Catholic Bible Dictionary

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More than a generation has passed since the appearance of the last major Catholic Bible dictionary. It has been a fertile generation for biblical scholarship, an eventful time for biblical archaeology, and a fruitful time for the Church’s interpretation of the Bible. It is time for a new resource. Scott Hahn, internationally renowned theologian and biblical scholar, has inspired millions with his insight into the Catholic faith. Now he brings us this important reference guide, written specifically for Catholics, which contains more than five thousand clear and accessible entries and covers a wide range of people, places, and topics. From Genesis to Revelation, the whole of salvation history is presented and explained in smart, easy-to-understand prose. Catholic Bible Dictionary is an invaluable source of information, insight, and guidance for Catholics and others who are interested in enriching their understanding of Sacred Scripture. Scott Hahn draws from two millennia of scholarship to create an accessible and comprehensive tool for deeper and more rewarding biblical study.

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Customer Reviews

Although I have only been Catholic for 6 years, for over 40 years I have been a Bible student and teacher with literally thousands of books and I do know good resource books. Catholic Bible Dictionary is a great Catholic Dictionary! I trust everything Dr. Scott Hahn has published because I know anyone seeking truth is safe under the teaching of this well-known writer and scholar; the information has been researched historically, as well as having used the Sacred Scripture and the
Catechism of the Catholic Church. I had been on the wait list for the Catholic Bible Dictionary and was anxious for it to arrive. The Dictionary was a long time coming but I knew it would be worth the waiting. I was right! Today the Catholic Bible Dictionary arrived. I dropped everything I was holding, ran for a knife and opened the box! I fell in love with the cover which is a picture of the center section of the painting The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb by Jan and Hubert Van Eyck. (Saint Bavo Cathedral of Ghent.) The painting is glorious! And, that is even before I opened the book! Next I opened the book and the first thing I saw was the Imprimatur . . . that is a good thing. Converts really like that. And then, I love the fonts. It is large print and you know immediately that everything is important. Sections are divided so that you will see where you have been and where you are going! In a dictionary? How unusual is that! And that is just at first glance! You see a list of the Church Fathers . . . this is just the beginning! I have hardly had time to look at everything but I have read some of the introductions of different Books of the Bible and they are perfect; each book of the Bible is identified. There is a history of the versions of the Bible! There are complete definitions for topics not covered in great detail in other dictionaries, i.e., Covenant, Liturgy, Interpretation of the Bible. On the cover there is a notation that there are "over five thousand entries as well as the latest up-to-date information on every important item, name, place, and event in Sacred Scripture." Catholic Bible Dictionary is an academically solid CATHOLIC dictionary, with many superb references and very easy to read. I have already gifted this beautiful book to five friends and would not hesitate giving this to a Protestant. We will all find Truths we need to know in this new resource book. I will be back and edit this review after I use the book more, however, since people are going to want to know what people are saying about the Catholic Bible Dictionary, I wanted to get this on . What do I say? I say one thing - "Buy it! You can’t be disappointed."

I'm very pleased to present The Catholic Bible Dictionary after working on it for a number of years with a team of colleagues and friends. The book is a reference work aimed at highly motivated Catholic lay people who are intent on a lifetime of Scripture reading and study. I hope it will also be a handy and reliable resource for pastors as they prepare homilies and catechesis. For seminarians, it could provide a solid beginning for biblical research, leading to other resources (lexicons, commentaries etc.). If you wish to get a good sense of what the Dictionary is about, I'd suggest that you read some of the following articles as samples: Biblical Criticism; Covenant; Family; Inspiration; Interpretation of the Bible; Jesus Christ; Jubilee; Kingdom; Law; Liturgy; Marriage; Mary, the Mother of Jesus; Messiah; Parousia; Priest, Priesthood; Sacrifice; Temple; Typology. I'd also recommend the entries on each of the different books of the Bible.
Anything that bears the name of Scott Hahn is going to be reliable, orthodox, and comprehensive! This book is no exception. A great resource tool you will "go to" again and again..... I highly recommend this excellent dictionary…. dare I say "encyclopedia!"... for your best reference when studying the Sacred Scriptures!

For anyone who reads the Bible, both Catholic and non-Catholic, this volume is extremely valuable. One is often confronted with a word or phrase that we think we understand; but do we really? For example: "The Garden of Eden." Prof Scott Hahn looks at this Garden from every aspect - from the physical location to the symbolic meaning of this earthly "paradise" where God is present. It is one of, if not the most, complete "encyclopaedias" related to every aspect of the Scriptures. For any student of the Scriptures or anyone interested in understanding the Scriptures this is a MUST reference book. For Catholics, as also for non-Catholics, it is important to know that the "Nihil Obstat" and "Imprimatur" declarations by Bishops of the Church means that the volume has been scrutinised and declared to contain no element at all that is in contradiction to the teaching of the Church and hence it may be published having the backing of the Catholic Church. Scott Hanhn is an extremely good writer and has a style of writing that is easy and interesting to read. Deacon A.(Tony) de Freitas PhD.

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