

## Endorsements for the *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*

“How I wish someone had put a book like this into my hands 50 years ago.”

### **N.T. Wright**

Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity  
University of St. Andrews, Scotland

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“Every line and every word in the Bible comes from a context -- historical, social, cultural, theological -- and speaks into those contexts -- sometimes against that culture, sometimes with that culture, and sometimes to expand that culture. In so doing the Bible models how we can speak from our culture and into our culture in very fresh and missional ways. The *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* not only acknowledges this but engages ordinary readers in seeing what it looks like. I cannot recommend a study Bible any more than this one: Five stars!”

### **Scot McKnight**

Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament  
Northern Seminary

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“The *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* is a well-conceived and brilliantly executed annotated Bible that focuses on the historical, cultural, and literary context of the Scriptures. It covers an enormous range of material, starting with the political, religious, and literary world of the ancient Near East and extending to the world of Jesus and the early church, describing Jewish and Christian life in an environment characterized by cosmopolitan diversity and yet dominated by Greco-Roman culture. Through an array of lucid charts, sidebars, and footnotes, readers are introduced to the myths, teachings, customs, literary conventions, and ideals of ancient peoples, and they are guided through the process of relating all of this to the meaning of the biblical text. One cannot properly interpret the Bible while reading it as though it had no cultural context. This study Bible will make the task of discovering that context far more approachable.”

### **Duane A. Garrett**

John R. Sampey Professor of Old Testament Interpretation  
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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“Under the expert editorial oversight of two outstanding Biblical scholars, this study Bible provides a window into the everyday world of the Biblical authors. This approach allows today’s reader to gain a deeper appreciation for what each Biblical text would have meant to its original author and audience. The gain for modern readers is enormous: by reading the Bible first as a message to its own cultures, we understand better what its message is to every age, including our own.”

### **Frank Thielman**

Professor of Divinity  
Beeson Divinity School

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“When I talk to laypeople about the most basic tools they need to own for engaging the Bible well, a great study Bible and backgrounds commentaries are near the top of the list. In the *NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* John Walton and Craig Keener have brought the two together in one impressive reference tool that will help people ‘hear’ the text of Scripture in accordance with how, when, and where God spoke biblical truth into the world. I am excited about this tool!”

**George H. Guthrie**

Benjamin W. Perry Professor of Bible  
Union University

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“This Bible study resource is like a special pair of spectacles. Blurry bits become delightfully readable. Fascinating details get thrown into focus. And, suddenly, we see dimensions to the text that we may only have dimly guessed at before. It adds wonderful depth to the experience of reading and studying the Bible.”

**Havilah Dharamraj, PhD**

Academic Dean and Faculty in Old Testament  
South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies

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“For years people have been asking me where they can find good resources for reading the Bible in context. I’m a history nerd, and it turns out, the Bible was written a *really* long time ago, and you need history to make sense of it. But other than obscure, thousand page scholarly tomes, I’ve never had a good place to send people: until now. Finally, high level scholarship, in language anybody can understand, all in one easy-to-navigate place. I’m buying a truckload of these Bibles for my church.”

**John Mark Comer**

Pastor of Teaching and Vision  
Bridgetown: A Jesus Church

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