

## SOURCES

by its volumes' bland covers. Its articles provide foundational information on a large range of topics, answering basic questions and stimulating interest in new questions for further research. Recommended for college and large public libraries.—*Eric Petersen, Reference Librarian, Kansas City (Mo.) Public Library*

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***U.S. Leadership in Wartime: Clashes, Controversy, and Compromise.*** Ed. by Spencer C. Tucker, Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2009. 2 vols. acid-free \$195 (ISBN 978-1-598-84172-5).

The subtitle is a bit mystifying, as such a theme is not developed, but the organization and content of this set recommend it as a helpful reference resource. The wars fought by the United States are discussed in ten chronological chapters, with a few chapters covering multiple wars closely related in time and location. Each chapter has three sections. The first is an extensive essay about U.S. leadership in the war. The second is made up of shorter, chronological essays about the leadership decisions in major battles or campaigns. Finally, there are brief, alphabetically arranged biographies of the top military and civilian leaders.

The biographies are a distinguishing feature of these volumes. The civilians include not only the presidents, but such figures as Warren N. Austin, who was the U.S. representative to the United Nations during the Korean War, which the United States fought by leading a U.N. coalition. Even essayist Henry David Thoreau, who was a leading opponent of the Mexican-American War, earns two pages of text and a photograph. A problem with the format is that some leaders, such as Jefferson Davis and Douglas MacArthur, have two biographies emphasizing their leadership in different wars, and there is no cross-reference. Thus a user must be careful to use the index.

Editor Tucker's project differs considerably from John E. Jessup and Louise B. Ketz's *Encyclopedia of the American Military* (Scribner's, 1994), which features numerous essays on broad military themes with little emphasis on leaders.

Maurice Matloff's *American Military History* (Combined Books, 1996) gives more attention to military development between wars than Tucker's set does, and it offers more maps, but it doesn't have biographies, and its chapters are organized traditionally. Neither of the older sets has the detailed analysis of wartime leadership that the new set includes.

*U.S. Leadership in Wartime* is light fare as a reference source about the actual fighting, but its biographies and its essays on leadership deserve a place in larger academic and public libraries and in collections that concentrate on military history.—*Evan Davis, Librarian, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana*

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***The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible.*** Ed. by Moisés Silva. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2009. 5 vols. \$279.99 (ISBN 978-0-310-24136-2).

This five-volume set is a revised edition of Zondervan's popular *Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, updated to reflect

new scholarship "to serve a new generation" (v). Under the direction of revision editor Moisés Silva, a now-retired professor of biblical studies at Westmont College and Westminster and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminaries, the new, revised *Encyclopedia of the Bible* presents over more than 7,500 articles dealing with theological and biblical topics written by more than 250 contributors from international, mainly Christian institutions. The five-volume set includes hundreds of brief articles on new topics, newly commissioned in-depth articles, and older articles that have been totally or substantially overhauled to reflect new scholarship. The illustrations are now in full color, and there are ample cross-references within the text of the articles to other topics covered in the encyclopedia. Bibliographic references are found both throughout the text and at the end of some entries. A comprehensive index is lacking, which is a detriment given the size and scope of the text.

Silva explains that the "new edition seeks to make the material more accessible to a broad readership" (vi). Because of this, foreign script is limited to initial parenthetical information at the beginning of articles, and Goodrick-Kohlenberger numbers are given for readers not proficient in Biblical languages. One confusing aspect of the new edition is authorship; some articles are signed but many are not, and the differences between the older and the revised articles are not readily apparent unless one is very familiar with the original edition. The main biblical edition used in this revised version is the New International (NIV), which is a departure from the first edition, which relied mainly on the King James and Revised Standard (RSV) texts. As the NIV is published by Zondervan, this is not unexpected, but it is a departure from many scholarly works in biblical studies, which tend to favor the RSV or NRSV (New Revised Standard Version).

Unchanged from the earlier edition is the encyclopedia's focus, which takes a conservative Christian critical and theological position. While authors of articles state their own conclusions, they must be founded on what Merrill C. Tenney, the original editor, calls the "fundamental conviction of the veracity of the biblical record" (x). This can be quite jolting for scholars used to a more theologically balanced critique. For instance, the entry on the Bible describes sacred books of other religions, and then baldly declares that "there are several features that distinguish all these sacred books from the Bible and show the superiority of the latter" (599). Statements like this may be problematic for readers who do not come from a conservative Christian background. Another issue is the authorship of the Pentateuch, particularly Genesis, which is attributed to Moses in the *Encyclopedia*, as according to Christian theology, but which is almost universally held to be the product of multiple, non-Mosaic authors by secular biblical scholars.

For Christian families, preachers, students, and scholars of the Bible, the *Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible* will undoubtedly be an extremely useful resource for Christian theology and biblical interpretation. For others, particularly those of other faiths, the encyclopedia may reflect a particu-

lar, conservative Christian viewpoint that is too narrow for adequate scholarship. Libraries serving those constituencies may prefer the *Anchor Bible Dictionary* (Doubleday, 1992) or *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* (Abingdon, 2009). For this reason, the *Zondervan Encyclopedia* is recommended for Christian seminaries, church libraries, and public libraries that serve a mainly conservative Christian patron base.—*Amanda K. Sprochi, Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri-Columbia*

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***Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary.*** Ed. by John H. Walton. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2009. 5 vols. \$249.99 (ISBN 978-0-310-25572-7).

Walton and Zondervan have taken a rather courageous step with the publication of the *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary*. By providing a work focused on the cultural contexts of Biblical texts to a lay, evangelical audience, they risk being incorrectly identified with critical traditions both within and outside of Christianity that use the cultural contexts of scriptures to argue against an evangelical doctrine of inspiration.

Walton makes his case for the work in his introduction. He invites his readers and, implicitly, his critics to adopt a more sophisticated understanding of intertextuality. He argues that an intertextual relationship between ancient texts need not imply that a religious text represents “derivative mythology,” and therefore does not disqualify a Biblical text from the possibility of use as a sacred text in a religious tradition that insists on the historical accuracy of its sacred texts. Even so, the commentary’s scholarly, comparative approach to Biblical literature is likely to produce at least some discomfort for many among the work’s target audience.

The work is clearly intended to be an aid to Biblical exegesis. Walton writes, “successful (Bible) interpreters must try to understand the cultural background of the ancient Near East just as successful missionaries must learn the culture, language, and worldview of the people they are trying to reach” (xii).

The commentary achieves this purpose by placing Biblical texts in direct comparison with other historical, archaeological, and literary evidence from the ancient Near East. Virtually every page includes a color photograph of ancient art, a map, or a comparative table that greatly enhances the commentary. The work also contains occasional topical essays related to ancient Near Eastern history that is relevant to the commentary. Some examples of such essays are “Altar on Mount Ebal” (2:39), “Dreams and Temple Building in the Ancient Near East” (3:292), and “Development of the Term ‘Satan’” (5:210).

Although the title of the work says “Bible” rather than specifying Hebrew or Christian scriptures, the scope of the work is limited to the Hebrew Bible or the “Old Testament.” Walton provides no reason for this decision, and one is left to wonder whether New Testament volumes are forthcoming. On the other hand, one might speculate that Walton and

Zondervan decided that placing the explicitly Christian scriptures side-by-side with pagan Graeco-Roman sources could be too uncomfortable for their audience. Perhaps they are testing the waters with this Hebrew Bible source.

Even though the primary audience is Christian, the commentary does not “Christianize” the Hebrew Bible by reading the New Testament onto the Hebrew texts. In fact, the work debunks some Christianization and harmonization in subtle ways. One could imagine a Jewish reader finding the work inoffensive, interesting, and informative. It remains clear that the questions being answered are questions of interest to Christian interpreters, such as “what is a redeemer?” However, the work often provides evidence that differs with evangelical doctrine.

The commentary has an instructional tone that is delightfully readable. It is neither too erudite nor too pedestrian. The work is not as accessible as it is readable, however. The only index in the work is a picture index for each volume, and even this index lists the images by book and chapter rather than page number. This is a drawback of the set. A simple topical index, or even just a names-and-places index, could have greatly enhanced accessibility.

This work is clearly useful for Biblical interpretation that is sensitive to historical context and as an introduction to comparative approaches to the Bible. It can also provide interesting browsing material. The work is most appropriate for public libraries and for academic libraries that support coursework introducing a historical, contextual approach to studying the Bible.—*Steven R. Edscorn, Library Director, Memphis (Tenn.) Theological Seminary*

## Professional Materials

*Karen Antell*

Editor

***Bite-Sized Marketing: Realistic Solutions for the Overworked Librarian.*** By Nancy Dowd, Mary Evangeliste, and Jonathan Silberman. Chicago: ALA, 2010. 140p. \$48 (ISBN 0-838-91000-9).

*Bite-Sized Marketing* is the latest in an avalanche of publications devoted to helping the library world cope and compete in the marketplace for the hearts, minds, and tax dollars of patrons, customers, users, and clients. ALA offers several similar titles in 2009, such as *Creating Your Library Brand* by Elizabeth Doucett, *Marketing Today's Academic Library* by Brian Mathews, and Barber and Wallace's *Building a Buzz: Libraries and Word-of-Mouth Marketing* (ALA, 2010). Other titles on the topic out this year are Elenora Dubicki's *Marketing and*