

**THE  
BIBLE STUDY  
NEW TESTAMENT**

# The Bible Study Textbook Series

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**THE  
BIBLE STUDY  
NEW TESTAMENT**

**THE GOOD NEWS FOR MODERN MAN  
and  
THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION**

**with  
Explanatory Notes  
by  
Rhoderick D. Ice**

**Volume One  
The Four Gospels and Acts**

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## PREFACE

### A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The motto of World Radio, West Monroe, Louisiana, is: "Preaching Jesus Christ to every man in his own language." My purpose is to do just that in the type of American English in use today. As one of the Pioneers said: "It would be just as reasonable to require men to worship God wearing long beards, with Jewish or Roman clothes, as it is to hand them the Bible in archaic language which is less intelligible and more easily misunderstood." [A.C. 1826] An accurate translation will transmit the *message* of the original writers in the *usage, style, and idiom* of the language of translation. In other words, one who reads a translation today should receive the same *understanding* from the language that a citizen of the First Century world did from reading the original manuscripts in Koine' Greek.

In this book will be found the thinking of the Pioneers of the Restoration. The *People's New Testament* by B. W. Johnson serves as a pattern, but this is not a revision or even a paraphrase, it is completely new. Almost a century has passed since Johnson completed his work. Manuscripts more ancient have been discovered since then (such as the Dead Sea Scrolls). More is known about some questions. A strong case can be made linking the thieves crucified with Jesus to the Zealots, who were armed terrorists. Some new study gives light to the thorny problem of 1 Cor. 14:34-35. More emphasis has been placed on the sacrifice of Christ *extrinsic* to ourself, and how we reach out through faith to seize it and make ourselves part of it. Some new thinking on the Book of Revelation penetrates the veil which the Middle Ages placed over this book. I have adopted the overall view called "synchronistic," which to me seems the most logical and reasonable explanation of this book [which was obviously written to suffering Christian in the last ten years of the First Century].

Twenty-five years of my personal ministry, over five hundred books (many by the Restoration Pioneers), plus thousands of papers, tracts, magazines, etc., of widely varying religious communities, have been distilled in this book. I have made a conscious attempt to avoid the language of any one group, and as much as possible, to avoid "technical church language." The style grows out of spending three and a half years trying to pack as much meaning as possible into a daily five-minute radio program. I have used a conversational approach, and you will sometimes find an unusual grammatical construction, either to conform to current

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usage, or to stress some special fact. I have made an effort to conform to the vocabulary of the Today's English Version, Third Edition.

In this book are the two most important translations of our time. When *Good News for Modern Man* first came out, I recognized in it the same *empathy* as the *Authorized Version* of 1611. This makes it unique among the new versions. I believe that *Good News for Modern Man* (The Today's English Version) has already become the New Authorized Version, and *that this is God's will*. It has had its "baptism of fire," survived, and gained strength. This same phenomenon has taken place in many other languages, and we have the counterpart of "Today's English Version" in Spanish, Russian, Chinese, etc., — a *flood* of new versions making God's Truth available in spoken language of common people. I believe God is using these new versions to call men to himself — just as He used the German version by Luther, the English version by Tyndale, etc.

*The New International Version* is described as a worthy successor to the American Standard Version of 1901. Pat Patterson calls it: "A careful new translation." It is an "evangelical" version, made in scholarly style. This makes for both strengths and weaknesses. This version has yet to undergo its "baptism of fire," but will certainly survive to take its rightful place.

The name of this book shows its purpose: "The Bible Study New Testament." There can be no "short-cut" to spirituality! God has revealed himself to us in a book — the Bible — and we must **STUDY** to find him. Paul said (in the language of King James): "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the *present truth*."

Written from Lynchburg, Virginia, July 1974.

R. D. Ice