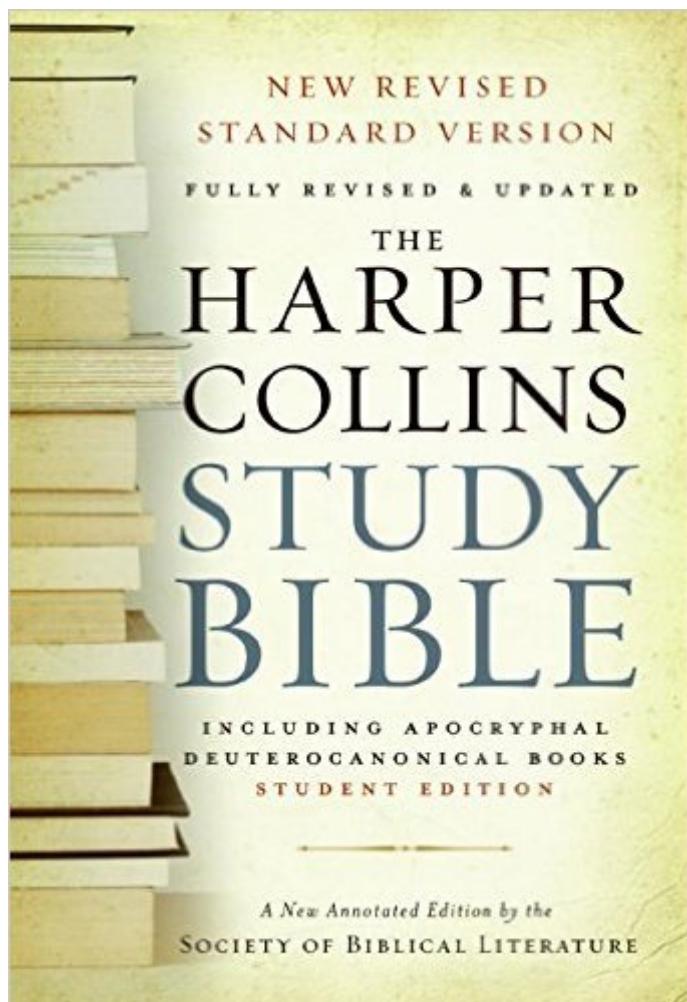


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HarperCollins Study Bible - Student Edition: Fully Revised & Updated



Synopsis

The HarperCollins Study Bible "Student Edition is the landmark general reference Bible that offers the full text of the New Revised Standard Version as well as in-depth articles, introductions, and comprehensive notes by today's leading biblical scholars for the Society of Biblical Literature. Completely revised and updated, this edition incorporates the latest scholarship and findings as well as incorporating new diagrams, charts, and maps. 25% revised or new material.

Book Information

Paperback: 2208 pages

Publisher: HarperOne; Revised and Updated ed. edition (August 22, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060786841

ISBN-13: 978-0060786847

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars. See all reviews. (197 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,202 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries #31 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies #77 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bibles

Customer Reviews

The only difference between the student and study version is that the study version has a concordance while the student version doesn't. That is the difference in page numbers and material. All other material and bonus features are the same. Was trying for ages to figure out the difference as I wanted to get the most complete Bible I could and was seeing that the student version had less pages, which one would not expect. Hope this helps others in their purchasing.

Update 03/2014: After a number of years most of my original issues have now been solved. I can no longer say this is a product that is poorly made. It was a few years back, but not anymore.=====

==Original Review from 11/2006: For years this text has been a staple of many a classrooms. This text and the notes themselves are superb. Hands down this was for many years a spectacular production. However all this is ruined by HarperCollins recent production of this text with shoddy design and materials. The version listed here has been significantly changed. The layout is cramped

at best. The margins are minuscule leaving little to no room for personal comments or notes within the text. Which seems kind of ridiculous for a student bible not having room for the student to make notes in. They have additionally changed the font in this text making it even more difficult to read. It is too narrow now and plays havoc on the eyes. The maps are horrible! Instead of drawn maps they have been rendered by digital maps that have been pixelated horribly! I am all for digital maps but don't do it in such a way that when you look at it everything is blurry and you can't see anything. The maps as they are just seem to take up space. This could have been good had they taken sometime and made good maps. But no we are stuck with horrible maps. And the space between the columns have been significantly reduced. To the point it is easy to miss the ending of one and continue reading into the other. The text itself and notes are absolutely wonderful. The quality and production of this text is horrific. So all I can say is buyer beware.

Every day there seems to be another new study or devotional Bible on the market. If you're not a Bible fetishist, this plethora of choices must be truly mind-boggling. All I can say on behalf of the "Fully Revised and Updated Harper Collins Study Bible" is that the first edition was great and the revised edition has some nice enhancements. First, it comes with a concordance that is complete enough to help readers find key passages, but not so long as to make the book too thick and bulky to handle. Also, the Bible includes five articles that provide clear explanations of important topics every Bible reader should be aware of: Strategies for Reading Scripture; Israelite Religion; The Greco-Roman Context of the New Testament; The Bible and Archaeology; and Archaeology and the New Testament. Many of the introductions to individual books of the Bible have been revised. The scholarship in the articles and introductions is consistently good and they are written in language that is sensitive to both the person of faith and to those people who may be interested in the Bible as literature who don't want to have doctrinal positions foisted upon them. The notes, the editors assure us, have also been thoroughly revised. The Bible employs the New Revised Standard Version (which has not changed since the earlier 1993 edition of the HCSB was first published) and includes the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical books, those books read by Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians but not by all Protestant traditions. If you only want to buy one study Bible, this may be the one for you.

My question as a user of the first edition of Harper Collins Study Bible was whether it was worth "upgrading" to the new version. The new edition is the same trim size as the original, which makes it (still) a better fit in one's hand than either the heavier New Oxford (Third Edition) NRSV or bulkier

New Interpreters (NRSV) Study Bibles. It has both a new concordance, indexing common Biblical terms, and more general articles than the first edition (though at only five, not yet at the level of the still-unsurpassed introductory articles of the Oxford Revised English Study Bible, nor with the range of the more technical New Oxford NRSV articles), yet manages all this in fewer pages than before. How? With a slight (but notable) reduction in font size, albeit with slightly darker print in compensation, and with even narrower margins. In other words, it is a more informative edition of the Bible, but also a more difficult one in which to add notes as you go (and yes, as noted elsewhere, with in-text black-and-white maps from the first edition poorly reproduced in this one). If you have none of the top-flight Study Bibles mentioned herein, by all means go with the new Harper Collins (the notes, which highlight ancient social, political, historical and textual details, cover much the same ground as did the previous edition, though with notable expansion of introductions and/or notes in such key books as Genesis and the Gospels). If you already own a Harper Collins, but neither New Oxford (the largest font-size of the three, whose editorial apparatus seeks to address similar textual concerns, along with consideration for modern church usage) nor New Interpreters (the smallest font-size, by a decisive drop, and self-consciously seeking to cover more literary/theological issues in its numerous mini-essays), you might want to obtain these next, while not overlooking the excellent notes (and translations) of either the New Jerusalem Bible or Oxford's Jewish Study Bible.

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