

Review: The NKJV Breathe Life Bible

As part of the Thomas Nelson Bibles blogger program, I have received a copy of the [NKJV Breath Life Bible](#) published by [Thomas Nelson Bibles/Harper Collins Publishers](#) at no cost to me in exchange for an honest review here on the Adonai Shalom USA blog.

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Thomas Nelson [NKJV The Breathe Life Bible](#) Book Description

The [NKJV Breathe Life Bible](#) is a Christian response to the social unrest in Minneapolis and around the country following the tragic death of George Floyd in 2020.

This edition of the Bible contains the full text of the reliable NKJV translation with articles throughout that relate to racial reconciliation and social justice.

The contributors have come up with an acronym: **BREATHE**: **B**elieve, **R**econcile, **E**xalt, **A**ct, **T**rust, **H**ope, and **E**levate to help the reader find peace in God's Word in a broken world.

Maps in the [Thomas Nelson NKJV](#)

Breathe Life Bible

I received a paperback edition of this Bible. I was pleasantly surprised to see that the softcover edition contains the same high-quality, colorful maps that are found in so many Thomas Nelson Bibles such as the [NKJV Ultra Thinline Bible](#).

The maps included feature the “World of the Patriarchs,” “Exodus and Conquest of Canaan,” “Land of the Twelve Tribes,” “Kingdom of David and Solomon,” “Jesus’ Ministry,” “Paul’s Missionary Journeys,” and “Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus.”



The binding showed a bit of wear from shipping, but all in all it is a high quality, economical edition of the Bible.



Here is an excerpt from the overview page on the Gospel According to Mark:

MARK

OVERVIEW

While the Gospel of Matthew appears first in the New Testament, the Gospel of Mark is often considered the oldest Gospel. Mark is the shortest of all four Gospels, and many scholars believe that Luke and Matthew used Mark's account as a primary source for their own. For this reason, given the stark similarities in the details and sequence of events, these Gospels are called the Synoptic Gospels. Only the Gospel according to John stands alone in its style, content, and sequence. The early church assigned a symbolic image to each of the four Gospels that personifies the unique contribution of each. Matthew is depicted by an angel, Luke by an ox, and John by an eagle. Mark's Gospel is depicted by a lion. Mark was written by the cousin of Barnabas and son of the woman in whose home the early church often gathered. He is also known as John Mark.

While Matthew's Gospel was written largely to a Hebrew audience, Mark's Gospel was intended for Gentiles living within the Roman Empire. As such, Mark seldom quoted the Old Testament and took time to describe Jewish customs that were likely unfamiliar to non-Jewish readers.

All four Gospels have similar themes, yet each has attributes clearly distinguishing it from the other accounts. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus is uniquely portrayed as a Suffering Servant who serves suffering people. Jesus Christ does two things in Mark's Gospel that epitomize this central theme. First, Christ commends service to His disciples. Second, He exemplifies service to His disciples.

When Jesus' disciples were angling for status and seats of power, Jesus instead advocated service as the highest ambition of His kingdom. Jesus expressed His way simply: "Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant" (Mark 10:43). Mark then proves that service is not just what Jesus demanded from His disciples but is an ethic that He embodies. Jesus exemplifies this notion of the selfless servant two verses later: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (v. 45).

While Mark is the shortest of the four Gospels, it includes the most miracles. These miracles are tangible demonstrations of the authority of Christ but also demonstrated His desire to serve humanity. While other Gospels record more content about the messages and discourse of Jesus, Mark clearly focuses more on the actions of Jesus, who did not stand by idly in the face of human suffering. Jesus always met human needs with compassion.

BREATHE IT IN

Many of us think that the suffering in the world is so enormous that there is nothing we can do about it. But there are many examples of one person's suffering, persistence, and advocacy making a significant impact on the suffering of others.

On August 31, 1997, the world was stunned at the news of the tragic death of Princess Diana of Wales, who succumbed to injuries suffered in a car accident. The entire world mourned the loss of a philanthropic, servant-minded member of the British monarchy. There is no way to sum up the enormity of the loss. Princess "Di" had used her prominence to raise money for, and bring international attention to, egregious human suffering. She had advocated for children, warned of the danger of land mines to civilian populations, brought to light the generational effects of poverty, championed HIV/AIDS research, and promoted care for people all around the globe.

This Bible features articles focusing on "faith in action:"

THE SKY: ACTION WORKING OUT OUR FAITH

BY DERRICK JOHNSON

RACIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE are not new concepts. In 1908, after the race riots in Springfield, Illinois, a multicultural coalition of social activists formed the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to stand up for the equality of all people. Since then, the NAACP has fought against injustice and oppression wherever it is found. God is not a respecter of persons, and neither should we be.

Although the NAACP is not a faith-based organization, many of its founders followed their faith in its establishment, like W. E. B. Du Bois, who believed that the church was the central change agent for the Black community and fought against heretical religious concepts that deemed Black people incompatible with the divine. Founder, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, followed her faith in fighting for racial and gender equality and spoke boldly against the lynch laws. She is considered prophetic in the church by connecting Christ to the hope of the oppressed.

We know that without faith it is impossible to please God. But we also know that faith without works is dead. It is important that we follow Christ's example as we experience the grace of God. When we ask, "What did Jesus do?" we know that He was anointed to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, recover the sight of the blind, and set at liberty those who are oppressed (see Luke 4:18). Faith, then, is not a passive concept. We are all called to put our faith into action, just as Jesus did. Jesus saves, and we become His hands and feet in a world of injustice.

When we serve the least of these, we are doing the will of God. When one is lifted up, all of society is lifted up to a better place for all of us. This is how we perfect our faith, by serving one another in love. The Bible speaks of unity of the body and the premise that we should leave no one behind. All of us should move forward together. First Corinthians 12:26 says, "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." We look forward to rejoicing with all our brothers and sisters.

The NAACP and I personally will continue to take action on behalf of those who are marginalized or forgotten, standing shoulder to shoulder with those who want to see equality for all. Our faith for the future is that we act today so that all people are valued.

This NKJV Bible uses a very readable "Comfort Print" font exclusive to Thomas Nelson Bibles.

My recommendation:

★★★★

Rating: 4 out of 5.

I would give the [Thomas Nelson NKJV Breathe Life Bible](#) a **4 out of 5**.

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Book details

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