great job of giving people the broad picture and seeing how the Bible all fits together.

Mark R. Norton, Bible Development Director, Tyndale House Publishers, on the charge to the scholars . . .

We told the scholars to write things that would really help people understand the message of the biblical passage they were working on. But we also then looked at those pieces and asked the questions, "So what? Does this really help the reader understand the text better? Are they really going to hear God's message more clearly because this comment is in here? Will it get them further back toward where the original hearers would have been? Will it help them overcome roadblocks to understanding? We looked to build features that would help bridge the gap between today's world and the ancient world. Its goal is to give extra material, whether it is historical context material, or perspective on larger themes in the text, to make the truth of the Bible clearer.

Favorite NLT Study Bible Feature: One of the features I especially like are the theme notes, partly because they don't show up in a lot of study Bibles. These notes take particular theological and Biblical themes such as God's sovereignty, or fear, or the Old Testament concept of blessing, or the meaning of reconciliation, and then look at them in a particular context as well as across the scriptures as a whole. Those kinds of big picture features are especially helpful to the reader who isn't as experienced in studying the Bible.

Sean A. Harrison, Senior Editor, Bibles and Reference, Tyndale House Publishers, on what makes the *NLT Study Bible* clearer . . .

With a lot of translations, you read the Bible text in English and think "Now what does that mean?" And then you go to the notes to see if it helps you understand what the Bible text meant. Then you go back and forth with the Bible notes and the Bible text and you scratch your head and you finally figure out something of what the Bible is trying to say. But with the NLT, even with the very difficult passages, you read the NLT and say, "I think I can understand what that means." Then the notes don't have to explain the English text. So we have the freedom to do all kind of things that other study Bibles can't because they are busy explaining the translation. The *NLT Study Bible* explains the historical background, the context, the literature, the history, what is going on behind the text, and what is not actually there in the text.

Favorite NLT Study Bible Feature: I really like the timelines in the *NLT Study Bible* because most people when they approach the Bible don't have the big picture of how everything fits together chronologically in history and the timeline helps them do that. A lot of notes talk about what was going on at that time and place historically so readers can make the connections the original readers would have made.