

Introduction to the Bible (TMM1031)

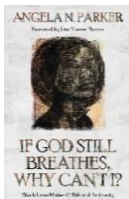
Common Awards

Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum



Books

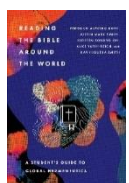


Parker, Angela N. (2021) *If God Still Breathes, Why Can't I? Black Lives Matter & Biblical Authority*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans.

Content:

In this book Parker highlights the role that power and positionality play within biblical interpretation in determining who gets to speak, and who is silenced. Drawing from her own personal experience of feeling sidelined as a Black African-American biblical scholar, in the Introduction: 'What Is Your Relationship to the Bible?' (11-15) Parker urges students to reflect on their own power and positionality (e.g. race, gender, church background) before approaching the Bible.

Author: Angela N. Parker is an African-American womanist Biblical scholar.



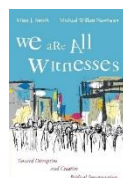
Roth, Federico A. et al. (2022) *Reading the Bible Around the World: A Student's Guide to Global Hermeneutics*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Content:

This book outlines the many rich methods of reading the Bible from around the world (including: Latin America, Africa, Asia and Diaspora), and is an excellent resource for Level 4 students. Chapter 1: 'Introduction: Why we need global approaches' by Justin Marc Smith especially is a good chapter that helps students to decenter dominant historical critical methods of reading the Bible (originating from Euro-North America) and understand the importance of engaging with non-Western perspectives.

Authors:

Federico Alfredo Roth is a Latin American biblical scholar.



Smith, Mitzi J. and Newheart, Michael W. (2023) *We Are All Witnesses: Toward Disruptive and Creative Biblical Interpretation*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books.

Content:

This book teaches students that reading the Bible is never a neutral process and provides them with an accessible introduction to a wide range of approaches to reading the Bible. Chapter 2: 'Context is Everything' especially is a great text to set at the beginning of this module as it will encourage students to reflect and name their own contexts and positionalities that they are bringing to their biblical study.

Authors:

Mitzi J. Smith is an African American biblical scholar and Michael Willett Newheart is an American biblical scholar. Both are based in the US.



Havea, Jione (2018) *Sea of Readings: The Bible in the South Pacific*. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press.

Content:

This book contains a collection of essays that explore what it means to read the Bible from the specific islander location of Pasifika (Oceania, South Pacific). In Chapter 1: 'Islander Criticism' Havea outlines the key Pasifika cosmologies and principles that underpin Islander biblical interpretation: waters (9), fluid (10), limiting (12), sustaining (13), ways (14) and worries (16). This chapter

Introduction to the Bible (TMM1031)

Common Awards

Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum

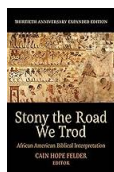


will introduce students to the concept that the Bible can be read differently from different perspectives.

Author:

Jione Havea is a native male pastor (Methodist Church in Tonga) and research fellow with Trinity Methodist Theological College (Aotearoa).

Book Chapters



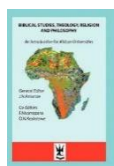
Weems, Renita J. (2021) 'Reading Her Way through the Struggle African American Women and the Bible.' In: Felder, Cain H. (ed.) *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation. Thirtieth Anniversary Expanded Edition*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

Content:

In her chapter, Weems outlines the unique reading strategy that African-American women have adopted when reading the Bible that enables them to interpret it "for themselves, with their own eyes and with their own ears" (54). This chapter will introduce students to the concept that the Bible can be read in different ways.

Author: Renita J. Weems is an African-American Protestant biblical scholar based in the US.

Edited Volumes



Amanze, James (2010) *Biblical Studies, Theology, Religion And Philosophy. An Introduction For African Students*. Eldoret, Kenya: Zapf Chancery.

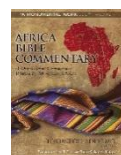
Content:

Chapter 7: 'Reading and Understanding the Bible as an African' (115-136) provides a basic overview of the key

issues and questions that arise when reading the Bible from an African perspective. It explores key questions such as: "is it possible to read and understand the Bible as an African? Is the Bible antagonistic to African culture?" (115). This book will enable students to encounter the Bible through an African perspective.

Editor:

James N. Amanze is a Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Botswana.



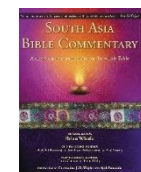
Adeyemo, Tokunboh (2010) *Africa Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary Written by 70 African Scholars*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

Content:

This volume, written by over 70 African biblical scholars contains succinct introductions to every book of the Bible from an African perspective. This is followed by a detailed verse by verse commentary of each book.

Editor:

Tokunboh Adeyemo was a Nigerian scholar who served as the General Secretary of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa.



Wintle, Brian et al. (2015) *South Asia Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

Content:

This volume contains contributions from South Asian biblical scholars on all the books of the Bible.

Introduction to the Bible (TMM1031)

Common Awards

Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum



Each contribution begins with a short summary of information about the author, purpose, main themes and outline of the book of the bible. There is also a section that highlights its relevance specifically for the South Asian context.

Editors:

Brian Wintle was a British born theologian who lived most of his life in India and taught at the Faculty of the Union Biblical Seminary.

Videos

[Africa Bible Commentary – Reading the Bible through African eyes](#)



Content:

This short 8-minute video demonstrates the huge collective benefit of studying the Bible in non-Western cultural contexts, through the real-life stories and testimonies of African people who have been transformed by reading the *Africa Bible Commentary* (2010). This video seeks to inspire students to embrace the powerful potential that non-Western cultures, such as Africa, have to open up the Bible in a powerful new way to both them and their future congregation members.

Speakers:

Issiaka Coulibaly, Yacouba Sanon and Elizabeth Mburu are African scholars and editors of the *African Bible Commentary*. Kouadio Guillaume is a Pastor who oversees nine parishes in Cote d'Ivoire.

[South Asia Bible Commentary – Reading the Bible through South Asian Eyes](#)



Content:

In this very short 5-minute video Charles Christian provides a short introduction to the *South Asian Bible Commentary* (2015). This volume, written entirely by South Asian Biblical scholars, explores the Bible through the cultural concerns and questions arising from this unique context.

Speaker:

Charles Christian is a South Asian doctoral student at the Protestant Theological University in Groningen, the Netherlands.

Journal Articles

[Park, Wongi \(2021\) 'Multiracial Biblical Studies.' *Journal of Biblical Literature* 140\(3\): 435-459.](#)



Content:

In this compelling article Park highlights the crucial need to read the Bible through a multiracial lens. Park exposes how methods of reading the Bible traditionally viewed as 'standard' are actually rooted within a dominant Euro-North American context. Reading the Bible from different cultures therefore offers opens up the Bible in new and exciting ways.

Author:

Wongi Park is an Asian Professor of Religion at Belmont University in Nashville, USA.