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REFERENCE HELPS – LESSON 4

BIBLE HANDBOOKS

Bible handbooks are another very helpful resource in learning bible times, places, and cultural matters. They contain a wealth of information not generally found elsewhere. Every serious student of the bible should have such a handbook.

Most follow the chapter order from Genesis to Revelation. They give a lot of background information that increases your biblical knowledge exponentially, thus enhancing your understanding. Archaeological discoveries are usually included which give an independent source proving the bible's historical accuracy. We have three such handbooks.

My personal favorite which I have used for around fifty years is Halley's Bible Handbook published by Zondervan Publishing House in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was first published in 1927 and is the oldest of the three and has been frequently updated. Henry H. Halley was the original author. It gives outstanding background information including pictures, charts, and archaeological findings.

Another excellent resource is Unger's Bible Handbook originally published in 1966 by Moody Press from Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL and is the work of Merrill Unger. A revised full-color edition by Gary Larson came out in 1984, the New Unger's Bible Handbook. I highly recommend it. There is so much to learn from it, and it is so interesting to anyone who loves to read of the bible times. I especially love the Old Testament information.

A third one that we have is Eerdman's Handbook to the Bible. It was originally written by David Alexander and was first published in England in 1973. Later it was published by William B. Eerdman's Publishing Company in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is also a full-color edition and can be quite helpful.

My best recommendation would be either Unger's or Halley's although either of the three would be good.