



CSB Super Giant Print Reference Bible, Black Genuine Leather, Indexed

Anonymous

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The *CSB Super Giant Print Reference Bible* features extra large, easy-to-read 16-point type and is perfect for devotional reading, personal study, or to carry and use at church. The super giant type makes this Bible easy-to-read for those who have diminished or impaired vision.

Features include: Smyth-sewn binding, presentation section, two-column text, end-of-paragraph cross-references, topical subheadings, Words of Christ in red, 16-point type, concordance, and full-color maps.

The *CSB Super Giant Print Reference Bible* features the highly readable, highly reliable text of the Christian Standard Bible (CSB). The CSB stays as literal as possible to the Bible's original meaning without sacrificing clarity, making it easier to engage with Scripture's life-transforming message and to share it with others.

CSB Super Giant Print Reference Bible, Black Genuine Leather, Indexed Details

Date : Published June 1st 2018 by Holman Bible Publishers (first published 1999)

ISBN : 9781535905848

Author : Anonymous

Format : Leather Bound 2000 pages

Genre : Reference, Religion, Christian, Nonfiction, Christianity, Spirituality, Faith, Theology, Christian Non Fiction, History

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From Reader Review CSB Super Giant Print Reference Bible, Black Genuine Leather, Indexed for online ebook

Carrie Ridgeway says

In 2005 our church read this edition of the Bible from cover to cover. This translation is easier to read than some.

Danette says

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Hallelujah! Ps 150:6

This was my first time reading the HCSB and I liked it.

I like the 5 day Bible reading program I used. It has built in catch-up days so I didn't fall behind. I enjoyed reading the OT in chronological order as well.

2017 A book with at least 400 pages

Ivan says

The CSB Reader's Bible is a delightful bible which pairs the much-anticipated CSB 2017 translation with a beautiful reader-friendly presentation of the text.

The translation itself (like its predecessor, the HCSB) provides beautiful and clear renderings of Scripture. For instance, Psalm 145:8 reads: "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful love." Likewise, Isaiah 43:4 reads: "you are precious in My sight and honored, and I love you." And a verse from my favorite psalm reads, "I have your decrees as a heritage forever; indeed, they are the joy of my heart" (Psalm 119:111 CSB).

The CSB Reader's Bible showcases the text by presenting it in a reader-friendly, single-column format. Verse numbers, chapter numbers, cross references, and even footnotes have been removed—thus highlighting the present immediacy of the message, as originally delivered: "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call to him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6, CSB 2017). As a sola scriptura edition, here are no potentially sectarian study notes—thus allowing the scripture to speak for itself. Chapters (but not verses) are indicated in small but highly visible (all caps) color text at the bottom of the page. The removal of verse numbers encourages devotional and conversational intimacy with God—while according His words the utmost reverence.

The text has lots of marginal space. Unlike Crossway's ESV Single-Column Legacy Bible, it does not include section headers in the margins—thus allowing for an uncluttered presentation of the actual words of scripture. My two recommendations would be (1) to reduce the marginal space in favor of a larger font size, and (2) to create a slimline large print edition with a text size much larger than the 9.5-pt. text size of the the CSB Large Print Ultrathin Reference Bible (though the smaller size is offset by the fact that it is available in both inexpensive imitation and premium leather editions). For me, larger is always better. I am definitely

spoiled on my 18-point HCSB Super Giant Print Study Bible. (Hopefully a future edition of the CSB Super Giant Print Study Bible will increase the font size from 17 pt. to 18 pt.) However, the 10-point font size of the CSB Reader's Bible is similar to that of the NKJV Reader's Reference Bible (9 pt.), the ESV Single-Column Legacy Bible, the NIV Sola Scriptura Bible Project (10.3 pt.), or the NIV Reader's Bible (10.5 pt.).

Lastly, I really like the fine touches such as the surprise two-color interior (with the first letter of the start of each chapter being introduced in large size and in a breathtakingly soothing royal turquoise blue color), the creamy color of the pages, the beautiful elegance of the Bible Serif font, and the fantastic set of full-color maps showcased in the HCSB Study Bible.

I am happy to recommend this lovely bible!

(Note: This book was provided free of charge by B&H/LifeWay in exchange for an honest review.)

Laura Zielke says

Over the past few months, I've been using a new translation of the Bible called the Christian Standard Bible. Published by Holman Bible Publishers in early 2017, the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) is an unexpected, yet (apparently) necessary, update of the 2004 Holman Christian Standard Bible.

? *Click to enlarge*

About the Christian Standard Bible

When a well-established publishing company produces a *thorough* revision of its previous translation—with the intent that the new version *completely replace* the old—less than 15 years after the original, one sits up and takes notice.

In fact, when I announced that I would be reviewing this Bible, the very first question my friend and former seminary classmate, Gale P., had was: “*Why? What’s the agenda? Was it necessary?*” It is my intention that this review address those questions.

When I requested a review copy from B&H Publishers in March, I determined to use it regularly for a while *before* forming an opinion—I have no desire to write a review without doing my due diligence.

So, that said, I feel like I'm finally at a place where I can share my opinion based on use in worship services, Sunday School, and personal study. But before I share my impression, I'd like to tell you about the translation itself and the physical copy I received.

Descriptions from the Packaging

To introduce you to the CSB, I'm going to quote directly from the full-color, cardstock sleeve in which my Bible arrived. Why use their words and not my own?

? *Click to enlarge*

Because the cover contains a description written by the publishing company filled with what they would like us to know about their new translation, and it will help explain at least one of the reasons Holman chose to revise the HCSB: To increase consumption. Notice the progression from accuracy to popularity:

"highly reliable"

"highly readable"

"as literal as possible to the Bible's original meaning without sacrificing clarity"

"optimal blend of accuracy and readability"

"makes Scripture more moving (Yikes!),
more memorable, and more motivating to read
and share with others"

helps you "to experience God's truth as never before" (Yikes!)

I was tracking with them until they touted their translation would make Scripture "more moving" and help me experience God's truth as I *never* have before! I mean, gosh, if that's the case, then we should all run to LifeWay and purchase one immediately. In fact, stop reading this review, and click here to buy your copy **RIGHT NOW! ?**

What? Back so soon? Okay, then I'll keep writing. Can I just remind us that the **ONLY** way Scripture becomes "more moving, more memorable, and more motivating to read" is because of the work of the Holy Spirit—not the Holman—in our lives. [Just a little aside: When I created the hyperlink above, I noticed the ISBN for this particular thinline reference Bible ends with **666**.? You'd think they would have caught that at the publishing company and asked for a different ISBN, but I guess not.] ?

Why Revise the HCSB?

So, back to Gale's question: Why *did* Holman find it necessary to completely revise their HCSB translation of the Bible? It's actually pretty interesting, especially in light of the fact that they brought together "more than 100 top conservative scholars from 17 denominations" to work on the 2004 translation. I guess the final translation wasn't as marketable or acceptable as they had anticipated.

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Click to enlarge

It appears that the main catalyst for this 2017 revision (and new name: CSB) was the **feedback** they received about the HCSB "from pastors, seminaries, and other conservative denominations." **Oh, to be a fly on the wall at Holman!** I have no idea what type of comments were made. All I know is that they refer to the new CSB as "a translation that's **even stronger**" than the HCSB! *And there you have it.* It's stronger!? (Are they saying the HCSB was a *weak* translation? And what are the implications of using the HCSB as the backbone of the CSB? My brain hurts.) If you'd like to know more about why they revised the HSCB and what the major differences are between it and the CSB, you can click here.

One of the questions I had was **who exactly** worked on the "stronger" version? Although the HCSB boasted "over 100 top scholars," the revision team was comprised of only 21 scholars.

(If you ever watched the TV show, "Where Are They Now?" you might enjoy this bit of CSB trivia: One of the more recognizable names in the list of scholars who worked on this translation is none other than award-winning author and Christian recording artist, Michael Card. If you don't recognize his name, you will probably recognize some of the songs he's written including "El Shaddai," "Emmanuel," and "Love Crucified

Arose.")

With the help of Google, I was able to determine that the educational backgrounds of the CSB scholars fall into the following denominations: Baptist (10), Evangelical (4), Lutheran (2), Presbyterian (2), Anglican (1), Non-denominational (2). ***You can click [here](#) to view the list of scholars for yourself.***

There is a heavy Baptist influence (50%), but that should be expected since Holman is a Baptist publisher. I know the intent was to produce a translation devoid of denominational bias; however, I'm not sure that is possible. Is anything truly neutral? What you can know for sure is this:

"The conservative, evangelical scholars of the Christian Standard Bible affirm the authority of Scripture as the inerrant Word of God. Seeking the highest level of faithfulness to the original texts and accuracy in their translation, these scholars and LifeWay, the non-profit ministry that stewards the CSB, also champion the Bible against cultural trends that would compromise its truths." (read more on their site)

To use inclusive language, or not to use inclusive language? That is the question.

When I was a child, the third person masculine pronoun "he" often meant "he or she." By the time I was in college (in the 80s), language had become more inclusive and more bulky. Instead of using "he" as the inclusive pronoun, we began using "he or she" OR "she or he" OR (my favorite) "s/he." By the time I was in seminary, textbooks were being published with pictures of females in stereotypically masculine roles (e.g., architect, doctor, hunter) and males executing stereotypically female duties such as holding a baby or cooking a meal.

Fast forward to the twenty-first century, and our children are growing up in a world where "he" is "one male," and "she" is "one female," and you're going to have a tough time with Bible translation. Publishers have been trying for years to bring gender inclusivity to ancient Scripture, but it's not as easy as swapping pronouns.

In the vast majority of foreign languages, both ancient and modern, the masculine plural has always included women; however, it hasn't always been translated like that. So, when scholars came together with the intent to make their translation more accurate and able to be understood by the *modern* reader, it makes sense that they decided to use inclusive language wherever and whenever appropriate. You can read about their translation decisions (and employment of inclusive language) [here](#) and [here](#).

The Physical Copy I Received

? *Click to enlarge*

The CSB Thinline Reference Bible I received to review is bound in a medium-brown faux leather with a debossed cross on the front cover.

The pages are gold-gilded (probably not real gold), and the Smyth-sewn binding helps the Bible to lay open flat without having to put a weight on the pages (although you might have to break it in a bit after you

first purchase it). It's the perfect size (not too big, not too small).

The 8.5 point sans serif font is surprisingly easy to read considering how small it is. The translation features topical subheadings, cross references, a concordance, and maps. **I love it!**

My Opinion on the CSB

When it all comes down, though I find the Christian Standard Bible to be an excellent resource, I don't think I would rely solely on this particular version when teaching a class. (Teachers should ***always*** use more than one translation when preparing—and, if possible, teaching—their lessons).

I like the Christian Standard Bible, and I have enjoyed using it to add breadth and depth to my studies. I might not always prefer their translation, but that's why I use multiple versions. ?

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Some of the links in the post above are “affiliate links.” This means if you click on the link and purchase the item, I will receive an affiliate commission. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

Sheila says

This is a re-read of The Holy Bible for me, so this review will be specifically about this Holman Christian Standard Bible translation, which I obtained for free on my kindle from Amazon.

I will admit that the language of this translation makes it easy to understand some of the more complicated verses of the Bible. The language is modern and contemporary. For someone who has never read the Bible before, this version might be a good way for them to be able to be introduced to the books contained herein.

For someone who loves and enjoys the language of versions of the Bible such as the King James Version, this might be a disappointment. It was for me. I love the language of King James. Having some of the beautiful, poetic verses written in a simplified, modern day format made them lose some of their beauty.

So depending on what you are looking for in a translation of the Bible, this book may or may not be for you. But since an e-book version is available for free, anyone is able to check it out themselves to decide.

Keith says

The rating is for the translation. The Bible itself is always a 5-star read.

Joseph Leskey says

~Review of the Bible:

Well, first off, this most excellent collection of prophesy, psalm, and story, is something that is abnormally large. That is why I was reading it at some point throughout two and sevenscore days. As you can perhaps tell, I was reading it rather slowly as well, so hopefully that means I remember more. More likely, however, I am ridiculously clueless in some points. More's the pity. But, now that you know that, how about I get about to the reviewing? I've actually been meaning to write this review for a year or so, so I'd name myself late but in earnest, but I shan't to avoid lawsuit by the ghosts of ancient Kerr's. *cough, cough*

Now, to render a dignified review. I'm feeling too thrilled with the concept of restfulness to review all the different versions [of the Bible] [that] I've read, so I'll review the entire sort of thing. (You can tell I was able to quickly call to mind terminology pertaining to this situation.)

Now, from a literary perspective, the Bible is quite suitable. I mean, I'm not a professional judge of ancient Israelite poetry (I like things to rhyme myself); nor am I an authority of prophetic verse. All the chronological and historical narrative is very interesting, if not sometimes horrendously bloody and generally messy, but the latter descriptions are simply what you should expect if you read history. So yippee!

From the distinct perspective of one who wishes to be entertained, well, much of the Bible is, in fact, entertaining, especially if you're the sort of person who would get entertained by it. However, the sole purpose of reading the message of Salvation, the history of the universe (and Israel), and the prophesied future is not necessarily to derive entertainment. Don't correct me if I am wrong. This is a personal opinion. *The Apostle Paul had personal opinions too, I hope you understand, so you can't blame me for following his example.* But, so as not to get you mildly confused, I am entertained whilst I read the Bible. Especially when I read things like Job 40, Genesis 1-X IF $X = X$, Jude, and Psalms something or the rather.

From the theological POV, well... One *might* say that the Bible is rather important. In it you can fetch yourself an abundance of very distinctly theological concepts. In fact, if one derives theological concepts from any source that is not ultimately descended from those in the Bible, the study thereof may or may not cease to be theology, if you take my meaning correctly. And then there's the matter of divine inspiration and you can't get much better than that theologically. AND I SHOULD KNOW BECAUSE I EXPRESS INTEREST IN THEOLOGY, I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND. I also just washed dishes.

And, finally, as an historical and prophetic account, let's just say the Bible does quite nice for itself. Overall themes, the eternal plans of God, and all the complicated history and politics... I really do enjoy all this stuff. It reminds me of world building. And one can be brilliantly happy as said individual recognizes cause and effect and long term effect. It's really all quite thrilling. In the Bible, we see the doom and the cause of doom, swords and the use of swords, an ark and a floating ark, giants, of course blood (as I noted afore), the Creation of the world (which is mildly important), Simon being renamed "Rock," all the advanced history of Redemption (which is very important; note the capitalization—of course I capitalized "Rock" too, so that doesn't mean much. Forgive me the transgression I enacted against your time), and Paul (more on him later, if I feels like it). Um... where's all the prophecy in this, you say? "Ah ha!" I say wisely. "It's present. Oh, it's present. Just because your mortal eye can't detect it doesn't mean it isn't present. Note the first item in this list—'doom and the cause of doom.' That right there is the essence of prophecy, save if it is pertaining to Redemption. And then we have Revelation. More on that later, too.

But what about the point of view that we have all yearned for? The perspective we need to fuel the continuation of our thought. The essential viewpoint which we have suffered through this review to see?

BEHOLD: THE PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE OF ONE, Joseph Leskey:

Ha ha ha. What a joke. Me, give you my personal perspective on things? Well, of course I will, but it's still hilarious to the well functioning contents of my cranium.

My personal opinion has been displayed throughout all the review. So really all that remains to do is to review each individual book included in this massive compilation. Or probably I won't, if my fortitude turns traitor. If I do review all the books, that means I'm really going to be glaring at myself in the mirror some time because of the 66 plus paragraphs I may be going to write. Of course, I'd do that anyway, but that's as beside the point as the obvious fact that I'm just doing the Protestant canon, seeing as I don't feel like doing anything else.

Ahem, let's get a format going here.

Genesis:

Ah, now here's a fine book. Especially the first two chapters, in which we get the creation of the world and all that dwells within it, and a nice garden. After that the human race is just a little bit messed up and they start sweating while they work. Grant, they also started wearing clothes, so good things happen alongside the bad. We also get to see the story of Abraham, with whom the Old Covenant was made, and who is mentioned more than a couple times in the rest of the Bible. And the history of Israel begins to unfold, which is really fun. Further, Redemption is first alluded to in Genesis.

As for how much I like the book, I like the first two chapters best. And I like the scattered thrilling concepts like Nephilim and the like.

Congratulate me on a brilliant feat. I forgot all about the Flood. That's also in Genesis. It's really interesting. I like those chapters too.

Also, Genesis is a very key element in the whole Origins Controversy or whatever they call it these days.

And I do like a good controversy. Not that a controversy is by definition a good thing, but I sure do like the debate that arises out of it.

Exodus:

Exodus isn't entirely sunflower seeds, prunes, cold wintery days and chocolate (I purposely excluded the serial comma—which I strongly believe in—here. Those last two things wanted each other's company). In fact, Exodus is more like people wandering around in wildernesses and other people getting overrun by grasshoppers. Still, it's an excellent historical account. Have a recommendation.

Leviticus:

Well, I, er, um, ew? Just a tiny bit bloody and just a small amount of mess. Or a little bit more than that. Or the entire book is dedicated to blood and messiness, garments, skin conditions, and ~~concentration~~ consecration of priests. And how to purify things, if that helps. But, of course, it's actually a very important book—to the Levitical priests at the very least. You just have to get past your original impression. That's it.

Or, if you can't get past it, just kind of ignore it [your original impression].

Or just go read John, but that's beside the point.

Numbers:

The title explains it all. I'm not going to call it boring; I'll just recommend it to the people who want to know the dimensions of things and how many people were in such and such. There's some interesting history,

mayhap?

Deuteronomy:

The law over again (I'm referring to its existence in Exodus) and history. Quite good if you're in the mood for that sort of thing. I think that there's some details which are just really captivating, but I'm afraid I've forgotten most of Deuteronomy. It was an accident.

Joshua:

Ah ha! Joshua. Great things lie in here if you're interested in military conquests and stuff, as I am. And a wall takes a tumble due to a distinctly different military conquest.

Judges:

Detailed history in here about Judges and stuff. Not bad, not bad. Although really some things could have gone better. Entirely riveting stuff though, I'm sure.

Ruth:

Here's one of the books that is actually one complete, concentrated story the whole way through. It's not bad at all. Gives you a peek at ancient Israelite culture.

1st & 2nd Samuel: (*Psst... DID YOU SEE ME CHEAT? <= <— <=*)

Very interesting history in here. Also, Samuel's a prophet. Of course, there's some mess. Too, King Saul enters the scene, and David is really relevant. People make a couple bad choices.

1st & 2nd Kings: (*I like this cheating I'm doing here.*)

Well, either a king pleased God and did some nice things, or they really, really, really didn't. Though sometimes they played switcheroo. Lots of interesting history. Evil times. Evil, evil, evil, and not only evil, but wicked as well. Ah ha. Sounds a lot like most of the world's history.

Here I fell asleep and stopped writing this review for a time, but that is of no consequence.

1st & 2nd Kings, continued:

You also can find yourself some interesting prophets and droughts and stuff in the two chronicles of the Kings.

(I guess that was all I was going to say about it...)

1st & 2nd Chronicles:

Genealogy, genealogy, and more genealogy. And some extended family history too. Basically, chronicles.

Ezra:

Well, my brain has failed to produce words for some reason, but basically, a temple gets built and Jews move about. I think. *laughs derisively at self* But it's a fine book.

Nehemiah:

Ah ha. I totally forgot what happened in Nehemiah. Tells you how well I read it. *grins with no real humor and quickly refreshes my memory* Well, that was easy. It turns out I hadn't forgotten after all. Nehemiah's the cupbearer who did all that construction. Obviously. I'm affronted at the slothfulness of my mind. Anywho, I like Nehemiah well. It's superbly interesting, reading about all those people doing all that work. Gives you another look into ancient culture, does it.

Esther:

Well, this is another book that is definitely a story, and a fine one at that. We get to see great pending conflict and old culture and whatnot. So it is, by definition, fine, just fine.

Job:

Ah, now I am right fond of Job. It does a body good to intake all the mesmerizing information manifesting through it, like stuff pertaining to Leviathans and stuff. (“And stuff” is so useful. I recommend it.) I do—like you should if a) you have a heart that’s much softer than petrified cabbage, or j) you just happen to—feel sorry for poor ole Job. He really had it kinda rough, y’know? Job (the book)’s *exceedingly* interesting, but it is possible for it to excite commiserating thoughts with the object of the main character. You really do feel bad for the feller. Unless if you aren’t in the mood too. That too is not my fault. (I’m just assuming that I’ve already said something isn’t my fault in this review. It seems like I did.)

Psalms:

Now this is a laudable compilation if ever there was one. The title describes the content very well. Conversely, the content fulfills the title very well. Isn’t it nice that we have the laws of logic? (You can get quite philosophical with the laws of logic, you know, just so long as you can think of a “why” question, such as “why does order exist?” ~~But that’s not relevant.~~ Actually, it is, but I don’t feel like connecting thoughts at the moment.) In Psalms, you can find anything you feel like. No need to verify this statement; I’m generalizing. There’s agony, grief, depression, misery, mourning, sorrow, anguish, and remorse, but there’s also joy, exultation, happiness, gaiety, elation, and my internal thesaurus got stuck, so that’s it. There’s long psalms and there’s short psalms. There’s psalms that don’t rhyme and there’s psalms that don’t remotely rhyme, but they both aren’t meant to rhyme, so I can’t complain. There’s ancient literary devices by the dozens. There’s pleas and thanksgivings. There’s the numerous works of David’s pen. Proves that a king must have education, no? And there’s even a large hint of prophecy.

Proverbs:

Proverbs is an alright thing. I mean, kind of odd to expect sensible instruction by somebody who had seven hundred wives, but there you have it. Politics, that’s what it is. When someone has seven hundred wives, you say “politics” to yourself and move thyself onwards. But, in all actuality, there’s some good advice in here, such as: “Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids” (Proverbs 6:4, KJV (so I don’t accidentally work against copyright laws; unlike some, I don’t believe that the King James Version is *THE* version. It’s a marvelous work, and it’s the most fun to read, but it’s a bit archaic if you follow me.)) Actually, though, that verse could be taken out of context, so how about, “The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.” (Proverbs 15:13, KJV (see above for an Explanation of my choice here)) Any which way, Proverbs is quite nice, if you feel like you could use half a pearl of wisdom and/or a grim thinking session upon the ways of the fool.

Ecclesiastes:

A brilliant work about the futility of all that is done under the sun. Just marvelous. Labour, profit, it’s all futile, don’t you see, unless if there is an ultimate truth, some great absolute behind it all. Or, if you want to eat, it’s a good idea to labour and get profit, because profit is exchangeable for food. But that’s not being properly philosophical. Anyway, I do really enjoy this book.

Song of Solomon:

Well, it’s a little bit mushy. And one should definitely compare their fiancée’s nose to a tower. And her neck to “the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men.” And then of course, let’s not forget that Solomon’s legs were like pillars of marble.

Isiah:

Ah, now this is more like it. As we all know, a book by a prophet is usually equivalent to a book full of prophecy, and guess what sort of person it was that wrote this book? Exactly. And he prophesies about the Messiah, so that's all very nice.

Jeremiah:

Ah, yes, the prophet they describe as "Weeping." The fact of the matter is, he had some fairly depressing prophecies. Not a unenjoyable book though, if you're speaking in an absolute sense.

Lamentations:

Same sort of thing.

Ezekiel:

Some fascinating prophesy and visions here. Seeing as there is an absolute and the original impressions of Ecclesiastes don't apply, it's well worth reading.

Daniel:

Entirely too enthralling. And Lions and furnaces and Messianic implications.

-

Okay, believe it or not, I feel as if I'd rather be done reviewing, so let's just take Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, and assume they're all full of rich prophecy. You can further assume that I enjoyed them. With that assumption made, I hope you realized I did not include Jonah in all that. Here's it:

Jonah:

Jonah contains the well known story of the prophet being swallowed by a great big fish. I don't mind reading it one bit. *Those two sentences definitely deserved me sacrificing my valuable time to exclude Jonah from the list of exclusions.*

— But now, enter, **The New Testament!!!!** —

Matthew:

I like Matthew. I really do. It's got the Wise Men in the Christmas story and just different important things like the Sermon on the Mount.

Mark:

Excellent account of Jesus' life, even if somewhat lacking in the Christmas story area.

Luke:

Ah ha! Now here is a very fine account of the Christmas story, though without the Wise Men. Of course, telling the Christmas story is not the sole purpose of the Gospels, but one likes to know where it is. Luke is also very well researched and detailed.

John:

John is my favorite of the Gospels, I've discovered. It does, in fact, cover the Christmas story, if a little briefly: "And the Word was made flesh..." (John 1:14, KJV (so as to avoid copyright infringement)). John, the Gospel of, is just really an overall excellent work. And it reveals the deity of Jesus quite emphatically.

Acts:

I am passing fond of Acts. All the earliest history of the church, right there. Ha. Who knew?

ALL PAUL'S NUMEROUS LETTERS (*My entire being delights in this great efficiency.*)

I like all of Paul's letters well. Too bad so much confusion went and sprang out of them. A pity, that's what it is. The letters are simply rolling in theological information and instruction as to the proper conduct of the church, which hasn't entirely been followed in *every* case, may I just say briefly...

Hebrews:

This might be Paul's letter or it might not, but any which way, it's a good example of things written by pen an' ink. Very exhilarating concepts to be found in it, there are. And also, by means of reading commentary on Hebrews, I got the word "apostasy" stuck in my head. It's actually very fun to say, but it is not very good taste to go around bellowing it. Which doesn't mean I didn't do so, but that's beside the point... What is good taste, anyway? ... Who defines it, I wonder...

James:

Brilliant points are made within James' letter and I like it well, despite Martin Luther's misgivings.

1 & 2 Peter:

Actually, I'm seriously getting tired of my review here... Peter's epistles, like the rest of all of them, are quite fine and excellent and nice and, if you feel like it, thought-provoking, and stuff...

The enormity of the dullness I feel in relation to this review is singularly enormous.

1, 2, & 3 John:

Now here are some direly grand letters, if "direly grand" is a thing (it technically could be but it's not what I meant). They contain good stuff like assurance of salvation and ink pens.

Jude:

A commendable missive. I have oft found myself appreciating the constituent sentences quite nicely. It quite compels one's head to think. Which is a good action for a head to preform.

Revelation:

Ah ha! The book entitled—by the author, may I add—*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. It happens to be a really great book, especially in this particular instance of the morphing fourth dimension, seeing as it is the last book in the Bible and

A whooo hooo!

For done with my review,

Shall I be,

And I so merrily,

Shall shout exuberantly!

Okay... In truth, I didn't expect that. *ahem* *glares suspiciously at the above extemporaneous horror and carefully continues reviewing*

Aside from *cough* that *cough* *is still suspicious*... I say, aside from that, Revelation is just brilliant in and of itself. I mean, sure, it's a prophecy of some of the greatest destruction that ever happened in the universe's time, but that's inconsequential. One has to admit, the fact that it is a prophecy of disastrous happenings lends it quite a bit more interest.

Further, whoever reads it (and doesn't on it preform the old action represented by the sign ±) is blessed.

Proof:

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Revelation 1:3, KJV (still to avoid legal warfare))

So, yes, it's automatically a particularly nice book. Please note that if you hear it you're blessed too. I just noticed the full force of that phrase. And then there's the fact that the happenings in Revelation haven't happened yet. That there really makes a difference. It means the Bible covers it all, from the exact moment time began (Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning...") to when the present world ends as we know it (Revelation 21:1, "...for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away..."). Which is, one might say, right nifty. And you get quite a interesting new type of locust.

And I'm done.

Laurie says

This Bible translation was free for my Nook, and I've been pleasantly surprised to find it accurate, conservative, easy to read and easy to navigate. I have not felt compelled to purchase any other Bible version for my own reading or for following along at church, although our congregation favors the NIV (1984) and our pastor favors the NASB.

MaryAnne Hommel says

It's spring and maybe you haven't noticed but this is the time of year when the wedding shower and baby shower invitations start filling up the mailbox. I'm a firm believer in sticking to the registry (they make it for a reason after all) when buying for these occasions but I do like to include something a little personal. So while I'm all for getting you the six pack of pacifiers in pink rose or the set of organic baby bibs with hipster sayings, today I'm sharing my latest find that will make any Mama-to-be swoon.

The Great and Small Keepsake Bible is a beautiful hardback Bible featuring the complete text in the Christian Standard translation, which is quickly becoming a fave of mine. Featured throughout are beautiful illustrations accompanied by scripture and sections for mom and dad to fill out as they read. Things like the day we met you, first holiday memories, milestones, and prayers for baby.

As someone who has been a new mommy can I just say this is a truly special gift. Anyone who has had a baby will testify as to how exhausting and overwhelming it is and how keeping that time in the word is essential. This Bible gives mama an opportunity to take time each day, wash herself in the scriptures and take a moment to focus on this precious season with new baby. Momentarily getting her mind off how tired she is, forgetting the laundry for a second, ignoring the dishes and remembering how amazing this little gift of life is. It's the perfect addition to accompany her in that first year of parenting.

So whether you are an expecting mama or you have a stack of baby shower invitations on your desk and you want to add that personal touch to your gift, be sure to check out the Great & Small Keepsake Bible today!

Carpe Librum!

***Thank you Holman Bible Publishers for providing this book to threeladiesoflit.com for review.

Rachel Marie says

This is the first time I've read or used a CSB version Bible, but I really enjoyed it. While not having chapters/verses took a little getting used to, I enjoyed reading through the Word in such an uninterrupted way. While I don't think it could replace my regular Bible, because it is hard to look up and reference, I think it makes an excellent supplementation to my reading and devotions.

As for the Bible itself, it is really well-made. I love the clothbound cover, and how the book lays flat when opened. It seems quite durable, and I am very excited to have this on my shelf for years to come.

I received a copy from Holman Bibles in exchange for my honest review

Julie D. says

I really like this Bible so much. From it's beautiful cover to the easy to read font, it's a real pleasure to sit down and read this Bible.

There are no chapter or verse numbers in this Bible so it's really less distracting when you want to sit down and just read the Bible. At first, I thought this would be something I wouldn't enjoy as much but I was wrong. With out the distraction of the chapter and verse numbers or notations, you're reading the Bible as you would any book and I actually found myself noticing things in books I've read countless times.

I found the Christian Standard version very easy to understand so it was easy to read through without trouble. The pages have a nice sturdy feel to them so if you do want to highlight or take notes, you'll be able to do so without worry of damaging the page.

I have greatly enjoyed sitting down with this Bible and just reading it for the pure pleasure of reading. It has opened up new eyes for me as I read and I love that I don't feel the pressure to study, per se, but to just enjoy the beautiful Word of God.

I highly recommend this Bible and give it 5 out of 5 stars.

*This Bible was provided to me for my honest review by B&H Bloggers

Cody Whittington says

I received a free copy to review.

CSB is a faithful translation that seeks to keep in balance the accuracy and readability of the Bible. It thoroughly succeeds in achieving its goal. The translation committee is a group of well-rounded, thoughtful, intellectual, reverent, and trustworthy scholars. I believe that most of the translation team would have personal/individual preference of Reformed or Calvinistic theology, but those positions do not seem to impact the translation of the text. (You will notice more calvinistic theology and thoughts in the CSB Study

Bible).

If you are an NIV, NET, NLT, ESV, or NASB advocate, you will definitely appreciate this translation. The Psalms are as beautiful and eloquent as the NLT but as accurate (textually) as the more literal translations such as the ESV or NASB. If someone were to ask me which Bible translation I would recommend for personal study and even cooperative teaching, I would refer them equally to the CSB and ESV.

I have also purchased a higher quality leather version of the CSB. You will be fine with the standard "leather touch" or other alternatives because the binding is Smyth-sewn; it will not fall apart easily.

This Bible is reliable constructionally and theologically. Thank you Life-Way for the copy to review.

Stephen N. Collins says

My favorite translation for personal devotion.

Yuska Vonita says

I'm joining Reading the Bible as Literature challenge hosted by Roof Beam Reader. I obtained this bible for free from Amazon. The language is easy to understand. Just finished reading Genesis. I'm going to get through Exodus for a couple of days.

Joshua Tan says

As with many modern translations, the CSB is highly readable and reasonably pleasant to peruse. I used it alongside my trusty CSB Study Bible (one of my 'go-to's for well-designed maps, illustrations, and charts).

My favourite CSB feature: Whenever someone in the New Testament quotes the Old Testament, the quoted text is printed in bold.

A curious decision: Imperial units are used throughout. The Metric equivalents should have been placed in the footnotes, at minimum. While there is a useful "Table of Weights" section at the end of the book, it is rather inaccessible. This table lists the **biblical unit** (e.g. Gerah), its **language** (Hebrew), its **biblical measure** (1/20 shekel), its **U.S. equivalent** (1/50 ounce), its **metric equivalent** (.6 gram), and its **various translations** (gerah; oboli)

For those interested in what the CSB has got to say about its own text:

Optimal equivalence starts with an exhaustive analysis of the text at every level (word, phrase, clause, sentence, discourse) in the original language to determine its original meaning and intention (or purpose). Then, relying on the latest and best language tools and experts, the nearest corresponding semantic and linguistic equivalents are used to convey as much of the information and intention of the original text with as much clarity and readability as possible. This process assures the maximum transfer of both the words and the thoughts contained in the

original.

The CSB uses optimal equivalence as its translation philosophy. In the many places throughout the Bible where a word-for-word rendering is understandable, a literal translation is used.

When a word-for-word rendering might obscure the meaning for a modern audience, a more dynamic translation is used. The CSB places equal value on fidelity to the original and readability for a modern audience, resulting in a translation that achieves both goals.
