



## **The Literary Study Bible: ESV**

*Anonymous , Philip Graham Ryken , Leland Ryken*

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Combining thousands of insightful notes with the complete ESV Bible text, the *ESV Literary Study Bible* helps readers understand God's Word more fully, in all its richness and beauty. It highlights the Bible's storylines, complex characters, historical settings, literary genres, motifs, theological themes, imagery, and important terms, making the Bible come alive with greater clarity and impact. This one-of-a-kind study Bible is an indispensable tool for devotional reading and in-depth study.

Size: 6" x 9" 8.5-point Veritas type 1,952 pages Black letter text Single-column format so it reads like a book  
General introduction to the Bible as a book and to its literary features Introductions to each book of the Bible  
Literary commentary on individual sections within each book Smyth-sewn binding Packaging: J-card (HC), clamshell box (TruTone)

## The Literary Study Bible: ESV Details

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Author : Anonymous , Philip Graham Ryken , Leland Ryken

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## **From Reader Review The Literary Study Bible: ESV for online ebook**

### **Kent says**

Not as in-depth as I would like. It's interpretations are cursory at best. Of course, it isn't meant to be exhaustive--I get that--bit I would like more specific analysis or explanations.

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### **Carol Bakker says**

For years I've wanted to read each book of the Bible through in one sitting. Psalms and Isaiah had to be broken up, but I scheduled time to read other long books through. I got the flow of the book and picked up on motifs I missed in the past.

The Literary Study Bible was a good choice for this project: one column, only a few cross-references at the bottom of the page, the layout clearly identifying songs and poetry. I enjoyed the literary notes, better understanding genres and allusions across the spectrum of Genesis to Revelation.

I'm reviewing each book's introductory notes to write a short phrase in my journal that encapsulates each of the 66 books, e.g. James — New Testament book of proverbs. I've read the Bible all of my literate life, but am fuzzy on lesser known books like the minor prophets.

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### **Mark Cerasaro says**

Though not my "Favourite" translation, this particular study Bible helps one consider "Author's intent" and teachability through the lens of literature in a very effective way. Strengths include brief introductions to sections as literary devices change, and narrative shifts. One weakness is that it focuses on literary devices used only after translation to English. There is little or no discussion of how the original text might have read to a Biblical Hebrew speaker: eg. "these names rhymed in the original text." or "There is frequent use of pun in this section," or "the name of this deity was blended with the Hebrew word for shame as a blatant slander easily understood by a Hebrew reader/listener of that time."

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### **Rivkah says**

Looked great but either failed in its goal or my expectations were unfounded. So... I love the ESV translation, but I really was not keen on this edition. I'm uneasy about saying more because I have strong feelings about it. And because I finished it last year and have moved to different translations etc.

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### **Gavin Breeden says**

Not really a typical "study Bible" with footnotes, etc. This Bible primarily considers the literary genres and qualities of the books (and individual chapters!) of the Bible. Each book, major section, and most chapters have a brief intro paragraph which considers the literary devices and aspects of the particular text.

This Bible is probably my preference for reading big chunks privately, the editor's notes give helpful thoughts but don't get into the minutiae of the biblical text, for that I use the ESV Study Bible.

The font and layout is attractive, but I don't recommend this Bible to be used when preaching. Tried it once but the verse numbers are too small to simply glance down and find or read.

Recommended.

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### **Jared says**

I really, really wish that I could give this study Bible a better rating. Really. Because I believe with all my heart that a "literary" (synchronic) approach to Scripture is the ultimately proper and most fruitful way to interpret this sacred Book and avoids many of the pitfalls of the typical scholarly "historical" (diachronic) approach.

However, I must be honest: I found most of the study notes in this Bible pretty unhelpful overall. First, they were too broadly "literary"; I felt very often like most of these notes could have been placed in an edition of Shakespeare's plays without many modifications. It seems the "Bible" was missing in their overall "Bible as literature" approach. Furthermore, the notes were annoyingly repetitive. Finally, and this probably can't be helped, but the study notes showed definite theological bias. I suppose if I were more Reformed in my theology, this might be a strength rather than a weakness, but since I am NOT Reformed, there were a few remarks that made me grind my teeth.

Most enraging: The assertion that the book of Romans is the most systematized theological statement in all of Scripture and is, therefore, perhaps the greatest biblical book (if the authors must choose one). First, that comment completely ignores the "occasional" nature of Romans (a feature of epistolary writing they constantly emphasize with every OTHER epistle). Second, and much more important, this really seems to "betray" the literary approach to Scripture. Basically, the gist of the claim is this: "This book is the most important/best book in the Bible because it fits best with our Western rationalist assumptions." Unfortunately (or fortunately), systematic theology has never been and never will be "great literature." That books like Job or Genesis or Psalms or the Gospels got "passed over" for the "best book in the Bible" designation in a book dedicated to a LITERARY appreciation of the Bible is absolutely inexcusable.

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### **Nicole Rose says**

I purchased this Bible primarily for its wide, open margins. As a note-taker (trained as an English major), space for my own thoughts and reflections has been an important element of study. The English Standard Version (ESV) is a great version for the natural scholar; it is a modern word-for-word translation from early manuscripts and tends to be favoured by academically inclined teachers and preachers. I have been told it's the "only version" to read, but that's just pomp. As long as you're reading \*a\* Bible, you're doing well in my books. For those with a literary flare, and who are interested in the workings out of genre, style, voice,

diction, poetry, etc, I would certainly recommend this presentation.

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### **Stephanie says**

This wasn't as good as I hoped it would be. Thomas Nelson's Chronological Study Bible is actually more satisfying to my curiosity about literary genres and styles (at least through Joshua, which is as far as I have gotten). The commentary in the Literary ESV seemed kind of dry and obvious.

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### **Stephen says**

I won't presume to rate the Bible itself.

In regards to the "Literary Study Bible" apparatus, I found it helpful at times, but at other times annoying. While it was sometimes helpful to be aware of the big-picture flow of, say, an epistle or prophetic utterance or psalm, sometimes the scientific classification of literary genres (praise psalm, lament psalm, etc.) detracted from a sense of reverence and wonder.

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### **Curtis says**

This is an English Standard Version (ESV) study bible. But instead of the usual theological analysis, this takes a literary approach. Stories are analyzed for plot, character development, etc., etc. I'm saving up for this one!

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### **Danny Kim says**

I love this bible!!! This is now my bible of choice.

- Book summary from a literary perspective containing information about the Genre of each book.
- Summaries of every couple of chapters.

I really enjoy this bible because I was looking for something to help me better understand the Word understanding each chapter in context rather than understanding individual verses out of context.

I'm using this bible to read through Dr. Horner's Bible Reading system. Great stuff!

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### **John says**

I took a chance and purchased this for \$13 in the trustone edition and I am really glad I did. I now use this Bible for my daily Bible readings and the format is most excellent for such use. The footnotes are definitely not exausive, but they do an excellent job of leading the reader through the literary aspects of the Holy

Scripture as well as insights into the big picture on the theological issues of the literary units of scripture. I have other study Bibles and I actually tend to get distracted by the overwhelming amount of notes while trying to do daily Bible reading (I do use them extensively for deeper study, along with commentaries) -- for me anyway, the literary study Bible strikes just the right amount of commentary needed for most lay Christians (this and a Bible handbook would be a good starting place for studying scripture). I highly recommend this study Bible.

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### **Virginia Knowles says**

I like this Bible for its literary features, but the one I have doesn't have a concordance or other standard study features. The print font is also a little too small for my fortysomething eyes, even with my reading glasses, so I find myself going back to my tattered NIV for daily devotions. We use the ESV at church. I am hoping to get a large print ESV study Bible when it comes out, if I can afford it!

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### **Warren Sibley says**

I am using this for devotions this year. page layout is like a book. i am sure there's a fancier way to say that, but, anyway. it's "study bible-ness" is that it approaches the study of the Bible from a literary standpoint. it's been very helpful in the Psalms already.

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### **Karla Goforth Abreu says**

This is a wonderful Bible for the purpose it was published, the reader, student, or scholar who is interested in the literary aspect of the Bible. It is NOT a study Bible, but does add insight from a literary perspective. The ESV is a reliable translation, also.

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