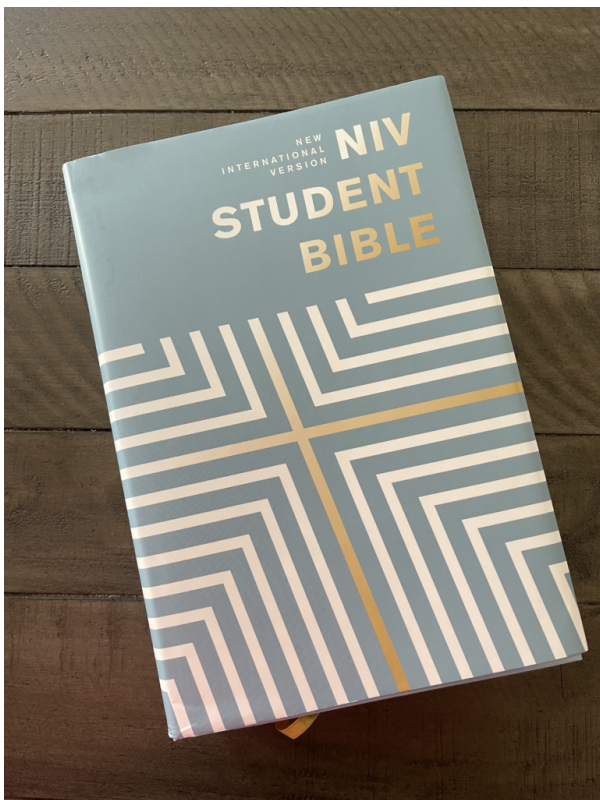


# Review: the new NIV Student Bible (New International Version)

*I am a member of the Bible Gateway Blogger Grid (BG<sup>2</sup>). As a #BibleGatewayPartner, I have received a copy of the [NIV Student Bible](#) published by Zondervan Bibles at no cost to me in exchange for an honest review here on the Adonai Shalom USA blog. #BG<sup>2</sup>*

- [NIV Student Bible Book Review & Description](#)
- [My recommendation:](#)
- [Book details](#)

## [NIV Student Bible](#) Book Review & Description



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The NIV Student Bible, published by Zondervan Bibles

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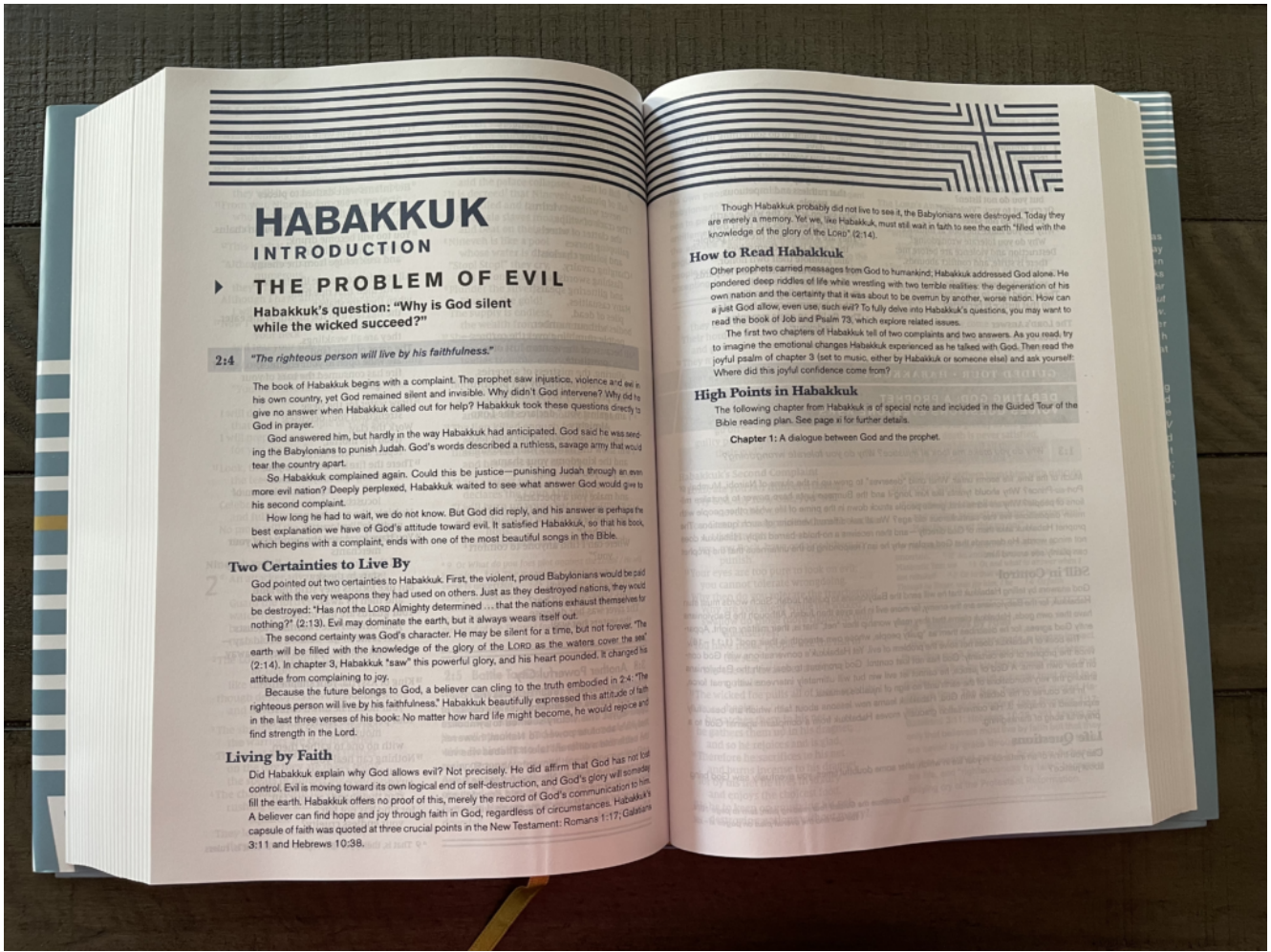
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The hardcover edition of the [NIV Student Bible](#) features an attractive book jacket. The colors are appealing and the design continues throughout the overall Bible. The use of blues and neutral patterns makes this appropriate for both young men or young women. This Bible includes a yellow satin ribbon for use as a bookmark.

The *NIV (New International Version)* of the Bible is an accessible translation so it is appropriate that it was the translation chosen for a new student Bible. The New International Version is not my personal favorite, but when used comparatively, it holds its own and is valuable. The NIV translators sought to bring a modern English cadence to the wording which is particularly helpful for younger readers who may be unfamiliar or unready for a more complex cadence.



## “Introduction to Habakkuk,” NIV Student Bible

The [NIV Student Bible](#) contains short explanations of key verses and book introductions that will capture the attention of a young person. For example, in the introduction to Hosea, a caption reads, “Tearing God’s Heart” and posits the question: “Why would He love such a woman?”

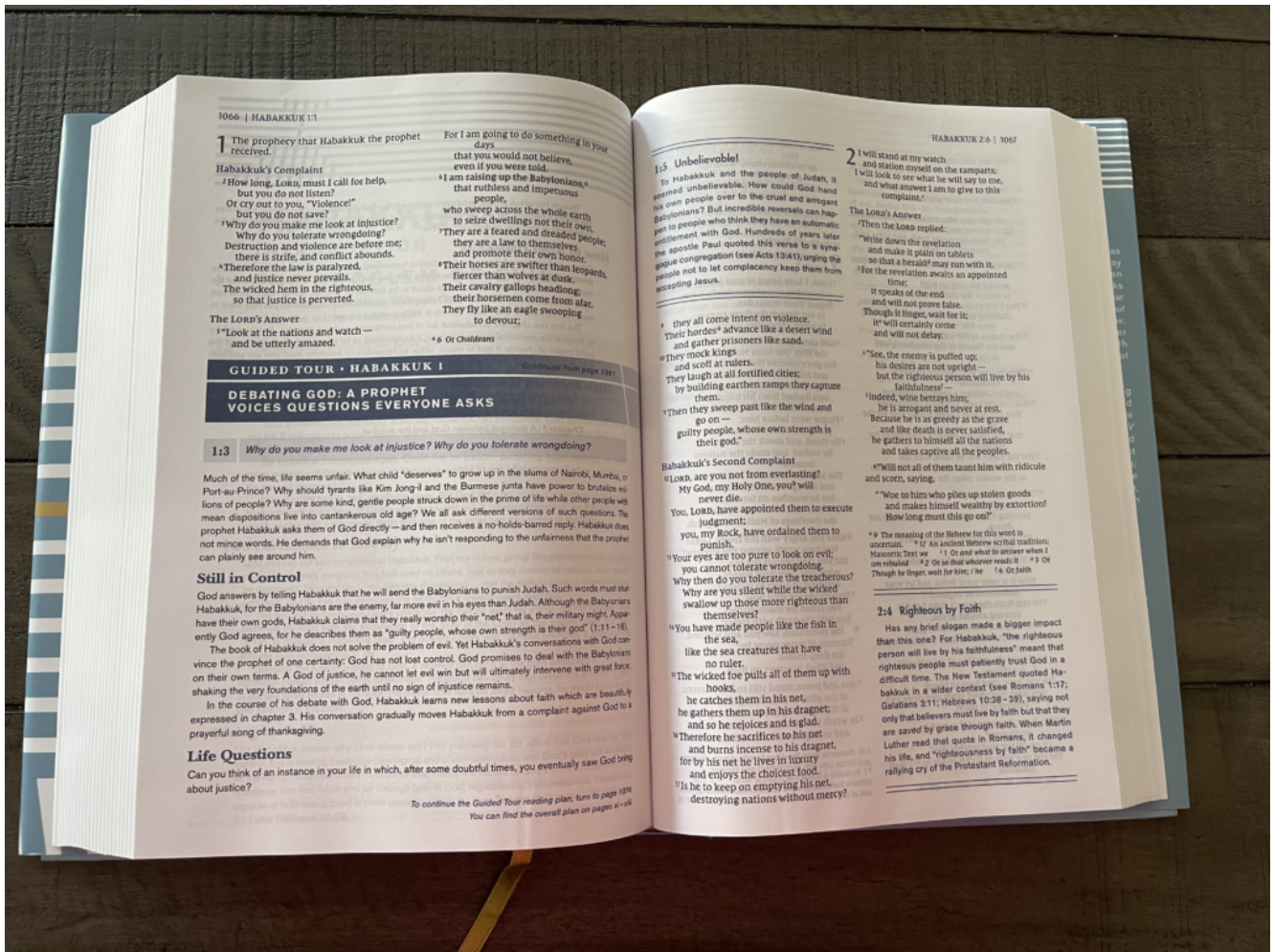
In the introduction to Habakkuk, the issue of theodicy is introduced (but not mentioned by its technical name). (“Theodicy” refers to the question of why God who is so good permits evil). I wonder whether it may be a disservice to the young student to not at least mention the term, but then again, this is aimed at teenagers who probably don’t need all the technicality yet. The introductions to each book appear to be intentionally kept short and simplistic so as not to overwhelm a young person.

Philip Yancey and Tim Stafford contributed to the notes found throughout this edition of the Bible. While the [NIV Student](#)

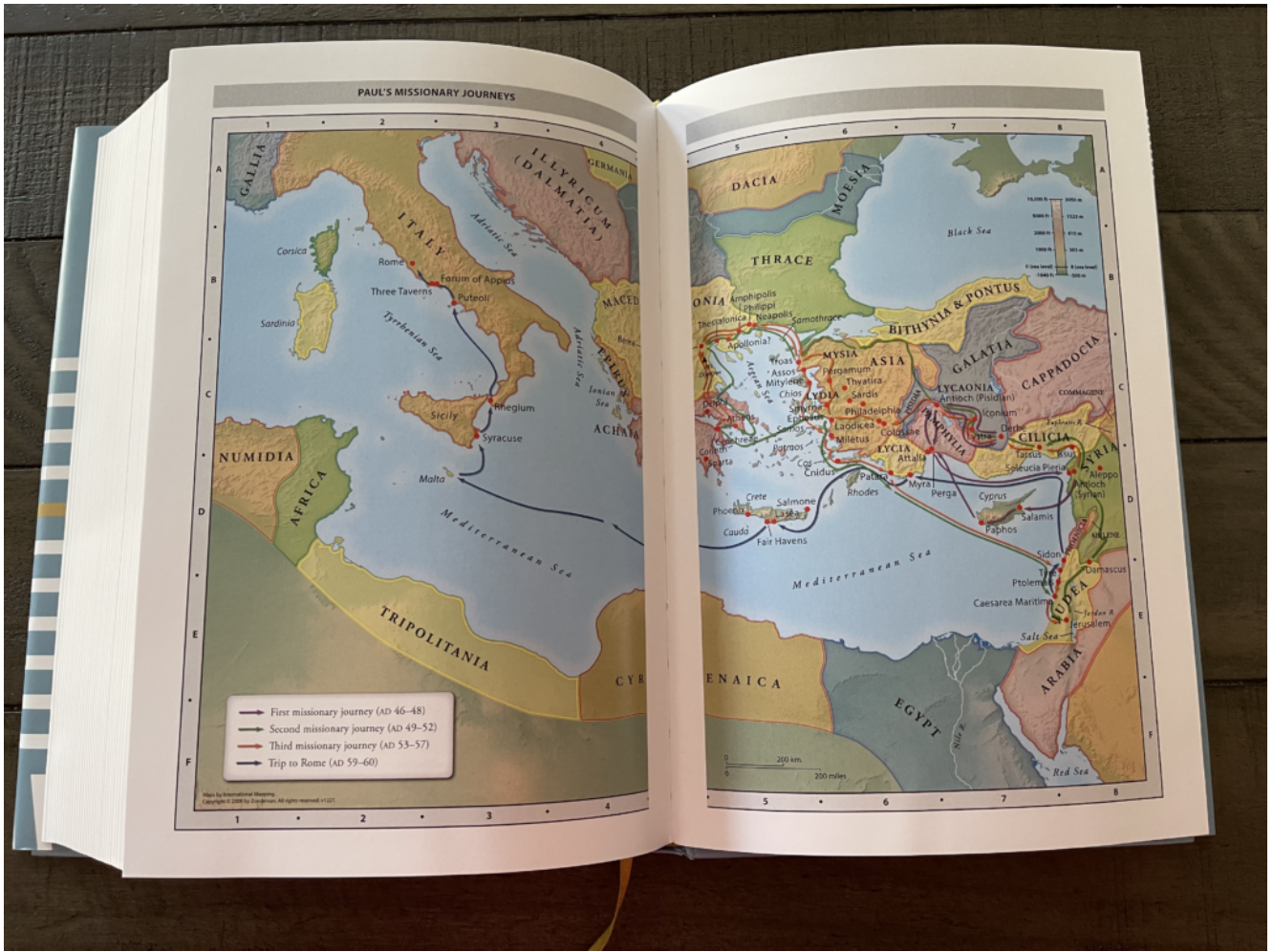


Bible does contain some devotional-like study commentary, it would not be considered a “Study Bible” for most academic purposes. Yancey and Stafford’s writing style is easily understandable and the textual insertions are tastefully done.

The Bible text of the NIV Student Bible is printed using a “Comfort Print” font so it is readable and attractive.



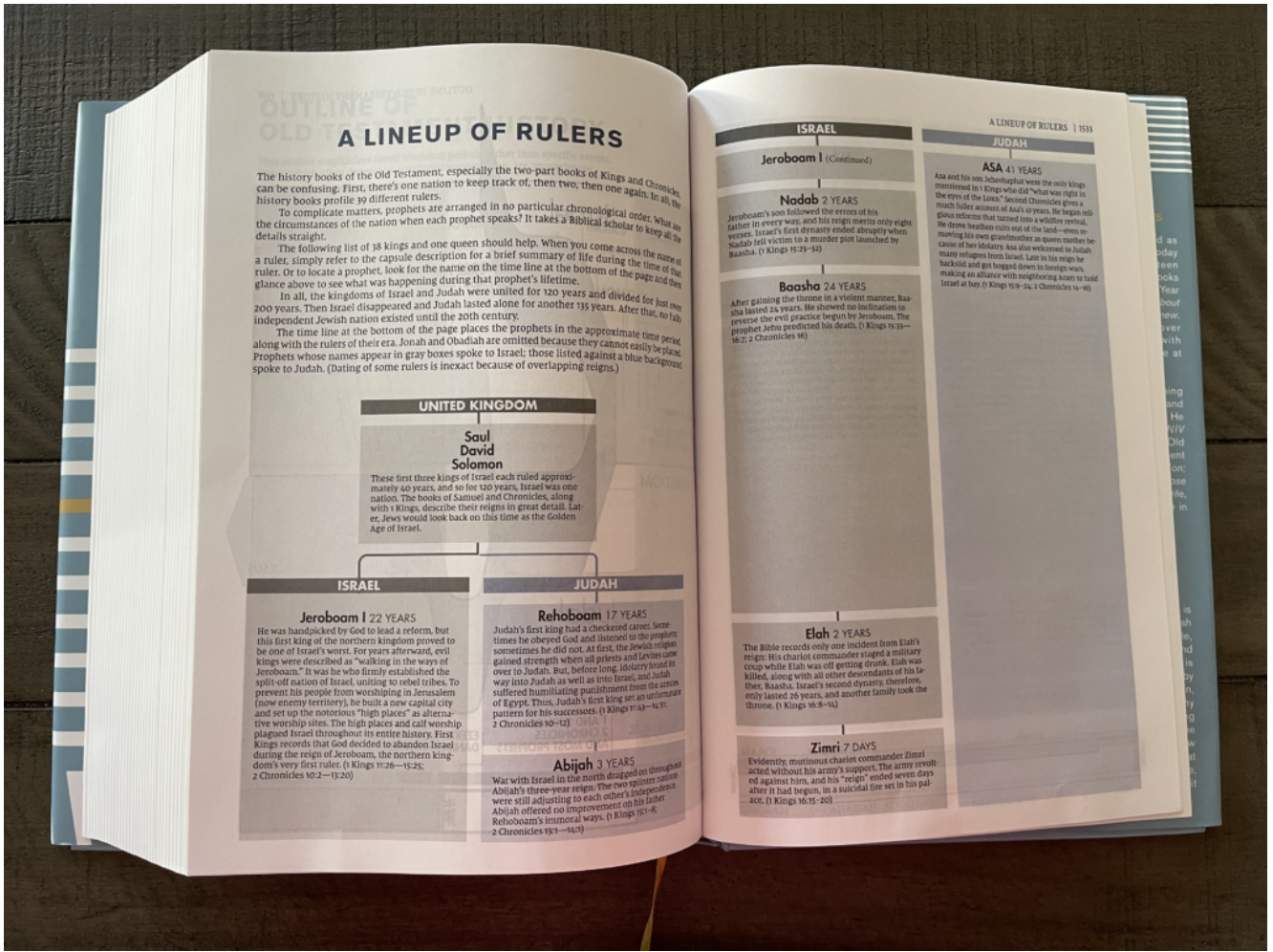
“Habakkuk,” NIV Student Bible  
This NIV Student Bible contains very useful information in the back of the book: a “Where to find it” section that includes “100 People You Should Know,” “Glossary of People and Places,” “Well-known Events,” a “LineUp of Rulers,” a “Subject Guide,” and beautiful glossy color maps.



Color map of Paul's Missionary Journey in the NIV Student Bible

The LineUp of Rulers is so well done I wish I had it in my own personal study Bible! It is an excellent resource that will benefit anyone interested in the history of the kings and chronicles of Scriptures. It is exceedingly helpful for keeping straight the kings of Israel vs. the kings of Judah!





“A Lineup of Rulers,” NIV Student Bible

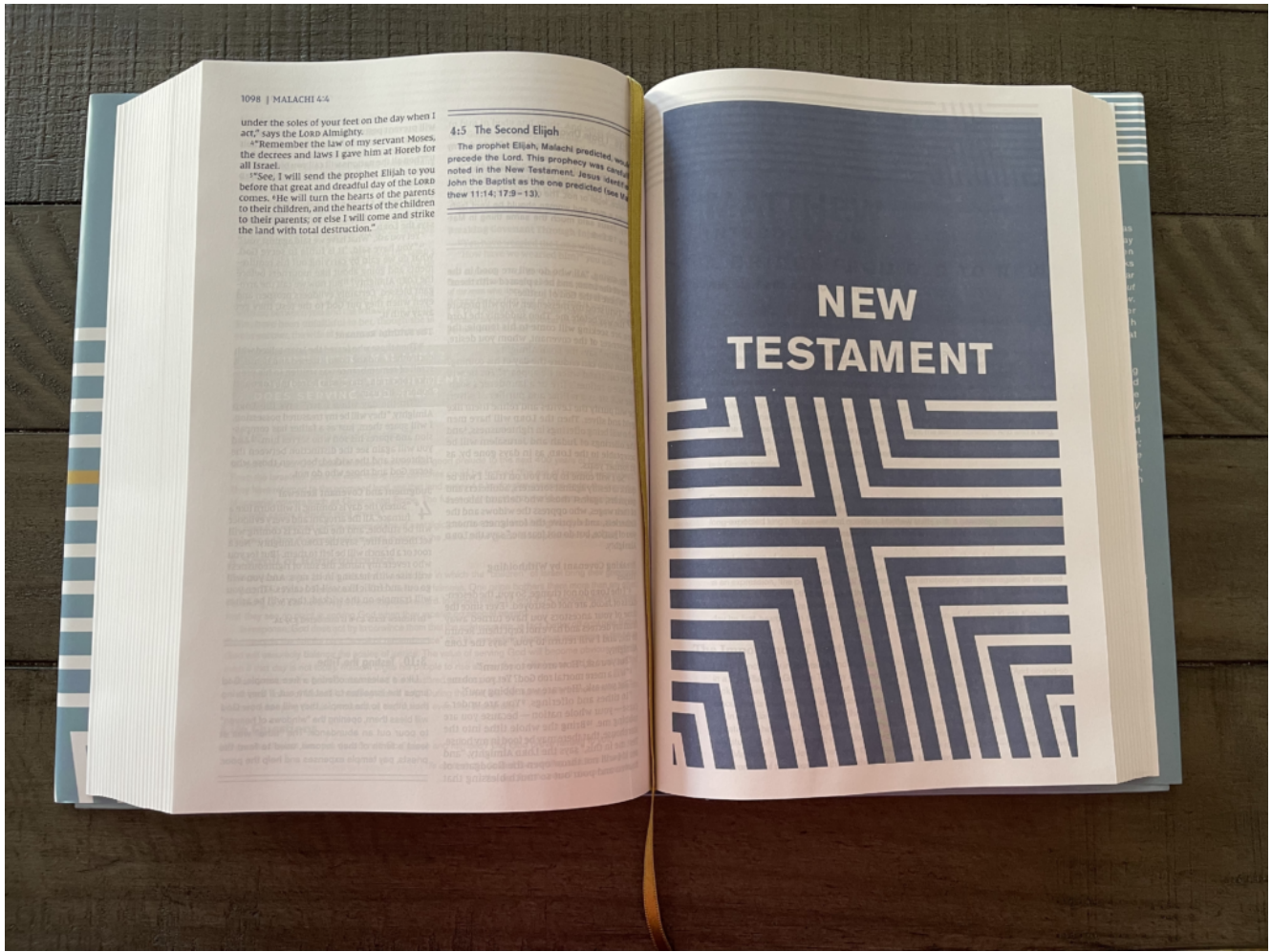
## My recommendation:

★★★★★

Rating: 5 out of 5.

I would recommend the [NIV Student Bible](#) for high school aged students and possibly young college students. Some of the topics in the glossary may be too mature for middle schoolers.

This is a useful and valuable resource for students today who are wrestling with tough questions and are seeking guidance from the Word of God.



## Book details

**Title:** NIV Student Bible

**Publisher:** Zondervan Bibles

**Release Date:** April 4, 2023

**Genre:** BIBLES/New International Version/Reference

**ISBN-13:** 978-0-310-46163-0

**PURCHASE LINKS:** [Amazon](#) | [FaithGateway Store](#)

#BibleGatewayPartner

*Rev. Jennifer N. Mieliulis Fuentes, MDiv, Duke University*

[Review: "Spurgeon and the Psalms: The Book of Psalms with Devotions from Charles Spurgeon" published by Thomas Nelson](#)

[Review: KJV Thompson Chain-Reference Bible](#)

[Review: "Eternity Now: The New Testament Series" \(NET\)](#)

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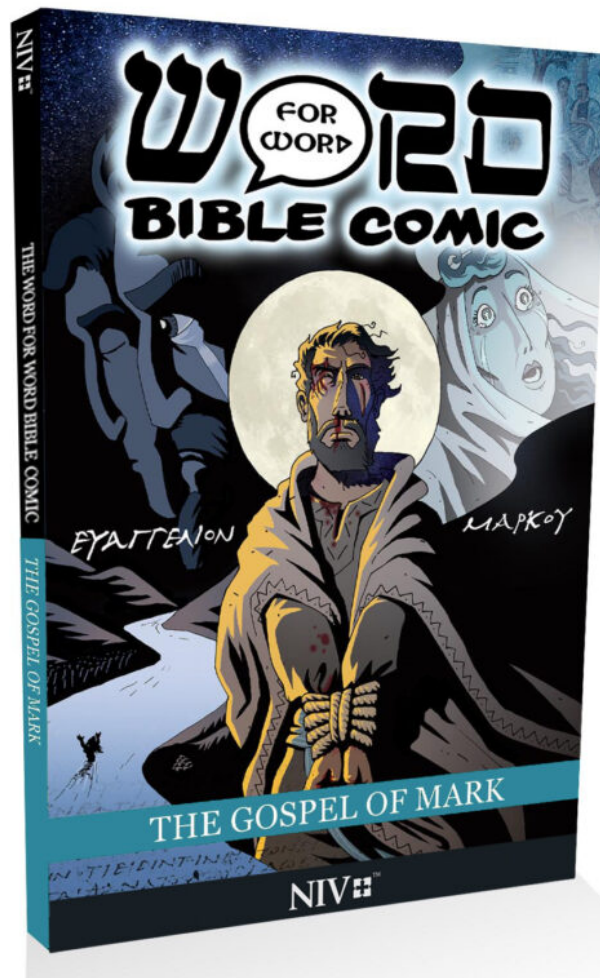
# Review: Gospel of Mark: Word for Word Bible Comic: NIV



*Simon Amadeus Pillario, author/illustrator, has generously provided me with an ebook copy of the Word for Word Bible Comic (NIV) in exchange for my honest review. This was made possible through the [Bible Gateway Blogger's Grid](#). Here is a link to his blog: <https://www.wordforwordbiblecomic.com/blog>*

## Book Review





Word for Word Bible Comic: The Gospel of Mark (NIV) by Simon Amadeus Pillario.

The book is also available in Spanish:

El Evangelio de Marcos: Verso a Verso Bíblica-Cómic : Traducción NVI

The [Word for Word Bible Comic: The Gospel of Mark \(NIV\)](#) is available in both in English or Spanish (NVI). Since my husband and I have pastored Spanish language and bilingual congregations, the fact that this is available in both languages right from the start is very appealing. In other words, there's no need to wait for a publisher to finally get around to offering it in Spanish. My first reaction to seeing the cover was, I need to show this to my tweens and see what they think! So I did. And as expected, they said, *"Looks cool, yeah, we'll read it."*

Getting kids that age interested in the Word is a challenge, so that was a win. This looks to be a very appealing format

for many tweens and teens to be introduced to the Gospel of Mark! *iExcelente!*

I love that the [Word for Word Bible Comic](#) series is straight from the Gospel text. I could easily see this book (and others in the series) being used for youth ministry in both English and Spanish language congregational settings.



## Cultural accuracy and relevance

I also love the Hebraic-styled font on the cover. Anyone who follows my blog won't be surprised! I love anything that reminds today's believers of the [Jewish roots of our faith](#). The illustrations inside the book are tastefully done and colorful and it seems very apparent that care was taken to ensure cultural accuracy and relevance.

Additionally, the faithfulness by the part of the author to provide teenage readers the **actual Gospel text** should be commended. I personally am not a huge fan of the [NIV \(New International Version\)](#) translation. Nevertheless, I am aware that it is popular, especially for outreach. I would be even more impressed by this effort if a version comes out that uses something like the [TLV \(Tree of Life Version\)](#)! Why the [TLV](#)? It restores the Jewishness of the Scriptures, most obviously the name of Yeshua which is Jesus' Hebrew name. But in the meantime, this graphic novel series is more than adequate to express Gospel Truth.



## Age Rating

The *Gospel of Mark* [Word for Word Bible Comic](#) is rated for ages 12+ due to infrequent “bloody violence” and “mild alcohol use.” Given the violent world around us and the images kids are bombarded with every day online and on tv, I don’t think many children would be startled by the illustrations in this book. The author included several pages on how he made his designs which I think would appeal to any young person, especially those with artistic interests!

## My recommendation

\*\*\*\*\*

The [Word for Word Bible Comic](#) has the potential to greatly increase the Biblical literacy of young people, and the young-at-heart. This book makes the Good News accessible to those who might not otherwise pick up a Bible. I wholeheartedly recommend it!

**PURCHASE LINK:** <https://www.wordforwordbiblecomic.com/buy>

## Matthew, Mark, and coming soon: Luke!

Matthew is available, now Mark, and the creators of this Bible comic are currently in the process of crowdfunding \$20,000 for their forthcoming title *The Gospel of Luke* on Kickstarter.

Here is the link if you are interested. Moreover, if you are able to support this important work, you can give here: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/word4wordbiblecomic/the-gospel-of-luke-word-for-word-bible-comic-niv-and-nvi?ref=424wph>

It is very exciting that there will be another book available for the Gospel of Luke!



*\*Note: at 45-49 seconds into the promotional video on the Luke project, I do want to alert my readers that I was initially concerned about the use of sacred heart/Marion imagery in the video, though I had not come across anything like that in the Mark volume.*

*Mr. Pillario was kind enough to send a picture of the page in question (at right) and personally responded to me, which I also thought was very kind of him. To clarify, Pillario writes: ". . . it is in the context of Mary prophesying that she will be called 'Blessed through generations.' It's an artistic representation to highlight the fact the prophecy is true: you see there's white Mary and black Mary and even Japanese Mary." It is certainly true that regardless of our cultural and denominational backgrounds, the prophecy is indeed true. I find Mr. Pillario's explanation sufficiently reasonable to continue to fully recommend this book.*



**Title:** Word for Word Bible Comic: The Gospel of Mark (NIV)

**Author:** Simon Amadeus Pillario

**Publisher:** Word for Word Bible Comics

**Release Date:** March 1, 2022

**Genre:** Religion/Christian Education/Teen

**ISBN:** 9781914299063

Pastora Jennifer Mieliulis Fuentes, M.Div., Duke University

*Additionally, if you enjoyed this book review, you may want to check out these other reviews. I have reviewed [Rabbi Jason Sobel's, "Mysteries of the Messiah"](#) as well as [Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's "The Difficult Words of Jesus."](#)*

*[Review: "Mysteries of the Messiah" by Rabbi Jason Sobel](#)*

*[Review: "The Difficult Words of Jesus" by Amy-Jill Levine](#)*