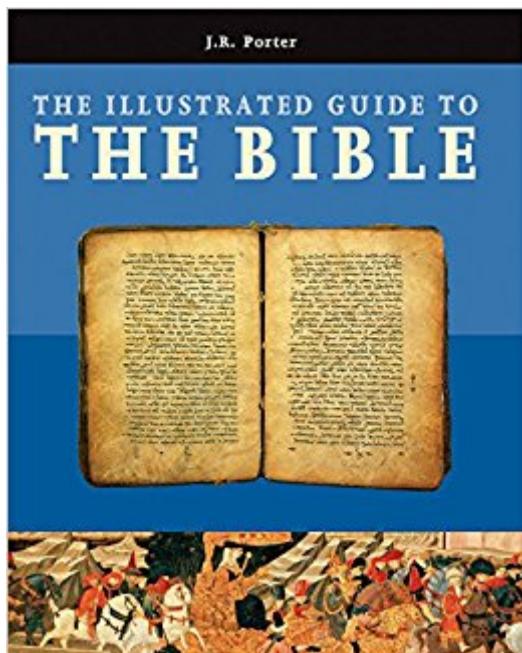


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Illustrated Guide To The Bible



Synopsis

A combination of authoritative scholarship, narrative verse, and superb color illustrations to produce a highly accessible portrait of the figures, places, episodes, and themes of arguably the greatest stories ever told. Offering depth and clarity, The Illustrated Guide to the Bible not only brings the many characters and events to life, it also explores the underlying significance of topics and explains the meaning of important themes and symbols. Including a highly useful book-by-book summary of what is still the most widely distributed book in the world, this is an essential reference work for any home or library.

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Porter, a former fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, has written a general introduction to the Bible and the Apocrypha that shows how its most important ideas and images may be more reliably interpreted through comparison with the art and artifacts of ancient and modern cultures. Porter's introduction offers a survey of the formation, transmission, and translations of the Bible. His discussion of the role of archaeology and historiography in biblical interpretation is critical and well balanced; he also conveys the importance of the role of myth and mythological concepts. His richly illustrated work demonstrates his appreciation for Western art as a vehicle for conveying the history of scriptural interpretation. The appendixes feature a book-by-book summary of the Bible, separate glossaries of terms and abbreviations, a list of works for further reading, a subject index, and a list of illustration sources. Highly recommended for general readers and informed lay readers, as well as

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This is one magnificent work. It covers the major themes of the Bible with detailed analysis and relevant sidebars so that anyone in a Bible study group or reading the Bible on their own can have a meaningful source of interpretations. Each page is a new subject, which makes it simple to use. Pages can be read on their own or the entire book can be read. Bible verses are quoted on each topic so the reader is always aware of how the idea is being applied. This work is less than 300 pages, but it is so rich in detail that one will not be able to skim through it in a couple of evenings. Once you start reading, it is hard to put down and is hard to not read every word on every page. This book helps one gain perspective and context. At the end is a summary of each book, including the apocrypha. In the main text, non-canonical books like the Gospel of Thomas are mentioned, so the reader can rest assured the author put as much scope and thought into this work as was practical. Bible scholars, Bible study groups, general knowledge seekers, historians, philosophers, and many others will find this book extremely useful and user-friendly. Anyone disappointed in this wonderful volume is just not interested in learning.

I can't recommend this book enough. As someone who has read a lot of other guides to the Bible, this one outdoes them all simply due to its comprehensiveness, easy to follow writing, unique information, and beautifully relevant images on every page. Furthermore, the info it provides is backed up by scholarly sources, making it a book without a Christian biased (something not many books on the Bible can say). In short, this book covers everything in a brilliant format making it the best guide you can buy. I still can't seem to put it down.

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