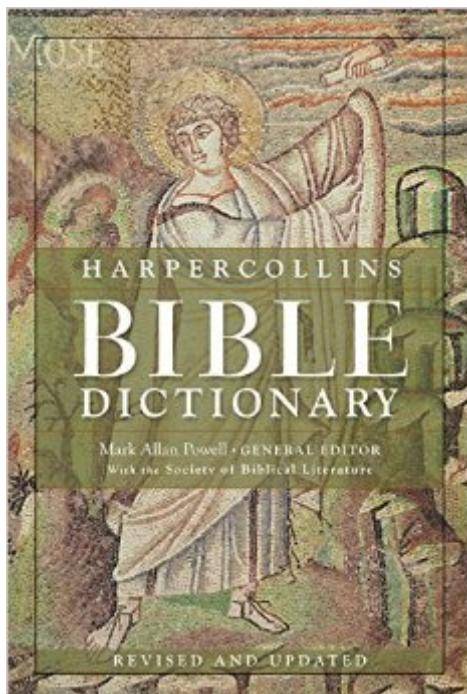


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# HarperCollins Bible Dictionary - Revised & Updated



## **Synopsis**

The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary, revised and updated edition, is the most complete, up-to-date, and accessible guide for the study of the Bible available today. With more than 4,000 lively, informative, and reader-friendly entries, this essential reference book provides all the information you need to understand the Bible. Whether you are a pastor, layperson, or a student of scripture, you will find every important name, place, and subject that makes Bible study come to life. From Aaron to Zurishaddai, here are all the people, events, and ideas of biblical times. This third edition continues in the rich tradition of its predecessors but has been thoroughly updated and revised by a new editorial team under the direction of the premier international scholarly body, the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). More than half the articles in this book are new, and several dozen charts and tables have also been added as well as updates on recent archaeological discoveries. Over 200 contributors to the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary, from a diverse group of authorities, represent an ecumenical and non-biased viewpoint of scripture from different positions—Roman Catholic, Jewish, mainline Protestant, and evangelical. Filled with explanations of biblical beliefs, language, and insights into the culture and customs of the people who lived in biblical times, this resource will help anyone interested in scripture to more fully appreciate the meaning and message of the Bible.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is the Third Edition (2011) of the HarperCollins Bible Dictionary, developed in cooperation with the Society of Biblical Literature and with a new editor, Lutheran professor of Theology, Mark Allan

Powell. The editor has promised several important changes. Since most people who are reading this review may already own a copy of the Second Edition, the question is whether the new edition is worth the \$30 bucks. This is especially true since the older version was often considered the best single volume Encyclopedic reference to the Bible. The first thing I checked was that all biblical quotes are from the NRSV (1989), while the 2nd edition quotes were from the RSV (1946 - 1952). Score points there. Next, all Associate Editors are new, including Amy-Jill Levine. But there are no OT specialists to replace Michael Fishbane. Editor Powell states that there are more references to scripture in the articles. For that and for other matters, I compared the old and new articles on Pontius Pilate, who appears in all four Gospels. The old version was written by Francisco O. Garcia-Treto. The new version retains the original author's credit, with credit to Powell for revising the article. It is plain that Powell kept much of the original text, however the original article was two columns long and the revised version was about three columns long. The first difference I spot is that the new edition cites exact references to Pilate in the works of Philo and Josephus. The older edition simply mentions those references. Most of the additional length is in the section titled "In the Gospel Accounts".

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